

# The Book of Daniel

## *Conclusion of Chapter 1*

# The Book of Daniel

## *C. Daniel's first test of obedience, his challenge of faith (Vv. 8-16)*

**As you may remember, Daniel and his friends were deported from Judah to Babylon following the Judean rebellion of 606 BC. They were taken to the royal court where they were given training as citizens of Babylon. The verses in this section and in the following section describes what happened in the early days of their training.**

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One of the first acts of Nebuchadnezzar was not only the changing of their names, but also their diet. It's not surprising that they refused to comply with the Babylonian food requirements. Even though, in regard to all other necessities, Daniel and his friends complied.

*“Why did they reject the food requirements?”*

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The requirements would have seemed minor when compared to the other things which had been done, it would seem that Daniel and friends could easily eat Nebuchadnezzar's food without qualms.

The issue is one that still faces the Jews today. Simply put, the observance of the Jewish food laws and preparation of foods as found in the books of Leviticus and Deuteronomy. Babylonian cooks would not have observed these laws. The diet certainly included food items which God had told the Israelites were *unclean*.

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Yet, the MAJOR underlying reason was that the king's food and wine was first sacrificed to idols (cf. Leviticus 17:7-9). Therefore, asking only for vegetables and water was a religious action to keep themselves pure before God.

We may also note in this passage that the steward is fearful of letting the young men eat as they wished. He wasn't entirely unwilling to let them do as they wished, yet the steward also realized that if Nebuchadnezzar disagreed with him; the steward would be executed.

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(Vv. 11-14)

Since the steward had to prove the wisdom of his judgment in the case of Daniel and his friends, Daniel proposes a ten day test. If, after ten days, the men are found worse than the other men being trained, then they will eat the royal diet. Otherwise, they will be allowed to continue their vegetarian diet. Daniel was able to convince the steward of this test, so they were allowed to eat only vegetables for ten days. The outcome of the test would show who was correct.

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(Vv. 15-16)

**Now we hear the results of the diet test. The results surprised everyone except Daniel and his friends. The four men are far healthier and fit than the other trainees. The battle of food is won by Daniel and his friends. This is just the first of many tests that will come Daniel's way and its clear that YHWH is blessing him and his friends.**

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## *D. Resultant reward: attainment in wisdom, promotion (17-21)*

Since Daniel and his friends have won in the matter of diet, they are ready to complete their training. One may safely assume that the three years of training have passed between verses 16 and 17. The results of the training must now be brought before Nebuchadnezzar. Each trainee must be tested to show his progress.





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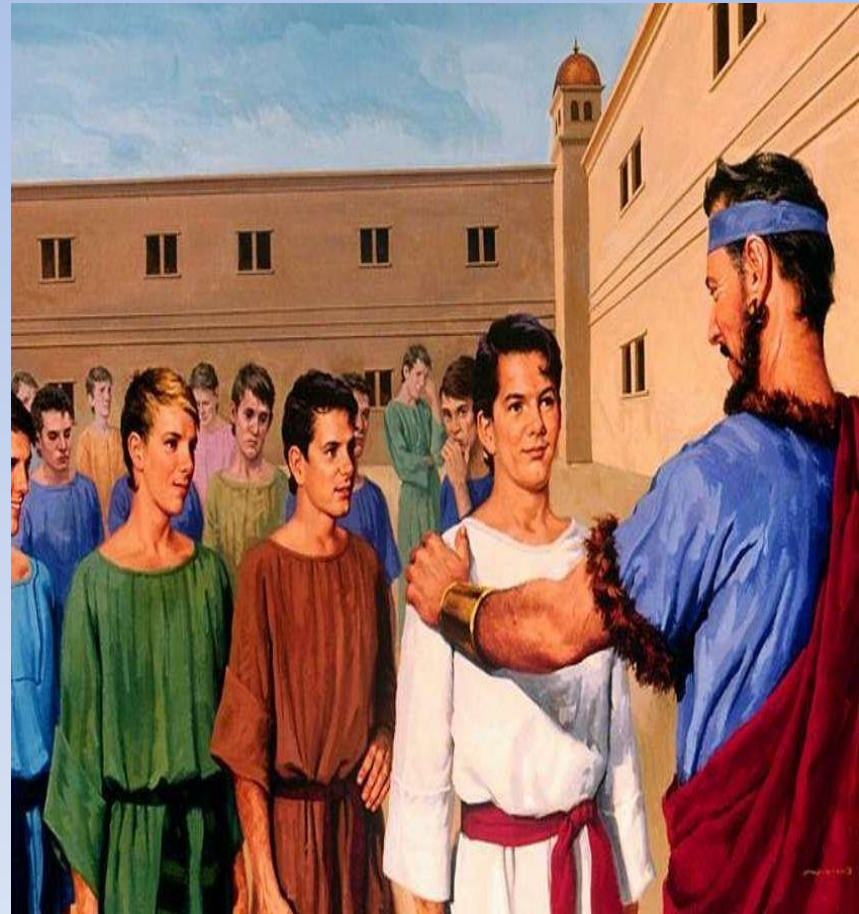
(Vv. 17-20)

**Verse 17 is important since it shows the results of obedience. Daniel and his three friends were obedient to God's laws. God gave them the ability to learn the language and the culture of the Babylonians. Yet, God gave Daniel a special gift, the interpretation of dreams and visions.**

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(Vv. 17-20)

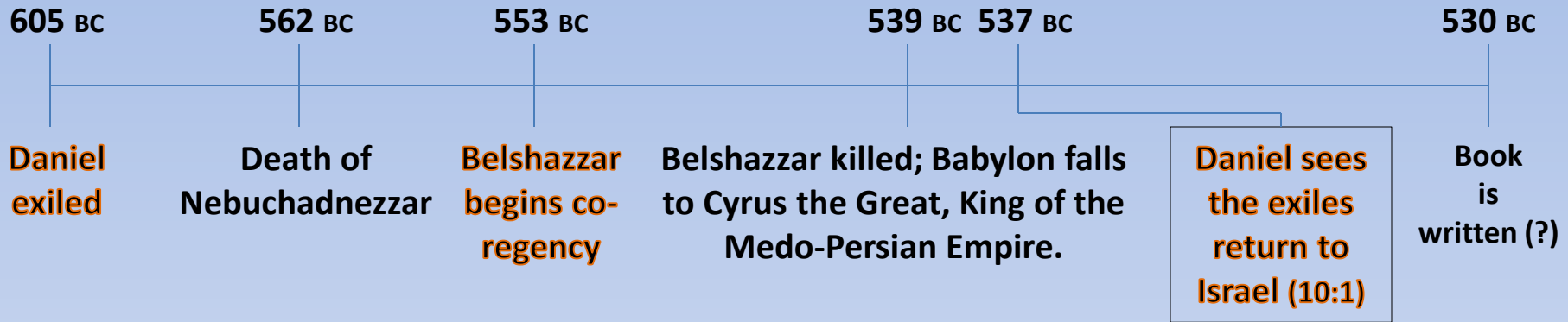
The excellence of the four men, as opposed to the other trainees, must also be pointed out. No one else in the kingdom was found who could equal the accomplishments of the four men of God. In fact, there was none in the kingdom who were even close. All was by God's providence!



FAITH!!!

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(Vv. 21)



This verse tells us of the length of Daniel's service while in exile. The dates and events shown above are known historically. Thus, Daniel's service was probably more than 70 years. The length of his service is often debated, since the amount of time would have made Daniel an old man when he died, which God does not reveal to us. This verse can easily stand if one considers Daniel was a teen at the time he was taken to Babylon. In that case, he would have not reached an age much older than that of many people today.

This Concludes Chapter 1

Have Questions, Please!!!