

The Book of Daniel
Chapter 1

Verses 1-4

1. The third year of Jehoiakim was **605** BC.
2. Nebuchadnezzar, the son of the king of Babylon, was the general in charge of the Babylonian army. Fresh off his victory over Egypt, he besieged **JERUSALEM**.
3. Why was Nebuchadnezzar successful in his efforts? Because the **GOD** allowed it.
4. Nebuchadnezzar took some (not all) of the **TREASURE** from Solomon's temple and put them in the house of his god: probably **MARDUK**.
5. Ashpenaz was the master of his **EUNUCHS** What is a eunuch? Someone who has lost his manhood. Many times in many cultures such men have been put in high positions in a king's court. They are thought to be less aggressive in wanting to take over the crown. Less testosterone and no family to hand down the crown to.
6. As Nebuchadnezzar went speeding back to take over his **FATHER'S** throne, he left Ashpenaz these qualifications for those who would be taken captive back to Babylon:
 - a. Related to the Royal Family
 - b. Children (teens or younger)
 - c. Good Looking
 - d. Intelligent
 - e. Confident
7. Why were they taken? To learn from the **CHALDEANS**. This can be a general term for the Babylonian culture, or, in this case, a specific name for the king's wise men.
8. All of this fulfilled a prophecy given to King Hezekiah, king of Judah, some 100 years earlier. (Isaiah 39) Hezekiah had tried to impress the Babylonian ambassadors by showing them all of the Lord's treasure in the temple. Isaiah the prophet told Hezekiah that all that was in the temple would be carried to **BABYLON** and that of his family, some of the boys would be taken away "*and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon*".
9. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were made **EUNUCHS** and taken captive because of the sin of Hezekiah.
10. Daniel, a book of **PROPHECY**, begins with an amazing, accurate, precise, and fulfilled prophecy.

Verses 5-8

11. They were to learn from the Chaldeans for **THREE** years.

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12. Their name changes were significant

Daniel: “**GOD** is my judge”, was changed to Belteshazzar: “Bel, protect the hostage of the king” (bel worship)

Hananiah: “The grace of the **LORD**”, was changed to Shadrach: “the inspiration of the sun” (sun worship)

Mishael: “He that is the strong **GOD**”, was changed to Meshach: “the goddess shach” (venus worship)

Azariah: “The **LORD** is a help”, was changed to Abednego: “servant of the shining fire” (fire worship)

13. The king’s meat was **UNCLEAN**. The king’s wine was alcoholic, it also would defile Daniel.

14. Daniel, though he had already “*purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself*”, did not **DEMAND** his rights, but requested that he “*might not defile himself*”.

Verses 9-16

15. Who brought Daniel into favor with the prince of the eunuchs? Who is directly involved in world affairs? **GOD**

16. **PULSE** consists of: peas, beans, and lentils.

17. God blessed the children for their **OBEDIENCE**.

Verses 17-21

18. Who was it that gave these four children their knowledge and skill? **GOD**.

19. In the Bible, only Daniel and **JOSEPH** were given the ability to understand “*all visions and dreams*”.

20. It is no surprise that God’s followers would be “*ten times better*” than those who practice in the **OCCULT**, (i.e. magicians, astrologers).

21. We see the beginning of a **CONFLICT**, in verse 20. These children are showing up the men in the ‘good ol’ boys’ club.

22. Daniel served for **FOUR** different kings. He served for about 63 years in all.