

Daniel Chapter 1 – Opportunity in Apostasy & Exile



Past > Present > Future



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Inreach & Outreach Resource



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PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.

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Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark Sanctuary



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**
– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Body pH

Do you catch colds / flu frequently? Are you susceptible to canker sores, sensitive teeth and sore throat? Are you mentally tired after an hour of desk work? **All these symptoms & more may be an imbalance in the body's pH, as an over-acidic condition.**

pH is a measure of acidity/alkalinity of a fluid. Body pH is the key indicator of balance within the body's internal fluids – including blood, urine, saliva, the fluids between, as well as inside the cells.

"An alkaline body can absorb up to 20 times more oxygen than an acidic body." - *Dr Otto Warburg, Nobel Prize Winner for his work on respiratory enzymes and cancer*. He also found that **diseased bodies are acidic bodies, which repel oxygen and attract the overgrowth of disease-causing micro-organisms**.

Our body's acid-alkaline balance is a key component to overall good health and one of the most crucial ways to affect health status. Raising pH (to an alkaline state) increases the immune system's ability to kill bacteria, concludes a study conducted at -

The Royal Free Hospital and School of Medicine in London.

The viruses and bacteria which cause bronchitis and colds thrive in an acidic environment. **Keeping our pH in the slightly alkaline range of above 7.2 can reduce the risk and lessen the severity of colds, sore throats, bouts of influenza & other infections.**

Acidifying



Meat & Meat Products



Fish



All Sugars



Dairy



Grains



Grain Products



Chocolate



Coffee & Tea



Fruit Juice & Soda



All Alcohol

Alkalizing



Vegetables!



