

Daniel 1

Verse	What Does it Say?	What is the Lesson to be Learned? Application?
1	Neb... came to Jerusalem and besieged it.	It is the nature of the world (cultures) to expand and try to subdue, capture, absorb or destroy things in their way.
2	And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand	God will do whatever it takes to discipline his people and the nations. He will use any one or any thing.
2	along with some of the articles from the temple of God	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God cares more about people than things. • Jews had desecrated the temple for generations (Jer. 23:11)
2	These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.	Isa. 39:1-8 Hezekiah shows Babylonians treasure 100 yrs. before.
3	from the royal family and the nobility	Babylonians were confident that they could mold the next generation of leaders for their purposes. They did not fear their talent.
4	4 young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The world wants to be surrounded with only the best. • Don't abandon the best to the world. Make them a Daniel. • Don't be afraid to contribute to the culture – in a godly way.
4	and qualified to serve in the king's palace.	Daniel served Babylonian kings for over 60 years, possibly paving the way for the return of Jews to Judah.
5	The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table.	The king thought he was giving the best he had to Daniel and the others.
5	They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.	God is looking for those who can bridge the gap between His kingdom and the world just as Babylon tried to use these young men to build bridges to the lands and people that they conquered.
6-7	Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those from Judah were only some in the training program. • The power of a name to shape a personality. • Be intentional about what I call people, how I talk to them.
8	But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel resolved – up front; daily; in all areas of life. • Daniel knew the relationship of the body to the spirit.
9	he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daniel knew when to ask and when to defy the culture. • Winsome; He acknowledged the official's power. • He didn't try to change what everybody ate, just he and his friends.
9	Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes God gives us favor with people and sometimes he doesn't (Moses). Let God decide. I shouldn't put them off.
10	but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We must understand the motivations of those we touch. The official didn't care what Daniel ate as long as the outcome made him look good to the King (so he could keep his head). • Many in the culture are just trying to survive, they have no agenda. Don't put them in the middle of my fight w/ culture. • Remember: people are captives, not the enemy.
11	Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start negotiations at the lowest level possible. • Try to make that person an ally in your cause – don't go over their head. Respect their authority.
12	Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creative alternative. Limited scope; a way out. • Make the request clear. • Don't try to take away their control or authority. • Be respectful.

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13	Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't be afraid to put what I believe to the test. • The world should be able to look at the church and see the obvious advantages of a godly lifestyle. • Testing (science) is our ally, not our enemy.
14	So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maybe the world hopes that we are right. •
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If it is right, it will work. • God will honor a principled stand, done in the right way. •
16	So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.	Not everything is a culture war. Sometimes both sides just want to do what works. If we show them that something works, it may be accepted.
17	To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gives all kinds of learning, not just spiritual. • Sometimes the culture does have something to teach us. • Truth is truth no matter where you find it.
18	At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being good at what we do brings us before kings. • The chief official was probably proud.
19	The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes the best way to affect the culture is to be very good at what we do. • The key is to do it in response to God's call, not our own agenda.
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our goal: excellence. • Good leaders reward excellence and results over all else.
21	And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 605 – 539 B.C. (66 years). • What an impact he must have had. • He probably got to hear of Jews going back to Jerusalem. •