

UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

... the just shall live by his faith Habakkuk 2:4



DANIEL

Faith In His Sovereignty

Sent into Exile
Daniel 1:1-21
Lesson 7

Background Information

After constant warnings to Israel, and their repeated complacency with God's Word, Nebuchadnezzar began his conquest of Judah in 605 B.C. As was the custom, he deported a number of Jews to Babylon, including Daniel and his friends who were probably teenagers at the time. God's hand upon Daniel, brought him into influential places to serve during the captivity. He served under four different rulers who represented three different kingdoms. When you read the book of Daniel, you meet a man whose faithfulness to God glorified Him in the enemy land.

With Babylon's taking of Jerusalem, the "times of the Gentiles" began. And will continue until Christ returns to set up His kingdom on this earth. The book of Daniel helps us remember that God is in control of history and your life. There is nothing that comes into your life that has not been filtered through the fingers of God's love, for those who are His.

For us today, Daniel, gives us encouragement and comfort in the midst of all of the evil around us. It helps us understand that it is possible to serve God even in Babylon! The world wants to change you and make you a "conformer," but with God's help you can become a "transformer." Though outward circumstances can change, a heart that is loyal to God remains steadfast through it all. When you find yourself in circumstances that you can't control, trust God, walk in His ways, cry out to Him for strength and watch His sovereign plan fall into place! God needs Daniels today to shine brightly in the dark world and refuse to bow to the world's conformity! Daniel stands as a testimony of how God works out His purposes through His servants even in the courts of pagan rulers.

Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known!

Philip P. Bliss

Treasures of the Heart

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. . .

Daniel 1:8



What does it say?

The first step is getting the lay of the land. **Carefully observe the text** looking to see where you might dig to find hidden treasure. **Mark your text** looking for repeated words, contrasts or similarities. Look for answers to, Who? What? When? Where? Why or How?

Daniel 1:1-7

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **2** And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, **4** young men in whom [there was] no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who [had] ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. **5** And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of [that time] they might serve before the king. **6** Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. **7** To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel [the name] Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

What does it mean?



What lesson can I draw from my observations? Ask yourself, “What was the intended meaning of the original author?” Is there a command to obey, or a warning to heed? An example to follow or avoid? **State each lesson in a simple sentence that you could share with someone else.** (aim for 10 words or less).

Daniel 1:1-7 _____

Daniel 1:8-16 _____

Daniel 1:17-21 _____

How can I apply it?



Ask yourself, “What course of action do I need to take to apply each lesson?” How should it change me? What does it challenge me to do? Does it point out error in my attitude or actions? (aim for 10 *words* or less)

Daniel 1:1-7 _____

Daniel 1:8-16 _____

Daniel 1:17-21 _____

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.

What **D**id **G**od **S**ay?

God's Words to us reveal what He wants us to understand Who He is and know His ways. **See if you can discover God's sovereign rule behind the scenes – and how He expects His people to act in the midst of difficult circumstances. Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself and how it can help you trust Him when you can't see Him working.**

What words or phrases are repeated? Repeated words help us discover the main point.

Define three words: does it supply any added meaning to the text?



Getting The Point

See if you can boil down the meaning of **each section** into one or two words. This helps you fully understand what the author is trying to convey. (It's fun to alliterate if you want to try) Did you catch the vision?

Daniel 1:1-7 _____

Daniel 1:8-16 _____

Daniel 1:17-21 _____

Title State the main **point** of the passage in the form of a title.

Flex Your Muscles Can you discover an N.T. example of this O.T. truth?

Radiating His Truth...

Don't complain about where the Lord puts you. Ask Him to use you while you are there. - Warren Wiersbe

