



Shining in Babylon
Study Guide
Daniel 1

1. The book of Daniel opens with Jews being led off into Babylonian captivity. Discuss the reason why you think this happened. Common phrases:
[King] "...and he did evil in the sight of the Lord..."

Or

"You have polluted the land with your vile whoredom." Jeremiah 3:2b

2. Read Daniel 1:1-7.

Discuss the peer pressure and the hidden purposes for young Daniel to be brought into this three-year program of indoctrination. What must it have been like for him to be emersed in such a culture? Discuss.

3. Read Daniel 1:8-21

Daniel's resolve led to a ten-day trial period of a restricted diet, and then a three-year 'framework' for he and his friends to prevent themselves from becoming engulfed by the culture around them. Notice that God gave Daniel favor: Compassion (v. 9), Calories (v. 15) and Competence (v. 20). Talk about the dynamics of this event. What must it have been like for Daniel, for his friends, for the other trainees, for Ashpenaz?

4. Read Daniel 1:8 again.

Consecration- Revelation- Elevation

Note that Daniel's decision to stay consecrated, led to God revealing things to him (wisdom, skills, visions), which led to tremendous influence, and to the entire kingdom becoming aware that the God of the Jews is the "Most High God".

What "defiles" us in our culture?

What "resolve" can we put in place to protect ourselves from the slow erosion of our souls? What are the 'frameworks' that we can have in place to keep ourselves consecrated?

Message Slides Daniel 1

Date: 605-536 B.C.

Author: Daniel

Content: Chapter 1-6: History
Chapter 7-12: Prophecy

Image: Daniel statue

God Controls the Fate of History

"...the Most High" (3:26; 4:2, 17, 24, 25, 32, 34; 5:18, 21; 7:18, 22, 25, 27).

El Elyon- possessor of heaven and earth

Image: Judges Cycles

2 Kings 23:36-37

Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, ... ³⁷ And he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done.

Jeremiah 3:2b-3

"You have polluted the land with your vile whoredom. Therefore the showers have been withheld, and the spring rain has not come. Yet you have the forehead of a whore; you refuse to be ashamed."

Image- Ancient Babylon

Image- Ancient Babylon II

Image- Ishtar Gate

Image- Hanging Gardens

Revelation 18:2-3

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast. ³ For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."

Image Graphic: Shining in Babylon

Introduction- Daniel 1:1-2

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.

1. 605 BC- Brightest and best (2 Kings 24:1; Daniel 1)
2. 597 BC- 10,000 captives (2 Kings 24:8-14)
3. 586 BC- Jerusalem destroyed (2 Kings 25)

Map of Shinar

A. Emerged (Daniel 1:3-7)

³ Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, ⁴ youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

1. Peer Pressure
2. Hidden Purpose
 - a. Oppress
 - b. Entice

A. Emerged (Daniel 1:3-7)

⁵ The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. ⁶ Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. ⁷ And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

B. Resolved (Daniel 1:8)

⁸ But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

1 Corinthians 6:12

"All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful. All things are lawful for me, but I will not be dominated by anything."

C. Favor (Daniel 1:9-21)- Compassion

⁹ And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, ¹⁰ and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king."

C. Favor (Daniel 1:9-21)- Compassion, Calories...

¹¹ Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹² "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." ¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. ¹⁶ So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

C. Favor (Daniel 1:9-21)- Compassion, Calories and Competency

¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. ¹⁸ At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. ²⁰ And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. ²¹ And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Conclusion

Consecration- Revelation- Elevation

What "framework" is God calling you to build?

1. Put off:
2. Put on: