



— THE BOOK OF —
DANIEL

Chapter One



That's what Daniel 1 does—
for the rest of the book.

Setting the Stage

- “And **the Lord gave** Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand...” (1:2).
 - Whatever these kings had was **given to them by God**—this will be emphasized throughout the book.
- Nebuchadnezzar carried articles from the house of God into the house of his god (1:2).
 - This sets up the account given in chapter 5, where Belshazzar was drinking wine from these vessels while praising other gods.

Setting the Stage

- “Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams”—a gift given by God (1:17).
 - Daniel will interpret dreams for Nebuchadnezzar in chapters 2 and 4, and the handwriting on the wall for Belshazzar in chapter 5.
- “Therefore they [Daniel and his companions] served before the king” (1:19).
 - Perhaps this helps explain the animosity shown to them later, especially since the king found none like them.

Setting the Stage

- “Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus” (1:21).
 - When the kingdom changed hands, the man who prophesied the change was there!
- God’s care for His people, as seen in His care for Daniel and his companions (favor and goodwill, knowledge and skill, ten days of testing) is also a prominent theme in this book (see chs. 3, 6 esp.).



Daniel 1 also looks **backward** to something foretold about 100 years earlier—under the reign of Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:16–18).

O The Doors God Can Open!

- “Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs” (1:9).
- Didn’t God do the same for Joseph—before Potiphar, before the keeper of the prison, and before Pharaoh? (Gen. 39:1–4, 21; Acts 7:10).
- Didn’t God do the same for Ezra and Nehemiah, who both had to make important requests before kings? (Ezra 7:27–28; Nehemiah 1:11–2:8).

Question #1

- What was Nebuchadnezzar looking for in this first group of captives? (1:3–4).
 - What did Daniel and his companions have that mattered more than any of these qualities?

Question #2

- In what were these captives to be trained, and how long would the training last? (1:4–5).

Question #3

- What was the plan when the training was complete?
(1:5).

Question #4

- The name changes described in 1:7—see any purpose behind these changes?



FIGHT BETWEEN BEL AND THE DRAGON,
FROM BABYLONIAN CYLINDER.



Nebo



Marduk

Ishtar

Tiamat

Question #5

- What “daily provision” did the king make for these trainees? (1:5).

Question #6

- What did Daniel resolve or purpose in his heart? (1:8).
 - Do we know for sure why these “delicacies” would cause Daniel to defile himself?
 - “Ezra had **prepared his heart** to seek the law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel” (Ezra 7:10).
 - Barnabas “encouraged them all that with **purpose of heart** they should continue with the Lord” (Acts 11:23).

Question #7

- Whom did the chief of eunuchs fear? (1:10).
 - Whom did Daniel fear?
 - One man feared the lord Nebuchadnezzar; the other man feared Nebuchadnezzar's Lord.

Question #8

- What request did Daniel make of the steward—the one the chief of eunuchs had appointed over them, and did he honor the request? (1:11–14).
 - Who, in the N.T., was told they would be tested 10 days?
 - Answer found in Revelation 2:10.

Question #9

- Did they “pass the test”? (1:15–16).

Question #10

- When the chief of eunuchs brought them before the king, what did he determine about them? (1:18–20).
 - Note: “He found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm” (1:20).