

GOD HONORS THE GOD-HONORING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BABYLON

PROLOGUE | Hebrew Introduction – Placing Daniel in Babylon (1:1-2:4)

PART 1 | Aramaic Main Body – Announcements to the Nations (2:5-7:28)

PART 2 | Hebrew Expansion – Visions for God's People (8:1-12:13)

A. What happened in the world? (1:1-2)

1. Jerusalem came under the control of _____ (v1)
2. The _____ contest begins (v2)
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar tried to demonstrate the superiority of his gods _____ the god of the Jews by taking some choice tokens from the temple in Jerusalem back to his own temple in the land of Shinar, the site of the first major rebellion after the flood. (Genesis 11:2)
 - b. Yet, the God of the Jews ("the Lord" = *Adonai*) was the principal actor, _____ the Babylonians to bring discipline on the nation of Israel, as prophesied many times.
 - Understand the plan for discipline: Leviticus 26:33, Deuteronomy 28:47-64
 - Understand that the people of Israel will never be annihilated: Lev. 26:44, Mal. 3:6
 - Examples of the prophecy: 2 Kings 20:12-19, Jeremiah 25:8-11 & 27:2-7

B. What happened to Daniel? (1:3-7)

1. Daniel was _____ as a candidate for Nebuchadnezzar's brainwashing program for promising young captives. (v3-4a)
 - a. **Eligibility Pool** – The royalty and nobles were chosen, which, if they became _____ to Babylon, they would ensure peace and efficiency in Nebuchadnezzar's growing kingdom.
 - b. **Criteria** – _____, good-looking, and gifted seemed like worth-while investments.
 - c. **Purpose** – To "_____ in the king's palace"

2. The program was designed to change the _____ of the participants. (v4b-7)

- a. **Education** – Study of the language and literature in the Babylonian _____ would give ample opportunity for the values of their upbringing to fade away.
- b. **Diet** – The king’s food and wine served as a loyalty _____, likely did not adhere to Kosher laws, and would have been involved in pagan rituals.
- c. **Identity** – New _____ given were designed to draw attention to the pagan gods in an attempt to claim ownership of the captives.

C. How did Daniel respond? (1:8-14)

1. Daniel’s heart response was a _____ to honor God (v8a)

- a. The phrase “purposed in his heart” describes a courageous act of the will, based on a loyal love for God and a well-established _____ in God.
- b. How might the food and wine defile a young Jew like Daniel?
 - Kosher food _____ (Leviticus 11)
 - Participation in Babylon’s _____ (Exodus 34:12-15, Numbers 25:1-3)
 - _____ his new captor would test his loyalty to God (Proverbs 23:1-3)

2. Daniel’s action plan was to _____ seek ways to avoid defiling himself in the sight of his God (v8b-14)

- a. First, Daniel’s request for an exemption was _____ by the leader of the program.
- b. Then, Daniel’s shrewd yet respectful request for a brief test was _____ by a steward.

D. How did God respond? (1:15-21)

1. God provided a _____ success for the test. (v15-16)

- a. The result of “better and _____ in flesh” surprised the steward due to their lack of meat.
- b. God’s provision for peaceful resolution shows His _____. (1 Cor. 10:13; Rom. 12:18)

2. God gifted the four God-honoring students with special abilities which allowed for their _____ in the court of Babylon (v17-21)

**What kind of God do we have?*