

Daniel--Daniel 1

Captives in Babylon

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10.
2. PULSE (only in Old Testament at 1:12, 16; and 1 Sam 17:28) comes from a Hebrew word meaning “something sown,” such as vegetables. It is interesting to observe some of the other passages and their literal or figurative usage of this same Hebrew root...
 - 1) Psalm 97:11.
 - 2) Jeremiah 2:2
 - 3) Hosea 8:7
 - 4) Haggai 1:6
3. Though many would say that Daniel’s objection to the diet of the king was due to its connection to idol worship, such is not necessarily the main objection. There are foods which were forbidden as part of the Law of Moses many of which would have been a part of the king’s fare...
 - 1) Leviticus 11:4-20
 - 2) Deuteronomy 14:3-21

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: Babylonian Captivity.

The period immediately preceding this Bible Period is that of “Judah Alone.” The people of Judah had already seen the ten tribes to the north (Israel) destroyed by Assyria and should have learned a lesson from them. However, they refused to listen to the many warnings delivered to them by the prophets and they now find themselves being judged because of their rebellion just as the prophets had warned. This period will last for seventy years (Jer 25:11; 29:10).

III. Summary.

Nebuchadnezzar is used by the Lord to bring judgment upon His disobedient people. Some of the sacred vessels from the temple were carried back to Babylon. Also the best young men of Israel would be trained for a period of three years for an eventual service before the king in Babylon. They would be given daily provisions from the king’s table. Four of these young men’s names are given: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. As part of the attempted indoctrination into the ways of Babylon, they were given new names: Daniel--Beltshazzar; Hananiah--Shadrach; Mishael--Meshach; and Azariah--Abednego.

Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself by eating foods that had been planned by others for him to eat which would not take into account the laws God had given. Melzar, immediately in charge of these four, was afraid to change the diet from that given by the king until a ten-day experiment was proposed by Daniel. If the vegetarian diet they preferred caused them to look less healthy after ten days, then Melzar could deal with them as he would. At the end of the ten days, these four Hebrew young men were more healthy looking than the others who ate the king’s fare.

God blessed these four young men with knowledge and skill in all learning. Daniel was blessed to understand visions and dreams. Daniel and his three friends were the “top of the class” and they became advisors to the king. Daniel continued as such till the time of Cyrus.

IV. Outline.

1. Nebuchadnezzar takes the city of Jerusalem and captures King Jehoiakim and carries back to Babylon some of the items from the temple (1-2).
2. Ashpanaz was in charge of selecting the best and brightest Jewish boys to be trained in Babylonian science and culture (3-4).
3. These young men would be treated royally, including food fit for a king, as they were trained in all the knowledge of Babylon (5).
4. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the brightest and most promising captives, and they were given new names (6).
5. Daniel would not compromise his convictions (based upon the Law of Moses) regarding diet and successfully proposed a plan to avoid having to do so (7-16).
6. God greatly blessed the four young Hebrews in their studies and when they were presented to the king, he was especially well pleased with the four of them (17-20).
7. Daniel continued as an advisor until the time of King Cyrus (21).

V. Questions.**True or False**

01. _____ Daniel lived in Babylon during the time of King Cyrus.
02. _____ Jehoiakim was King of Judah at the time of the Babylonian invasion.
03. _____ The time of training in Babylon for the four Hebrew young men was 5 years.
04. _____ "Fairer" and "fatter" were Daniel and his 3 friends.
05. _____ The vegetable diet was tested, at first, for two weeks.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ In matters of wisdom and understanding, Nebuchadnezzar found Daniel and his three friends to be: (a) ten times better; (b) slightly behind; (c) on a par with--all of the magicians and astrologers in Babylon.
07. _____ Master of the eunuchs was: (a) Belteshazzar; (b) Nebuchadnezzar; (c) Ashpenaz.
08. _____ Hananiah was renamed: (a) Shadrach; (b) Meshach; (c) Abednego.
09. _____ From which tribe did Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah come: (a) Levi; (b) Judah; (c) Ephraim.
10. _____ What is a countenance: (a) the face or facial features; (b) muscle type; (c) body shape.

