

THE KING'S FOOD

Daniel 1

Introduction

Daniel, a young Jewish boy about fifteen years of age, suddenly found himself uprooted from his family, his place of worship and his homeland. He was placed in a pagan environment under a program designed to transform his cultural, political and religious loyalties. Can such a young believer retain his faith in such a hostile environment where it would be far easier to conform to the world than to remain faithful to God? This question could well be asked of any believer today.

Aim of the Lesson

Be resolved to please God rather than men.

“Daniel purposed *in his* heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself” (Daniel 1:8).

Outline of the Lesson and Questions to Answer

I. The Defeat of Jerusalem (1:1-2)

1. Why did God allow Jerusalem to be defeated? (2 Chron 36:5-6)
2. Who defeated the Jewish nation?

II. The Deportation of the Elite (1:3-7)

3. Describe the kind of people that were the first to be taken as captives (1:3-4).
4. Why were these young men taken to Babylon? (1:5)

III. The Determination of Daniel (1:8-16)

5. How did Daniel face the first test of his faith? (1:8)
6. How did Daniel respond to his new master? (1:9)
7. How did Daniel show his determination to please God? (1:10-11)
8. What plan did Daniel propose to keep him and his three friends from sin? (1:12-14)
9. What was the result of Daniel’s plan? (1:15-16)

IV. The Discernment of the Godly (1:17-21)

10. How were Daniel and his three friends blessed by God for their faithfulness? (1:17)
11. How was Daniel given an additional blessing? (1:17)
12. At the end of their 3-year training, what did the king think of these four men? (1:18-20)
13. How do you reconcile the length of Daniel’s life when you compare 1:21 with 10:1?
14. Have you ever determined to please God when it displeased men? Tell what happened.