

BIBLE STUDY – LESSON 6

SUBJECT: DANIEL & THE HEBREWS OBEY GOD

JANUARY 22, 2010

1. Daniel Chapter 1

1.1. Daniel and His Friends Obey God (Verses 1-21)

1.1.1. Verse 1 Notes

- Jehoiakim was the king of Judah. The third year of his reign was 605 BC.
- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon invaded Jerusalem
- Nebuchadnezzar means “Nebo, protect the crown!”

1.1.2. Verse 2 Notes

- Judah was exiled to Babylonia due to disobedience to God’s word concerning covenant-keeping, the Sabbath years, and idolatry. See **Lev 25:1-7; 26:27-35; 2 Chronicles 36:5-8; 36:14-21**.
- Nebuchadnezzar took items from the holy temple of God to his idol temple in Babylonia. Not all items from the temple were taken.
- To Nebuchadnezzar capturing these vessels showed that his god was superior. These items were later restored (**Ezra 1:7**).
- Shinar is where Babylon was located. Similar to the county of the city.

1.1.3. Verse 3 Notes

- Ashpenaz was a eunuch. A eunuch is a man or boy whose testes are nonfunctioning or have been removed.
- Eunuchs were desirable as administrators because they were not as susceptible to being compromised.
- Daniel was one of the noble Israelites that was captured and taken to Babylonia.
- Ezekiel was taken to Babylonia later in 597 BC.
- It is doubtful that Daniel was made a eunuch.

1.1.4. Verse 4 Notes

- To the king, it was important that these men were nice looking and well-educated.
- They would be taught the language of the Chaldeans.
- A Chaldean was a member of an ancient Semitic people who controlled S Babylonia from the late 8th to the late 7th century BC.

1.1.5. Verse 5 Notes

- The king believed his system was superior, even down to the diet.
- Like Moses, these Jewish men would receive teaching and training in the king’s royal court.

1.1.6. Verse 6 Notes

- Use of Israel (verse 3) and Judah (verse 6) were used interchangeably.
- Daniel means “God is my Judge”
- Hananiah means “The Lord shows grace”.
- Mishael means “Who is what God is?”
- Azariah means “The Lord helps”.
- These are four of many that were chosen.

1.1.7. Verse 7 Notes

- The eunuch gives them Babylonian names:
 - Daniel – Belteshazzar (protect his life)
 - Hananiah – Shadrach (command of Aku, the moon god)
 - Mishael – Meshach (who is what Aku is?)
 - Azariah – Abed-Nego (means servant of Nebo)

1.1.8. Verse 8 Notes

- Daniel was not vegetarian but refused to take defiled food and drink, displaying his conviction. The Hebrews considered it defiled because the first portion was offered to idols as a ritual. A portion of wine was poured onto a pagan altar.
- Ceremonially unclean animals were used and not killed or prepared according to Jewish law.

1.1.9. Verse 9-10 Notes

- God gave Daniel favor due to his faithfulness. God gave Joseph the same type of favor in similar circumstances (**Genesis 39-41**).
- The eunuch feared punishment of beheading from the king thinking it would be noticeable that Daniel did not have “royal” food and drink.

1.1.10. Verse 11-14 Notes

- Daniel offered a 10 day trial period for their diets and asked the eunuch to then judge the Hebrews appearance versus the others that had the king’s food. Daniel again demonstrates great faith in God with this. Daniel’s offer also displayed good judgment rather than rebelling in anger.

1.1.11. Verse 15-16 Notes

- The Hebrews looked healthier than the others after the 10 day period.
- The eunuch agreed to allow the four Hebrews to continue with their diet.

1.1.12. Verse 17-21 Notes

- God granted them great wisdom and knowledge.
- Daniel received the gift visions and dreams...another parallel to Joseph (**Genesis 41:12**).
- At the end of the three years of training, the four Hebrews were brought before the king.
- The king tested the men and found them to be above the others in wisdom.
- The four Hebrews became members of the king’s court and as he continued to “test” them, he found them ten times better than all the rest.
- This probably created jealousy in the others.