Non-sweet Citrus



Some Fruits



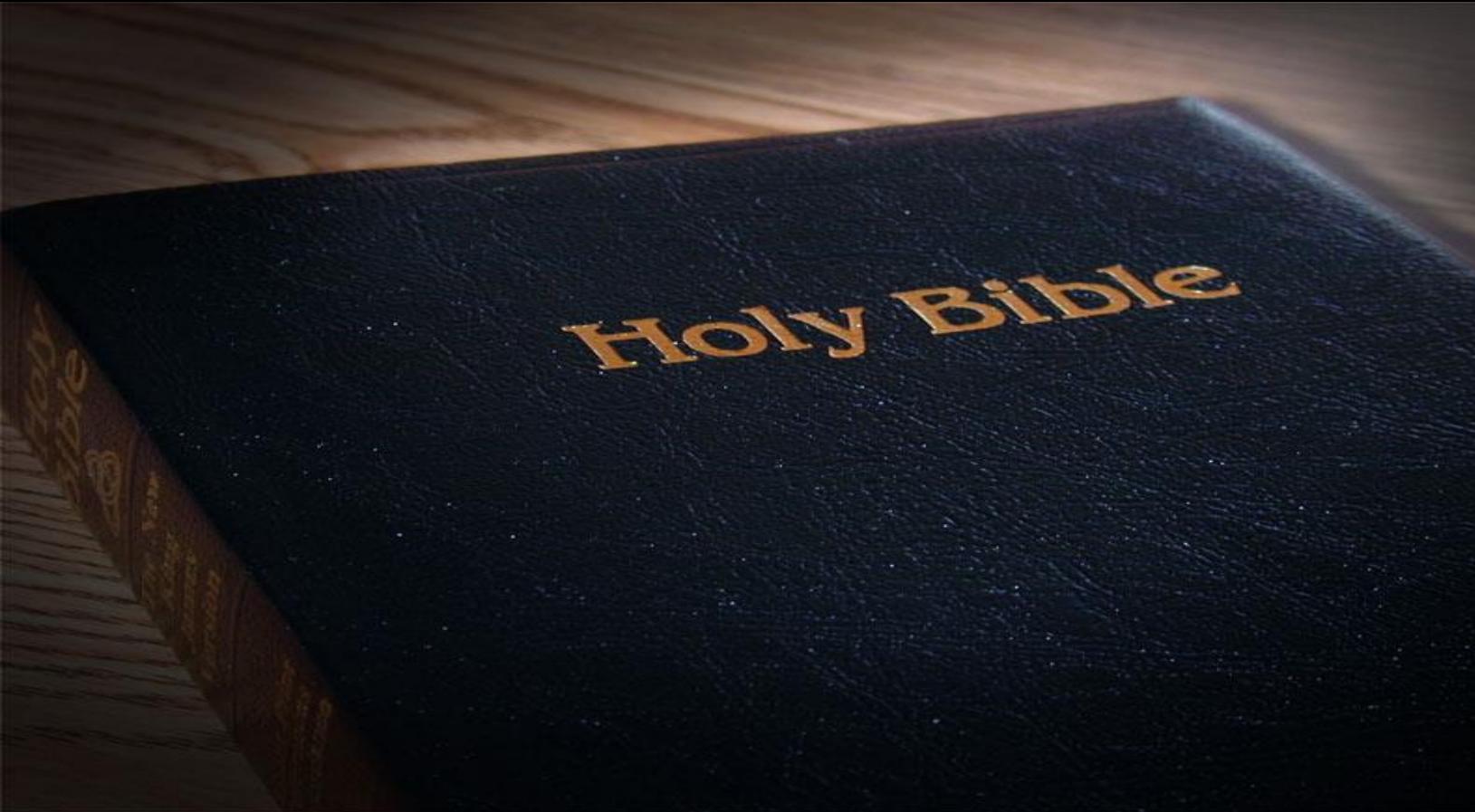
Sprouts



Fresh Vegetable Juice



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes we Can!



Exodus 15:26 KJV

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.



Some Prophecy Update...

IS CHINA A MODEL OF THE COMMON GOOD?

FIRST THINGS



CATHOLIC HERALD

SPIRITED THINKING SINCE 1868

In 2018, **Archbishop Marcelo Sanchez Sorondo**, chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, said in an interview: "Right now, those who are best implementing the social doctrine of the Church are the Chinese." He contrasted China with the more liberal America. "Liberal thought has dismissed the concept of the common good," he said. **On the contrary, the Chinese, no, they propose work and the common good!**



Some Prophecy Update...

China is not offering more international assistance than it can afford so as to be impressive



CHINADAILY 中国日报
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As Chinese President Xi Jinping pointed out in his keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the second China International Import Expo, "Of the problems confronting the world economy, none can be resolved by a single country alone. We must all put the common good of humanity first rather than place one's own interest above the common interest of all." "Putting the common good of humanity first" is Xi's call for all the members of the international community.



Some Prophecy Update...

How a growing Christian movement is seeking to change America

Chicago Tribune



"INC leaders have labeled them the "seven mountains of culture." These include business, government, media, arts and entertainment, education, family and religion. In this form of "trickle-down Christianity," they believe if Christians rise to the top of all seven "mountains," society will be completely transformed. One INC leader we interviewed summed it up this way: "The goal of this new movement is transforming social units like cities, ethnic groups, nations rather than individuals...if Christians permeate each mountain and rise to the top of all seven mountains...society would have biblical morality, people would live in harmony, there would be peace and not war, there would be no poverty."



Daniel Chapter 1 – Opportunity, Apostasy, & Exile



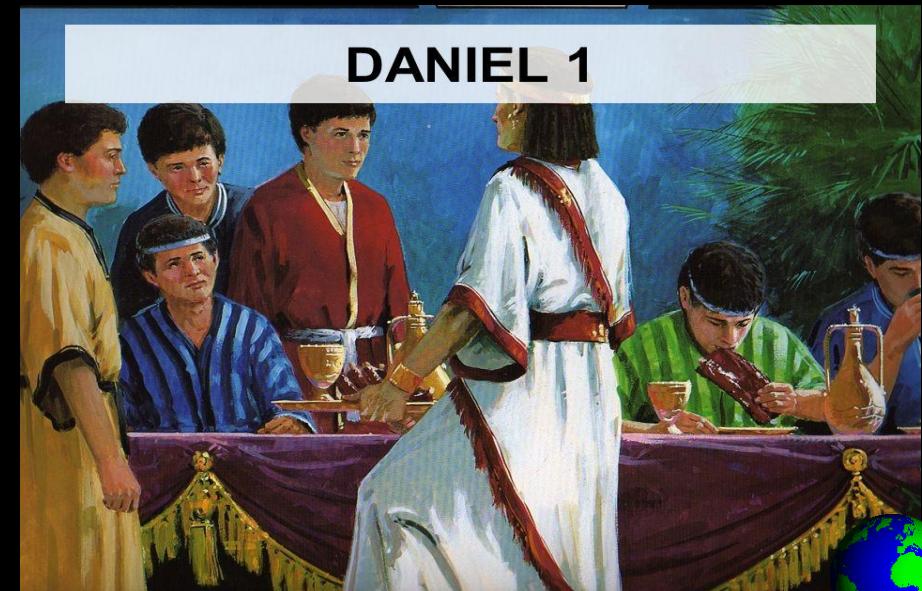
Past > Present > Future



Introduction

The Bible does not shy away from showing the weaknesses of fallen humanity. From Genesis 3 onward, human sinfulness and its sad results are prominently displayed. At the same time, too, we also see cases of those who show great faithfulness to God, even when faced with powerful incentives to be anything but faithful. And some of the most poignant examples of such faithfulness are seen in the book of Daniel.

