

Daniel 1.1-21

The City of God...Now and Forever

Just IMAGINE > You R Young PERSON come From FAR AWAY LAND

Arriving here you Find Yourself in VERY DIFFERENT Foreign LAND

Forced to Quickly Learn NEW Language, Customs – EAT Different FOODS

New HOMELAND – Strong, Powerful NATION – Expects your Conformity

Old HOME feeling Farther & Father Away – Wondering if EVER Go home?

Trying to Work Out who you ARE, what you BELIEVE, how to LIVE Integrity

Welcome to BICF Team! Welcome to the Book of DANIEL!

Book of Daniel – Loved and Loathed – Familiar and Frightening

Well Known and Hardly Read – Comforting and Challenging

OPPOSITE Responses > partly 2 Different Halves of the Book

The Book of Daniel							
Focus	Judgment upon the Gentiles			Hope for the Jews			
Divisions	Daniel's Friends in the Furnace	Daniel's Faith in the Lion's Den	Beasts, Kings & Seventy Weeks	Previews of Israel's Future			
					1	3	4
Topics	Convincing Gentiles of God's Power			Convincing Jews of god's Purpose			
	Daniel Interprets Other's Dreams			Angels Interpret Daniel's Dreams			
Place	Babylon & Persia						
Time	At Least 70 Years						
Author	The Prophet Daniel						

Message for ALL People

Convincing GENTILES of
God's POWER

Convincing JEWS of
God's PURPOSE

An Ending at the Beginning...

As we OPEN the Book of DANIEL we are REALLY Looking at an ENDING

Last Chapter of FINAL Book in the HEBREW Bible we read this Summary...

The Lord, the God of their fathers, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place. But they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord rose against his people, until there was no remedy. Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary and had no compassion on young man or virgin, old man or aged. He gave them all into his hand. And all the vessels of the house of God, great and small, and the treasures of the house of the Lord, and the treasures of the king and of his princes, all these he brought to Babylon....
2 Chronicles 36.15-18

Those HEBREWS Dragged away to BABYLON were SHOCKED

Thought were SAFE from HARM by Covenant with LORD GOD YAHWEH

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.
Daniel 1.1,2

v. 2 *the Lord gave* Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand... 3 Surprising Words!

Seems to FLY in the FACE of HISTORICAL Evidence > Maybe FAKE NEWS

vs. 1,2 – Places STORY in Context of WORLD HISTORY > BIG PICTURE

Hard to UNDERESTIMATE the DEVASTATION of the EXILE

Holy City of Jerusalem Destroyed – Temple Burned – Vessels Removed
gods of BABYLON apparently TRIUMPHED over the God of ISRAEL
Neb VIGOROUS Young King of NEWLY RISING Babylonian Empire

The great and most important theme of Daniel is that there is but one God...and that He is sovereign over the events of history.
James Boice

Rise to Power of Neb NOT because of HIS POWER & PROWESS >> GOD

3 words in our English Text “the Lord delivered”

PAWN in the Hand NOT Jehoiakim > NEB in the Powerful Hand of GOD

EXILE was NOT a SET-BACK to God’s Plan

Shocking STEPPING STONE to Perfect Unfolding of His Sovereign Plan

Chapter 1 is Distinct Literary Unit > Bookends are HISTORICAL Markers

v. 1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

v. 21 And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

When 70 yrs of Exile Prophesied by JEREMIAH Over: Daniel still serving GOD

FAITHFUL SAVIOR kept his SERVANT FAITHFUL > Long Distance Runner

I. The place in which faithfulness is lived. Chapter 1

II. The God to whom the kingdom belongs. Chapters 2-7

III. The people to whom the kingdom is given. Chapters 8-12

“The Message of Daniel” by Dale Ralph Davis

Daniel’s main function is to reveal God to us, the readers. Tremper Longman III

That’s why Daniel adds another STRANGE DETAIL in vs. 2....

v. 2the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

When saw TEMPLE Destroyed & LOOTED > Hearts were in DESPAIR

COSMIC Power Encounter > gods of BABYLON thumped God of the Bible

Isaiah's PROPHECY to King Hezekiah – Century or so Earlier - FULFILLED

Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, and that which your fathers have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord. And some of your own sons, who will come from you, whom you will father, shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”
Isaiah 39.5-7

Play on Words here – LOOTED Articles – PRECIOUS VESSELS Taken Away
MORE than GOLD & SILVER also dragged away their SONS & DAUGHTERS
HEBREWS gone thru UNIMAGINABLE Loss > Family, Fortune, Future, Faith
SONS will be Threatened by GODLESS KING

VESSELS will be DESECRATED during an EVIL Party of another BAD KING

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? Psalm 137.1-4

How do WE Testify to God's Promises when we're Poor and Powerless?

