



## *Life More Abundant Bible Study*

# **Bible Prophecy: Daniel Chapter 1**

Daniel Chapter 1 begins with a brief summary of the fall of the Nation of Israel at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, king of the Babylonian Empire. The Bible chronicles God's attempts to bring reformation to the wayward Nation of Israel through the counsels of His prophets (Isaiah 39:6, 7; Jeremiah; Ezekiel, Habakkuk 1:1-9); however, to no avail. In fulfillment of the covenant blessings and curses delineated in Leviticus 26, God used the Nation of Babylon as a "sword", an instrument of chastisement for His rebellious son, Israel (Ezekiel 21:1-27; Jeremiah 25:1-11; 40:1-3). In fact, it is not the hand of the Lord that brought about the destruction of the Jewish Nation, but rather the removal of His all-powerful hand of protection that once defended and safeguarded Israel from their mortal enemies and the enemy of souls (Satan), leaving them easy prey and without defense. Israel's rejection of God's covenant, commandments, judgments and statutes, in particular- neglecting His Sabbaths, was in effect the rejection of the very things that ensured their safety and prosperity as a nation (Deuteronomy 4:1-14). The destruction and captivity of Israel, called by God to be His special ambassadors on earth, was a blight upon that nation and most of all a blight upon the God's holy name (Ezekiel 36:17-23). For a more in-depth study of the conquest of Israel, read 2 Chronicles 34:24, 25; 36; 2 Kings 20:15-19; Jeremiah 21, 39.

Daniel is one of the Hebrew youth taken captive and carried to Babylon. As a member of the aristocracy of the Nation of Israel, Daniel and his friends Hannaniah (Shadrach), Mishael (Meshach) and Azariah (Abed-Nego) were privileged to be trained in Hebrew culture, literature, and religion. The four were appointed to the palace of King Nebuchadnezzar where most likely they were made to be eunuchs (Isaiah 39:1-7) and were to serve him as wise men from their nation.

The bible says that Daniel and his friends were to eat of the King's delicacies and after 3yrs of training in the Babylonian customs, be presented to the king for an evaluation.

What was the Hebrew teens' response to the delicacies offered them from the king? Why would lavish meats, drink and other delicacies be objects of offense to these young men? Consider the following verses when giving your response.

- Genesis 7:2, 3
- Leviticus 11
- Proverbs 20:1
- Proverbs 23:1-3, 29-35; 31:4-7
- 1 Corinthians 10:19, 20

Read specifically what is written about the four teen's response to the king's meats, wines, and rich foods in Daniel 1:8. What was the conviction they felt?

Read the following verses and see how they relate to the predicament faced by the Hebrew youth.

- 2 Peter 2:9
- James 4:17
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- Job 23:12

How important is it "to purpose" in following God during your Christian walk? What do such efforts require? Consider the following verses:

- Luke 12:23-34
- Genesis 39:7-9
- Philippians 2:12, 13
- Joshua 24:15
- Philippians 4:13
- Jude 24
- Hebrews 10:5-9

What was a result of Daniel's faithfulness to God? See verse 9? Read also Proverbs 16:7; 1 Chronicles 22:9

What was the diet requested by Daniel and his friends to the head of the Eunuchs? Compare this diet to the diet given to Adam and Eve by God in Genesis 1:29, 30.

After the time of trying and testing for the four Hebrew youth and the other captives, what was found in the stature, conduct, and learning of Daniel and his three peers?

What is to be said of these four youth's faithfulness, even in small things such as diet, as compared to the other youth who partook of the king's delicacies?

The four Hebrew faithful in comparison to the other Hebrew captives in Nebuchadnezzar's court form two classes, foreshadowing two distinct groups who profess to know the true God. The one class purposes in their heart to follow God wherever He leads, maintain fidelity to Him, and uphold His covenant regardless of the circumstance and thus make up God's *remnant*; the other class compromises

and blends in to the social norms during times of testing and trial (see the parable of the figs – Jeremiah 24).

What would you ascribe to the success experienced by the four Hebrew boys? Was their success due to?

1. Their diet
2. Their commitment
3. Their relationship with God
4. All of the above
5. Other

Daniel Chapter 1 is a prelude to one of the most amazing books of prophecy contained within the bible. Daniel was to become one of the most important prophets of God, foretelling world events spanning his time through the very end of the world. It is interesting to note that this man of God recognized the need to maintain good health and a God ordained diet in order to be fully used of Him to know and convey His truths. Is it any different for us today? Could God by example of His prophet, be instructing us that the prerequisite for understanding bible prophecy and being able to convey its sacred messages in our day includes an acknowledgment of health reform and conformity to all of His counsels?

Have you purposed in your heart to follow God in all things, large and small? Consider that God honors and His eyes are toward those who are faithful to His commandments and testimonies. Why not ask God to help you “to purpose” to be faithful in every aspect of your life, large and small. Trust and believe that there will be rich blessings that await you! [Psalm 119:165; Isaiah 26:3]

#### **Additional Background:**

Consider the circumstances of the Jewish nation when the prophecies of Daniel were given. The Israelites were in captivity, the Temple had been destroyed, their Temple service suspended. Their religion had centered in the ceremonies of the sacrificial system. They had made the outward form all-important, while they had lost the spirit of true worship. Their services were corrupted with traditions and practices of heathenism, and in the performance of the sacrificial rites they did not look beyond the shadow of the substance. They did not discern Christ, the True Offering for the sins of man. The Lord wrought to bring the people into captivity, and to suspend the services in the Temple, in order that the outward ceremonies might not become the total of their religion. The principles and practices must be purged of heathenism, the ritual service ceased, in order that the heart might be revived. The outward glory was removed, that the spiritual might be revealed.

In the land of their captivity, as the people returned unto the Lord with repentance, He manifested Himself unto them. They lacked the outward representation of His presence, but bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness shone into their minds and hearts. When they called unto God in their humiliation and distress, visions were given to the prophets which unfolded the events of the future-- the overthrow of the oppressors of God's people, the coming of the Redeemer, and the establishment of the everlasting kingdom. . . .

Daniel had companions, and they had a special work to do. Although greatly honored in this work, they did not become in any way exalted. They were scholars, being skilled in secular as well as religious knowledge; but they had studied science without being corrupted. They were well-balanced because they had yielded themselves to the control of the Holy Spirit. These youth gave to God all the glory of their secular, scientific, and religious endowments. Their learning did not come by chance; they obtained knowledge by the faithful use of their powers; and God gave them skill and understanding. – *The Upward Look* by EG White pg161