

## **“The Dedication of Daniel”**

### **Daniel 1**

1. As we begin our new sermon series in the book of Daniel, we meet a man of dedication who encourages us to trust in God and His sovereignty despite our situation or circumstances. We read in the opening verses that in the third year of Jehoiakim’s reign as king of Judah, the Babylonians invade Jerusalem in 605 B.C. The prophet Jeremiah had warned Jehoiakim that this would happen.

According to God’s covenant with Israel in Deuteronomy 28, obedience to Him would bring BLESSING (28:1-14), but disobedience would bring DISCIPLINE (28:15-68). And the ultimate discipline God would use was the invasion of Gentile nations. So who gives the king of Judah into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar (verse 2)?

2. Nebuchadnezzar not only takes captive King Jehoiakim and valuable articles from temple in Jerusalem, but he has other Israelites carried off as well, including young men of nobility who could serve in King Nebuchadnezzar’s court and learn the language and the ways of the Chaldeans. At the end of their three years of education, these young, gifted men could enter the service of the king. Who are four of these individuals that we see featured in Daniel 1:6?

What new names are given to them in verse 7?

3. Each of these Hebrew men were supplied with a daily ration from the king’s choice food and wine. But what does Daniel resolve to do with this food from the king’s own table? Why?

Daniel exemplified obedience to God above all else. What areas of your life need to be more fully submitted to God so that you can please Him in all things?

4. The commander of the officials, Ashpenaz (see verse 3), is worried that allowing Daniel to bypass the food and drink of the king will make the faces of these four men look haggard and weak and thus, put the commander’s job (and perhaps even his own life) in jeopardy. What does Daniel suggest to the guard in verses 12 and 13 as a solution to this predicament?

What’s the result of this 10-day experiment?

5. What does it say God gave to these 4 youths and, specifically, to Daniel (verse 17)?
6. At the end of their 3 years of training, all of the young Hebrew men are presented before the king and no one compares to Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. As a result, they are brought into the king’s personal service (verse 19). In matters of wisdom and understanding, how does Nebuchadnezzar rate these four Hebrew young men compared to his own magicians and conjurers? What lessons does chapter 1 teach us about God’s sovereignty and Daniel’s dedication?