God is ALWAYS Sovereign – fancy word “complete control of everything”

Sometimes His Sovereignty is SILENT, DISTANT, seen only in SUFFERING

Judah's EXILE affected 1000's >> CLOSE UP View of just 4 Young Men

DISCLAIMER Same Exp. NOT happen to ALL Believers – THEN or NOW

Some sing “Dare to be a Daniel” > Same, Faithful God – ONLY One Daniel

HERO of the Story is GOD of Daniel – Daniel & Homies SUPPORTING Cast

Daniel is FIRST and Foremost a REVELATION of God

Stories TOLD for us to See GOD and KNOW HIM Better

But God does not REVEAL Himself in the Abstract but in RELATIONSHIPS

Now these things took place as examples for us... 1 Corinthians 10.6

Ch 1 > NEB has CAMPAIGN to DEVELOP & DEPLOY CIVIL SERVANTS

Expanding Babylonian EMPIRE required Extended BUREAUCRACY

Babylonianization Program > ELITE of Subdued Nations PRESSED into Service

1. Squeezed to Conform

a. Bodies Captured

vs. 3-5 Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance... The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank.

Young MEN had BRAINS, BRAWN, BEAUTY that pleased BABYLON

IF Daniel was Young TEEN when we Step into Story > Grew Spiritual ERA

622 BC - 8 year old KING JOSIAH found LAW of God in TEMPLE

Law given to LEAD Nation been LOST > Nation became LOST TOO

Opened, Read, Understood > SEASON Repentance, Restoration, Renewal

DANIEL GREW UP in Years of VIBRANT National Faith > Last Gasp before...

HEARTS and HOMELAND were BROKEN & Brutalized by BABYLON

Now Young TEENS in Babylon > Intense Program of REEDUCATION

Aggressive CAMPAIGN to BLOT OUT Memory of their GOD & Homeland

YOUNG People chosen who can be EASILY Molded to New ENVIRONMENT

Change Whole WORLD VIEW – Media, Education, Symbols, Traditions, Laws

In Ancient Israel, Wisdom is inextricably bound up with the ‘fear of the Lord’ and inevitably the reader wonders what will happen when the wisdom comes into contact with Babylonian wisdom which is likewise bound up with the worship of Babylonian gods.

Bob Fyall

b. Brains Conformed

vs. 4,5 skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans...They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king.

Young People PLUCKED in Foreign Land, Friends, Campus, Beliefs, Behavior

They would likely have to imbibe the ‘scientific’ omen texts; for example, there was a series of astrological omens in seventy-seven tablets, twenty-three of which focused on observations of the moon.....then perhaps medical omens – one ran to a series of forty tablets; nor could they neglect dream interpretation – the longest collection runs to one hundred and ten tablets. D.J. Wiseman

ALL Truth is GOD’S Truth > from Scripture, Science or Nebuchadnezzar

OPPORTUNITY to STUDY is an Opportunity to SERVE GOD > Sacred Trust

“there is no positive theology of pagan or secular learning here, but rather the assurance that it can be triumphed over”

J.E. Goldingay

c. Beliefs Challenged

vs. 6,7 Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

Hebrew Name	Meaning	Meaning	Babylonian Name
Daniel	God is my Judge	a goddess protect the king	Belteshazzar
Hananiah	Who is like God?	Forms of name of god Marduk	Shadrach
Mishael	God is gracious	Forms of name of god Marduk	Meschach
Azariah	God is my helper	Servant of god Nabu	Abednego

1970's Gov't of ALBANIA forced anyone w/ Biblical Name > CHANGE IT
 Feared when heard Abraham, Ruth, Daniel, Luke people ask "Where is it from?"
 Search for BIBLE to find the SOURCE > Bible was OUTLAWED & BANNED

Hebrew Boys did NOT Fight this Battle over Name Change

Could CHANGE their NAMES but could NOT change their HEARTS

No matter what People CALL YOU does NOT make You what they SAY

One of SUBTLE tricks of god of this World > Change Meaning of Good Words

GAY describes People striving to be HAPPY in all the WRONG WAYS

Love, Choice, Rights, Freedom, Rainbow, Gay> Be CAREFUL and CLEAR

Daniel teaches us that the struggle is not to make the culture Christian, but how to live as a Christian in a hostile culture. Tremper Longman III

2. Standing for Convictions

a. Resolve

v. 8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank.

