

## 2—God’s Favor Upon Four Captives

### Daniel 1:5-21

1. Name Daniel’s friends (Daniel 1:6). What qualities did these “*young men*” possess that made them valuable assets to King Nebuchadnezzar?

<b>Jewish Name</b>	<b>Jewish Meaning</b>	<b>Chaldean Name</b>	<b>Chaldean Meaning</b>
Daniel	“God my judge”	Beltshazzar	“Bel’s prince”
Hananiah	“whom Jehovah hath favored”	Shadrach	“Illumined by the sun-god”
Mishael	“who is what God is?”	Meshach Shak=Babylonian Earth goddess	“Who is what Shak is?”
Azariah	“whom Jehovah helps”	Abednego	“Servant of the Shining Fire”

2. Describe the training and diet these men were to be given during this training for the king (Daniel 1:5)?

3. What about this “diet” might have been concerning to Daniel based on Old Testament laws and regulations (see Leviticus 3:17; 11; Exodus 34:15)?

4. What about this diet did Daniel request to change (Daniel 1:8)? What was he given instead (1:10-11)? How did this affect him and his friends (1:15)? Why should a godly person be concerned with the food and drink they eat? Or should they?

5. After the period of training, in what areas did these four boys excel, and what unique gift did Daniel possess (Daniel 1:17-21)?

6. There are certain deeply-rooted cultural markers which help us connect with our traditions (whether they be religious or not). How did the king try to get Daniel and his friends to systematically assimilate to Babylonian culture?

- a. Areas of study (1:4):
- b. Food (1:5):
- c. Names (1:6-7):
- d. Worship (3:1-15):

7. Daniel and his friends resist the indoctrination of the Babylonians as much as possible. What is our best defense against the attempts of the world to systematically secularize us?

Date	Significant Events to Remember
931-930 B.C.	Division of the kingdom following the death of Solomon
723-722 B.C.	Northern kingdom of Israel taken captive by Assyria.
605 B.C.	First deportation of the southern kingdom of Judah into Babylonian captivity including Daniel and other nobles.
597 B.C.	Second deportation of Judah to Babylon with 10,000 captives including the king and Ezekiel.
586 B.C.	Third deportation with the remnant taken captive to Babylon. Temple destroyed, walls of Jerusalem razed and the city burned.
539 B.C.	Fall of Babylon to Cyrus II The Great of Persia
538 B.C.	Decree of Cyrus restoring the Jews to their homeland with the first return from captivity led by Zerubbabel.
515 B.C.	Second temple dedicated in 6 <sup>th</sup> year of Darius I the Great of Persia.
458 B.C.	Second return of captives to Jerusalem led by Ezra, the scribe.
445 B.C.	Third return of exiles to Jerusalem led by Nehemiah 445 B.C.

8. The main character of Daniel is not Daniel, it is the God Daniel serves! The Lord's will is not always a life of reward, though God can bless us in difficult circumstances. What can we learn from the following phrases about God's work in the following passages?

- a. "The Lord gave..." (Daniel 1:2):
- b. "God granted..." (Daniel 1:9):
- c. "God gave..." (1:17):

9. Consider all Daniel and his friends had heard, seen, and experienced in the captivity. Yet, what powerful lesson can this teach us about God's ability to help us overcome a difficult past?