

Follow God through Great Difficulty!

1/3/2021

Daniel #1

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 delivered Jehoiakim into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

³ Then the king ordered **Ashpenaz**, chief of his court officials, to bring into the **king's service** some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— ⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: **Daniel**, **Hananiah**, **Mishael** and **Azariah**. ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

⁸ But **Daniel resolved** not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and **he asked** the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. ⁹ Now **God had caused** the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who assigned your food and drink. Should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age, the king would then have my head because of you."

➤ **Anchor yourself in God** to solidify your identity!

¹¹ Daniel then said... ¹² "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants according to what you see." ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they **looked healthier and better nourished** than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

¹⁷ To these four young men **God gave knowledge and understanding** of all kinds of literature and learning. And **Daniel** could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

¹⁸ At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The **king talked with them**, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, **he found them** ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. ²¹ And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Daniel 1:1-20

➤ **Follow God's lead** to contribute positively!

➤ **Trust in God's help** to uphold you for his glory!

Crossroads Church

Discovering Life Connected with God!

Our Vision

To be a dynamic and diverse family of believers in Jesus Christ connected in transforming relationships with God, each other, and our world!

Our Purpose and Mission

To connect people with God, God's family, and God's mission through a transforming relationship with Jesus Christ!

Our Strategy

To fulfill God's purpose in our lives through a balanced commitment to love God with our entire being and to love our neighbor as ourselves, according to God's Great Commandment and Great Commission in the Bible.

Our Commitment

Growth

To speak and act more like Jesus Christ each day of our lives.
To reach people disconnected from God with the love of Jesus.

Relationships

To develop depth, consistency, and closeness in our walk with Jesus.
To share life and spiritual journey together with each other.

Relevance

To apply God's truths and principles to life in practical ways.
To engage and meaningfully share Jesus with people.

Involvement

To participate in church family relationships and responsibilities.
To discover and contribute our dynamic and diverse abilities.

Truth

To value Jesus Christ and the Bible as God's eternal revelation to us.
To believe and center on Jesus Christ as forgiver and life leader.

Let's Catch the Vision and Share the Mission Together!

"We are an autonomous, biblically-based church family that actively partners locally and internationally to fulfill our mission to connect people in transforming relationship with Jesus Christ!"