RESOLVED – Definite & Settled Decision, Shaped by BIBLE & his BUDDIES

4 Young Men would have been VERY FAMILIAR words of God's PROPHET

when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. Isaiah 8.19,20

Great Advantage of TEAM of Brothers to Think, Pray, & Make Wise Decisions

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!...And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4.9-12

Impt in NEW PLACE – Good Friends, Buddy, Small Group, Accountability

REASON for FOOD REFUSAL...

Jewish KOSHER Dietary Laws? THEY say NOTHING about WINE

Offered to IDOLS --- Certainly! --- Even VEGGIES out of Kitchen were TOO

LATER Daniel will eat CHOICE Foods of PAGAN PERSIANS

I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. Daniel 10.3

NOT Infomercial for VEGANS or TEE-TOTALERS

Perhaps more POLITICAL than Theological > Jews stand against Babylon

Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 1 Corinthians 8.8

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14.17

Their minds as well as their bodies are being fed by the Babylonian court. If they prosper, then to whom should they attribute their success?...by refusing to eat the food of the king...Only God could have done it. Tremper Longman III

It is in the small matters that great victories are won...because he started out for God in small things, God used him greatly. James Boice

Jaelene Hinkle talented Soccer

Player > Hard Working

Dreamed > play on USA

Woman's National Team >

INVITED to Join

Found USA Team would wear

GAY PRIDE Jerseys > Prayed

> REFUSED



Kicked Off Team REFUSING wear Jersey Endorsed HOMOSEXUALITY

HIRED by Professional Soccer Team travels across USA Boomed Everywhere

Not FIGHT Back – Plays Hard – Let's her Kindness & her Game do Talking

“Jaelene is high on her faith, and in my honest [opinion] that's absolutely incredible. If she's for God, then that's fine, that's great if that's what keeps her going in her life and keeps positivity in her life, then let that be. Everyone has their opinions about the Bible and God. It's obviously not in my control what she thinks. At the end of the day, I'm still going to be friends with her. We have no problems with each other... It hasn't affected our team at all.”

Jessica McDonald, teammate

b. Respect

v. 8 he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

Did not STAGE Sit-In over FOOD – Public PROTEST or HISSY-FIT

No Public Proclamation, No Food Strikes – Quietly, Respectfully asked Steward
RESPECTFULLY asked PROPER AUTHORITIES for Acceptable Alternative

but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action Daniel 11.32

v. 9 And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs,

God concerned with RISE & Fall of EMPIRES AND Details of Everyday Life

Daniel made STAND on PRINCIPLE but Willing to be FLEXIBLE on Details

v. 10 and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king.”

Denial of v. 10 maybe not Outright Refusal “I cannot make the order, but if you can work it out another way, go for it!”

Daniel BOUNCED off the CEO and went DOWN to the COO

So Daniel went DOWN a Notch to KEEP MATTER even MORE QUIET

God has his PEOPLE everywhere – People to ADVANCE His Cause

And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. Luke 10.6

Even when Person might NOT KNOW God...Yet

Worker in DORMITORY Smiles & Opens Door People come for Bible Study
ADMINISTRATOR who arranges Schedule so you can COME & WORSHIP

Not know WHY BABYLONIAN GUARD cared about DIET of Hebrew BOYS

v. 11-14 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, “Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see.” So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days.

KAREN was working on her P.H.T. degree – ‘Put Hubby Through’ SCHOOL
 Karen worked for MONEY / HUSBAND worked for MASTER’s degree Theol.
 She worked in Pharmaceutical Company while he studied to become PASTOR
 Karen Quality-Control Inspector and their LIFE Together earning HIGH Marks
 One Day Syringe Machine Backed Up: Production Cycle CONTAMINATED
 KAREN told her Boss - Tried to Fix It – Crunched NUMBERS Too Expensive
 Ordered Karen to SIGN-OFF on INSPECTION Report – She Refused
 Federal Law required Karen’s Signature or Entire BATCH be DISPOSED Of
 Company President came to Pressure Karen to SIGN > REFUSED > FIRED
 CUSTOMER who was to Receive Syringes found out about Situation
 Met Karen – Thanked her --- HIRED Her – and RAISED her SALARY

There is not so much something in the food that defiles as much as it is the total program of assimilation. At this point the Babylonian government is exercising control over every aspect of their lives. They have little means to resist the forces of assimilation that are controlling them. They seize on one of the few areas where they can still exercise an opportunity to preserve their distinct identity.

