

Chapter 1

“Daniel Takes A Stand”

Summary

- Daniel and his friends are taken captive by Babylon
- They take a stand and God blesses them

Outline

- I. Into Captivity
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar conquers Judea - vs. 1-2
 - B. Plan for training captives - vs. 3-5
 - C. The Faithful Four - vs. 6-7
- II. Daniel's Stand
 - A. Daniel's stance - vs. 8
 - B. Petitioning - vs. 9-10
 - C. The ten-day test - vs. 11-14
 - D. The results of the test - vs. 15-16
 - E. God's blessing on the four - vs. 17
- III. Standing Before Kings
 - A. Proven before the king - vs. 18-19
 - B. Proven against their peers - vs. 20
 - C. Proven against time - vs. 21

Misc. Notes

- vs. 1 - see II Kings 24:1
- vs. 2 - they took non-vital valuables from the Temple
- vs. 3 - “children” mean young people. Daniel is estimated to be in his teens.
- vs. 5 - note the course of study was three years
- vs. 10 - not refusing the request, but not exactly granting it
- vs. 11 - pulse = beans, peas, lentils, etc.
- vs. 12 - The diet requested is probably more lowly than these royal Jews were accustomed to.
- vs. 14 - Daniel's status remained unchanged through the end of his life (see 10:1)

Why Would Daniel Not Eat The King's Food?

- Possible reasons:
 - It was from animals deemed unclean by the Law
 - The meat was prepared with the blood
 - The meat or animals were offered to false gods
 - To resist losing his Jewish (and Godly) identity

What's in a Name?

- Nebuchadnezzar - "Nabu (a god), defend my firstborn son"
- Daniel - "God is my judge"
- Belteshazzar - "Favored by Bel" (*Bel* means "lord", probably Marduk the sun god)
- Hananiah - "God who is gracious"
- Shadrach - "Commanded by Aku [moon god]"
- Mishael - "Who is like God?"
- Meshach - "Who is what Aku [moon god] is?"
- Azariah - "God has helped"
- Abednego - "Servant of Nabu [god of wisdom and writing]"
- Melzar - "steward"

The Chaldeans

- Originally a separate Semitic people that allied with Babylon
- Eventually were completely assimilated in to Babylon
- By the fall of Babylon "Chaldean" described a class with no ethnic meaning at all
- Spoke and wrote (in cuneiform) the Akkadian language
- Were very advanced in knowledge
 - Astronomy
 - Very accurately calculated length of year (within minutes!)
 - First to identify planets as separate from stars
 - Mathematics
 - Used a sexagesimal (based on 60) system
 - basis for our having 60 minutes in an hour and 360 degrees in a circle
 - Could use square roots and possibly the Pythagorean theorem
 - Clay tablets with algebra and geometry have been found
 - Calculated π was 3 or 3.125

Note's on Daniel's Stand

- Daniel's stand was of conviction and not stubbornness
- Daniel's stand was private and not public
- Daniel's stand was not an ultimatum as he humbly asked for the favor
- Daniel's stand had the faith to allow it to be tested
- Daniel's stand was humble in its request
- Daniel's stand did not affect his other duties
- Daniel's stand was not a quick fix as it lasted his entire life
- Daniel's stand was possible because of the relationships he had built