

Daniel and His Friends

Daniel 1

by Don Falkos

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King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon issued an order. "Select some of the best and brightest young men out of the people we have brought here from Israel. They should be of noble birth, physically fit, handsome, smart, wise, educated, and suitable for serve in the royal palace. Teach them to read and write our language. Give them the same food I eat and the same wine I drink. Three years should be sufficient to train them. Then they will become my attendants."

Among those chosen were Daniel and three of his friends; all four were from the tribe of Judah. They were given Babylonian names. Daniel became Beltshazzar. The other three Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Daniel didn't want to eat and drink in a way contrary to God's Law. So he suggested to the guard, "Please, try an experiment. For ten days give us only vegetables to eat and water to drink; see how we look compared to those eating the king's food; and then decide what to do with us."

The guard agreed. After ten days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier and more robust than any of the other young men. So their diet was changed on a permanent basis.

God blessed the four of them with an extraordinary ability to learn. They became knowledgeable and wise; and it was discovered Daniel could understand visions and dreams.

When the three-year training period was completed, Nebuchadnezzar found Daniel and his three friends far surpassed all the others in every respect. They entered the king's service, and he found their advice ten times more valuable than that of any of his other advisors.