John Walton

c. Recognition

vs. 15,16 At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

Diet was PRIVATE, NOT Public > King took Credit > Hebrew Boys knew Truth

GRACE is the UNDERTOW in this Whole Passage

REASON for their SUCCESS and ADVANCE

For every believer there comes a moment of decision, an issue where a stand must be made and the choice will determine the whole future character of life...For Daniel it was food, for others it may be vast wealth...The key issue is that for all of us there is a point at which we must choose to go on in the way of faithfulness to God or to compromise.

Bob Fyall

3. Success in Captivity

vs. 17-20 As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

Daniel Not Only took the Classes > Graduated SUMMA CUM LAUDE

So much for DANIEL DIET – they were FATTER than the REST

Why I don't eat Vegetables!

LOOKING GOOD was NOT Because of DIET > MIRACLE of God

If you want to SPEAK to World > Need to UNDERSTAND World

In fact you should KNOW the WORLD BETTER than it knows Itself

Sovereignty of God FAR SURPASSES the MIGHTIEST of Human RULERS

Great REFORMER John Calvin > Wrote 1000 page Commentary Daniel

In 10 years Translated from FRENCH into ENGLISH > Still Read TODAY

Passionately LINKED troubles of Daniel to FIGHT for Gospel in Hostile Europe

Words breath COMPASSION on 1000's MARTYRED in his 16th Century

God proves the faith of his people by various trials...that they should never be weakened by the concussion of the severest storms and tempests; or at least if they totter they should never fall away...Here we see a living picture, that when God spares the wicked for a time, he proves his servants like gold and silver.

John Calvin

Ch Begins w/ HUMILIATION of JUDAH to EXALTATION of God's People
God's SOVEREIGN Rule NOT Abstract Theory > Seen in Lives of SERVANTS

FIND Firm Foundation after FREE FALL of EXILE from Homeland

To Serve God Faithfully & Effectively > Eternal Word to Ever-changing World

FIND God in midst of our STORY > Story of Daniel INSPIRE & Encourage

All our SMALL STORIES fit together into the GRAND STORY of Salvation

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Genesis 12.2,3

To LIVE FAITHFULLY in Exile we must Know God's FAITHFULNESS

v. 21 > Punches the FAST FORWARD Button > about 70 years Down ROAD

7 HEBREW words Packed w/ DYNAMITE: 80 yr old Daniel GOING STRONG

After EXILE Ended Ezra tells this DETAIL...

Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods.

Ezra 1.7

FUTURE NOT Controlled by gods of Babylon > GOD of the BIBLE

70 ys ENDED Cyrus order God's VESSELS – People & Precious Metals - Home

Abraham Keliipio BIG MAN – Tall & Wide – Like Me
 Member of church I pastored in Hilo, Hawaii
 Told me Grew up on SMALL ISLAND in Hilo Bay
 1960 TSUNAMI Hit Hilo – Much Destruction
 MIGHTY Wave picked up Little Abe on his Island in the Bay
 and Carried him Safely to Shore

One of the Most Influential Theological Books ever Written > CITY OF GOD
 Btwn 412 – 426 AD – Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, North Africa
 Theological Explanation for the FALL of the ROMAN Empire
 Contrasts City of GOD with City of MAN

Two cities have been formed by two loves: the earthly by the love of self, even to the contempt of God; the heavenly by the love of God, even to the contempt of self.
 Augustine

No One by NATURE belongs to CITY of God > All of us Born in City of Man
 Many of us will DIE HERE

But some in this City of Man CALLED TO New Birth

Jesus: “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”
 John 3.3

Repent of Loving Self > Repent of Contempt of God > MADE NEW in Christ

Not Yet ARRIVED of God’s City > Call to Believe in God’s Son

NOW our Home NOT what we LOOK BACK to but LOOK FORWARD To

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city. Hebrews 11.13-16

Daniel 1.¹In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.²And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. ³ Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, ⁴ youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. ⁵The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. ⁶Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. ⁷ And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. ⁸ But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. ⁹ And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, ¹⁰ and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king." ¹¹ Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." ¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. ¹⁶ So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. ¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. ¹⁸ At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. ²⁰ And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. ²¹ And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.