UNCOMPROMISING FAITH

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



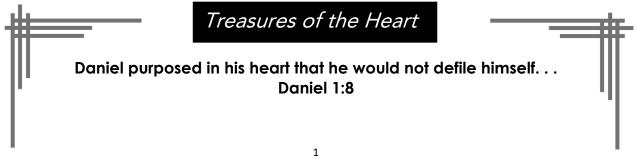
Background Information

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



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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.

Digging Deeper Dig deeper using other resources such as a dictionary, concordance, maps and cross-references. Notate where you found it to share with the group. Look for commands to obey or questions to be answered. What does God want you to know about Himself?

Daniel 1:8-16

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. 10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who [are] your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."

11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, [so] deal with your servants."

14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days. 15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

Daniel 1:17-21
17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and
wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 Now at the end of
the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs
brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and
among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore
they served before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom [and] understanding about
which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians
[and] astrologers who [were] in all his realm. 21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year
of King Cyrus.

What does it mean?



Daniel 1:17-21 _____

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
	ow 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

Challenge: Use cross-references to find correlating scripture that backs up a main point of	
the chapter. Summarize your findings in your own words.	
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What Did God Say?	
God's Words to us reveal what He wants us to understand Who He is and know His ways. See if you or discover God's sovereign rule behind the scenes – and how He expects His people to act in the midst difficult circumstances. Simply state what God is trying to communicate about Himself and how it or help you trust Him when you can't see Him working.	of
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f 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?	



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

Message Notes