

No Compromise

Daniel 1:8-21

I. Introduction:

A. Book of Daniel

1. The 1st seven verses of chapter 1 give historical setting of how Daniel & his three close friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were taken captive by the Babylonians.
2. The captivity of Daniel & his friends took place in 605 B.C. when they were teenagers
3. Purpose: Nebuchadnezzar's reason to take them back to Babylon is given in verse 3& 4
4. These young men would be trained for 3 years in all ways of the Babylonians and then they would serve in various parts of the king's administration. (**Daniel 1:3-4**)

II. No Compromise (Daniel 2:8)

A. Reprogramming Underway

- *Purpose of their training was to reprogram these young men, removing their Hebrew culture, & make the Chaldean.*
 1. – Name change
 - a. When these young men arrived in Babylon, their names were changed. (**Daniel 1:7**)
 - b. Their Hebrew names were associated with Jehovah God. **Daniel** means God is my judge. **Hananiah** means God has been gracious. **Mishael** refers to who God is. **Azariah** means God has helped.
 - c. The Babylonian names were all connected to Baal, Nabu, and Aku.
 2. – Religiously
 - a. They were removed from any form of Judaism & fully indoctrinated in pagan gods.
 - b. They were removed from the temple, from the teaching of the law of God.
 3. – Philosophical
 - a. Their education was designed to change their worldview. They studied philosophies of the Chaldeans. They studied astrology & the spiritual connection to the stars.
 - b. Mysticism and various cults would have been a part of their learning.

B. Daniel Purposed In His Heart

1. In the face of this all-out assault on His faith in Jehovah God, Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself, he would not disobey God or His law.
2. Daniel would willingly conform to all his captors asked, except he would not sin against Jehovah God. Even if it cost his life, Daniel would offend men rather than God.
3. The King's Food: These young men were given the best food the land of Babylon had to offer. They ate the same food the king was eating.
4. Problem: Dietary law of God for Israel stated what they could and could not eat.
5. The Jews were not to defile themselves before God with unclean food.
6. Food was considered unclean for one of two primary reasons,
 - (1) – It was on the unclean list in **Leviticus 11**.
 - (2) – The food had been offered to idols.

C. A Model of Graciousness

1. The pagan world would force Daniel to break his vow before God.
2. Daniel **requested** of the chief eunuch that he not be forced to defile himself.
3. Daniel approached the person in authority with respect.
4. Daniel didn't make a demand or cause this man trouble; he made a polite request.

D. Two Lessons

1. – No Compromise

- a. Today's world will do all in its power to convince us to compromise our faith.
- b. Secular universities will belittle our young people & their faith in God.
- c. Secular humanistic science will belittle the truth of God as creator of all things.
- d. False religions will deny the deity of Jesus Christ and His sufficiency as our Savior.
- e. Like Daniel in Babylon, the world wants to conform us to its image. (**Rom. 12:1-2**)
- f. Daniel lived in a pagan land, but he would not be conformed to their image.

2. – A Gracious Testimony

- a. Daniel's commitment to remain holy before God was essential.
- b. Also, his gracious demeanor in how he went about it, was essential.
- c. Daniel did not become rebellious and make life hard for those above him.
- d. He addressed the chief eunuch with respect. He was humble & respectful even as he was resolute in his conviction.
- e. A gracious deportment can be used of God to win over even the hardest of hearts.

III. How God worked. (Daniel 1:9-14)

A. Favor and Goodwill

1. God used Daniel's strong work ethic, willing compliance with the program, & respectful demeanor to bring him into favor with the boss.

B. First Attempt Failed

1. At first Daniel spoke directly to the chief eunuch concerning the matter.
2. The chief eunuch was afraid for his own life. If he disobeyed Nebuchadnezzar and the Hebrew boys somehow looked less healthy, he would certainly lose his life.

C. Second Attempt, A Test Offered

1. Daniel was not discouraged or deterred in the failure of his first request.
2. Daniel proposed a test the duration of which would be 10 days.
3. Daniel proposed that he & his three friends would eat vegetables & drink water for 10 days and then be examined to see if they looked any worse than the others.
4. The offer was accepted and the 10-day test took place.

IV. God Honored Their Faith (Daniel 1:15-21)

A. God's Blessings

- *God blessed these three for their faith and commitment to honor Him.*
 - *God did not remove them from their captivity, He blessed them in their captivity.*
1. – The test was a great success
 - a. After 10 days of vegetables & water they looked healthier than all the other students.
 - b. They honored God and He honored them.
 2. – In their academics
 - a. God blessed these four young men with "**knowledge and skill**" in all their subjects.
 - b. They were the top of the class. They excelled in their studies.
 3. – The Final Exam
 - a. Final comprehensive exam of 3 years of school was an interview with King Nebuchadnezzar. (**Daniel 1:19-20**)
 - b. God blessed them to knock it out of the park! Nebuchadnezzar found Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, & Mishael to be 10 times smarter than any of their classmates.
 - c. Nebuchadnezzar realized these boys were the cream of the crop and he appointed them to positions commensurate with their skills.