



Daniel 1:1-21

7/12/20 AM

DEALING WITH DEPORTATION

Introduction:

I. THE PILLAGING OF A STATE (vs. 1-4a)

A. Jerusalem is Surrounded (vs. 1)

“third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah”

“Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.”

B. The Temple is Sacked (vs. 2)

“the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand”

“vessels of the house of God...into the treasury of his god”

“the land of Shinar”

C. The Captives are Selected (vs. 3-4a)

“Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials” (lit. = eunuchs)

“bring in...some of the royal family and of the nobles”

“no defect...good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge”

“ability for serving in the king’s court”

II. THE PRESSURE TO SUBMIT (vs. 4b-8)

A. Their Way of Thinking (vs. 4b-5)

“teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans”

“educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king’s personal service”

B. Their Worship (vs. 6-7)

C. Their Way of Life (vs. 8)

“a daily ration from the king’s choice food and from the wine which he drank” (vs. 5)

“Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king’s choice food or...wine”

Daniel (Elohim is my judge) → Belteshazzar (may Bel protect his life)
Hananiah (Yahweh has been gracious) → Shadrach (Aku is exalted)
Mishael (Who is what Elohim is?) → Meshach (Who is what Aku is?)
Azariah (Yahweh is my helper) → Abed-nego (the servant of Nebo)

III. THE PREPARATION OF A SERVANT (vs. 9-17)

A. Daniel’s Favor with God (vs. 9)

“God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander”

B. Daniel's Friendship with the Commander (vs. 10)

"I am afraid of my lord the king..."

"why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age?"

"Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king."

C. Daniel's Fortitude in Making the Proposal (vs. 11-13)

"Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink."

"let our appearance be observed"

"deal with your servants according to what you see"

D. Daniel's Fame in the Realm (vs. 14-17)

"he listened to them...and tested them for ten days"

"at the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food. So the overseer continued..."

"as for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom"

"Daniel even understood [*bin*] all kinds of visions and dreams"

IV. THE PRESENTATION BEFORE THE SOVEREIGN

A. Initial Conference (vs. 18-19)

"at the end of the days...the commander...presented them before Nebuchadnezzar"

B. On-Going Consultation (vs. 20)

"the king talked with them"

"not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah"

"so they entered the king's personal service"

"every matter of wisdom and understanding"

"he found them ten times better"

"all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm"

C. Long-Term Continuation (vs. 21)

"Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king"

Nebuchadnezzar II (606-560 BC) - ch. 1-3
Nebuchadnezzar III; AKA Nabonidus (555-539 BC) - ch. 4
Belshazzar (553-539 BC) - ch. 5
Darius the Mede - ch. 6
Cyrus II; AKA "the great" or "the Persian" (600-530 BC)

Conclusion:

- 1) We must acknowledge that God is sovereign and demonstrate that by submitting to Him.
- 2) As we submit to His sovereignty, we can understand what is going on in history.
- 3) How should we then live? We should live as Daniel and his three friends lived.

Food for Thought:

- 1) Describe in a sentence or two your understanding of the statement, "God is sovereign."
- 2) What can we do in today's churches and families to prepare young leaders like Daniel and his three friends?
- 3) What might be things in our day and culture that we need to purpose not to be defiled by?
- 4) What do you look forward to learning from the book of Daniel?