

Daniel Introduction and 1:1-15, 18-20
August 24, 2022

I. Introduction

II. Overview of Daniel

- A. Apocalyptic literature
- B. Date (167-64 BC)
- C. Language
- D. Parts
 - 1. Daniel 1-6
 - 2. Daniel 7-12
- E. Overall messages

III. Life in Babylonian exile (Dan. 1:1-20)

- A. What do vv. 1-2 teach us about the context?
- B. Changing names (1:6-7)
- C. The Jewish diet
 - 1. Not defile (1:8)
 - 2. Testing (1:12-13)
 - 3. Results (1:15)
- D. The Jews excel, even in exile (1:20)

IV. Application questions

- A. In what ways should we refuse to conform to American culture?
- B. What can the character of Ashpenaz teach us?

V. What else is applicable for us?

VI. Questions and comments

VII. LET US PRAY!

Schedule

- Sept. 7: Daniel 3:1, 4-6, 13-14, 16-28
- Sept. 21: Daniel 5:1-2, 5-7, 13-17, 23-31
- Oct. 5: Daniel 6:6-14, 16-28
- Oct. 19: Daniel 7:1-10, 15-18, 23-27
- Nov. 2: Daniel 11:36-45
- Nov. 16: Daniel 12:1-12

Daniel 1:1-15, 18-20

In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ²The Lord gave King Jehoiakim of Judah into his power, as well as some of the vessels of the house of God. These he brought to the land of Shinar, and he placed the vessels in the treasury of his gods.

³Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility: ⁴young men without physical defect and handsome, versed in every branch of wisdom, endowed with knowledge and insight, and competent to serve in the king's palace; they were to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans. ⁵The king assigned them a daily portion of the royal rations of food and wine. They were to be educated for three years, so that at the end of that time they could be stationed in the king's court. ⁶Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, from the tribe of Judah. ⁷The palace master gave them other names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the royal rations of food and wine, so he asked the palace master to allow him not to defile himself. ⁹Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion from the palace master. ¹⁰The palace master said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king; he has appointed your food and your drink. If he should see you in poorer condition than the other young men of your age, you would endanger my head with the king." ¹¹Then Daniel asked the guard whom the palace master had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: ¹²"Please test your servants for ten days. Let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³You can then compare our appearance with the appearance of the young men who eat the royal rations and deal with your servants according to what you observe." ¹⁴So he agreed to this proposal and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵At the end of ten days it was observed that they appeared better and fatter than all the young men who had been eating the royal rations. . . .

¹⁸At the end of the time that the king had set for them to be brought in, the palace master brought them into the presence of Nebuchadnezzar, ¹⁹and the king spoke with them. Among them all, no one was found to compare with Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they were stationed in the king's court. ²⁰In every matter of wisdom and understanding concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.