Fill in the Blanks

11. Jer ____:11... "And this whole land shall be a _____, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon _____ years."
12. Hosea ____:7... "For they have _____ the wind, and they shall reap the _____: ..."
13. Following the experiment, _____ gave Daniel and his friends pulse to eat.
14. Deut 14:____... "And whatsoever hath not fins and _____ ye may not eat; it is _____ unto you."
15. _____ gave King Jehoiakim into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be given on next week's handout

ANSWERS for Lesson 01-13... [01--True, 22; 02--True, Gen 28:19; 03--False, 21; 04--False, Bethlehem, 7; 05--False, 19; 06--c, 2; 07--a, 20; 08--b, 7; 09--c, 14; 10--d, 5, 11, 16; 11--4, Samaria, Jacob, Joseph; 12--knees, bowed, 12; 13--established, land, Canaan, strangers; 14--Reuben, Simeon, 5; 15--multitude, midst, 16.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. *And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand,...* (Daniel 1:2). There is not any possible way Nebuchadnezzar could have taken Jerusalem if it had not been God's will. This clearly presents what took place as being according to God's will.
2. *Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science,...* (Daniel 1:4). As part of a plan to manage the carrying away of the nation of Israel, Nebuchadnezzar would need some of their best and brightest as advisors. There seems to have been a special emphasis on "outward" appearance of those who would stand before the king, but also these were to be very intelligent young men, as well. There would be a three year period of indoctrination into the ways and wisdom of the Babylonians for those Ashpenaz would select. God was able to use Daniel in communicating to Nebuchadnezzar His will through visions.
3. As a part of the indoctrination process, these four were given new names...

Hebrew Name	English Meaning	Babylonian Name	English Meaning
Daniel	God is my Judge	Belteshazzar	May Balak Protect
Hananiah	The Lord is Gracious	Shadrach	Command of Aku
Mishael	Who is What God Is?	Meshach	Who is What Aku Is?
Azariah	The Lord Has Helped	Abed-Nego	Servant of Nebo

- All of these new names were in some way glorifying a heathen god. Somehow, most Bible students are more familiar with the heathen names of the three friends of Daniel than with their Hebrew names, which is a shame. Thankfully, these young men behaved more in accord with their Hebrew names than the unasked for heathen ones.
4. *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...* (Daniel 1:8). What a great example Daniel is! Daniel teaches us well how to live as God's people in a secular society. We have many pressures to conform ourselves to the ways of the world, but we must answer in the same way Daniel did (Rom 12:1-2).
 5. *Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.* (Dan 1:9). The same providence God exercised in caring for Joseph is seen here with brave and dedicated Daniel. Daniel will serve the Lord well and at the appropriate time will let Nebuchadnezzar know Who is really in control.
 6. *Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.* (Daniel 1:12). The sumptuous meals of the king would have been a great temptation to many, however, Daniel knew that eating those meals would surely bring him into conflict with the laws of God (cf., Additional Scriptures above, I.3). Many would have given in after being refused once (as Daniel was by the prince of the eunuchs, v. 10), but not so with persistent Daniel. Daniel had confidence that if he remained faithful to God's commands that God would provide (Gen 22:8, 14) and he came up with a plan that was acceptable.
 7. *And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm* (Daniel 1:20). What was the reason for this excellent result? Daniel and the other three followed the Lord's will and the Lord blessed them (v. 17). We have a great promise in Matthew 28:20. Also, consider Matthew 6:33. Let us follow the marvelous example of these four.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P C L O K I T E U Y H N M J U I K L O P
 Q A U Z X W O S S I F R A G E S D E C Y
 V F R C T Y H N M K L P O I U I O Y E N
 J S M N K U I Y H B R F V N E D C R W E
 C W V B N O G T Y R F E D I S A P X C V
 Q I E D R F O T E Y H U J G O S L P M N
 G N V B N C M R T E D C A H O Q H A W K
 X E C V G H A J K L O U S T R V S E D V
 T Y U I N H M M G T R S C H V B C N M T
 W E R T V B T G E H E N V A M K A L O P
 A R A V E N Q W D L C V U W B N L M K L
 A S X V B H J U N U Y T L K R N E U I P
 N M E R T Y U I K L M T T S E D L C V B
 E D C A V B F Y C J M I U O G L E D E L
 S W C E G R B T Y O N M R I Y H S V F S
 A C V F K L G H J U N T E B N M S K O W
 Q M I R O Y E R F V B E N T E U L K I A
 P I O M N G H J K R C V Y A D V O B J N
 A T C P E L I C A N G T R E V B N W K L
 S E D C V F R T G B N H Y U J M K I L O

[The list below of items faithful Jews **could not eat** comes from the Additional Scriptures listed above under I.3., above. See how many you can find in the puzzle above.]

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|---------------|---------------|
| 01. camel | 02. hare |
| 03. coney | 04. swine |
| 05. finless | 06. scaleless |
| 07. eagle | 08. ossifrage |
| 09. osprey | 10. glede |
| 11. kite | 12. vulture |
| 13. raven | 14. owl |
| 15. nighthawk | 16. cuckoo |
| 17. hawk | 18. swan |
| 19. pelican | 20. stork |