

UNCERTAIN TIMES

CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE TIMES

DANIEL 1:2 NLT *The Lord gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god.*

DANIEL 1:3 NLT *Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah’s royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives.*

DANIEL 1:4 NLT *“Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men,” he said. “Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon.”*

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DANIEL 1:5 NLT *The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service.*

DANIEL 1:7 NLT *The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names: Daniel was called Belteshazzar. Hananiah was called Shadrach. Mishael was called Meshach. Azariah was called Abednego.*

RIGHT RESPONSE TO THE TIMES

DANIEL 1:8-9 NLT *But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. ⁽⁹⁾ Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel.*

DANIEL 1:12-15 NLT *“Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water,” Daniel said. ⁽¹³⁾ “At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king’s food. Then make your decision in light of what you see.” ⁽¹⁴⁾ The attendant agreed to Daniel’s suggestion and tested them for ten days. ⁽¹⁵⁾ At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king.*

DANIEL 1:18-19 NLT *When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. ⁽¹⁹⁾ The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service.*

THINK & DISCUSS:

1. Is GOD sovereign in the circumstances of our times?
2. In what ways is our culture trying to adjust what you value and believe?
3. What opportunities do you currently have to stand for Christ?

MAKE A STAND:

Speak boldly of your faith in CHRIST!