However, as we study Daniel, let us keep in mind that the author of the book is God. We are so used to stories that stress the faithfulness of Daniel and his friends that we may forget to exalt the faithfulness of the One who guided and sustained those four young men as they confronted the power and allure of the Babylonian Empire. To be faithful is enough of a challenge in one's own land and place, let alone when facing the pressure of a foreign land, culture, and religion. But the human protagonists meet the challenges because, like the apostle Paul, they "know whom [they] have believed" (2 Timothy 1:12), and in Him they trust.



Some Info about Daniel the Prophet

Daniel was born in Judea about 622 BC to an upper-class Jewish family. He was one of the numerous nobility of the royal line of David.

Daniel ([Aramaic](#) and [Hebrew](#): – דָנִיָּאֵל – *Dānīyyē'l*, meaning "God is my Judge".

The last mention of Daniel in the Book of Daniel is in the third year of Cyrus ([Daniel 10:1](#)).

Today six cities claim [Daniel's Tomb](#): [Babylon](#), [Kirkuk](#) and [Muqdadiyah](#) in [Iraq](#), [Susa](#) and [Malamir](#) in [Iran](#), and [Samarkand](#) in [Uzbekistan](#).



Some Info about Babylon's rise

As the book of Daniel opens, the southern kingdom of Judah is reaping a bitter harvest for its long years of disobedience to God (2 Kings 21:10-16; 24:18-20). Justice, it is said travels with leaden feet, giving the sinner time to repent. In the case of Israel, the Lord intended that His people should be a light to the Gentiles (Isaiah 42:6), but their continued apostasy eventually led to their destruction as Jeremiah had predicted (Jeremiah 25:8-9).

At the end of the 7th century B.C. the kingdom of Babylon replaced the Assyrians as the dominant power in the ancient Near East. Joining forces with the Medes from the northern Iran, the Babylonians defeated the Assyrians, capturing the city of Asshur in 614 B.C. and sacking Nineveh in 612 B.C.



Daniel 1:1-2 - From Jerusalem to Babylon

Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

In the first two verses we find that Nebuchadnezzar's attack on Jerusalem sets the stage for how Satan attacks God down through the end of time.

There are three vital parts to his attack:

- An attack on God.**
- Against His people.**
- Against His sanctuary.**



Setting the stage...

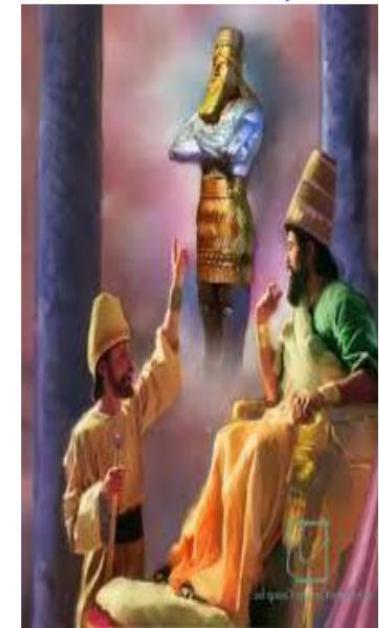
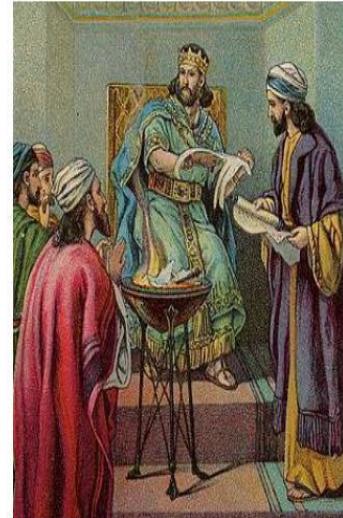
Jehoiakim reigned from 609-598 B.C. and “did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord” 2 Chronicles 36:5. It would be interesting to note that during this time king Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar’s father, died leaving the throne naked. Nebuchadnezzar receiving word endeavoured to return to Babylon, in the land of Shinar (Genesis 10:10) to claim it before another did.

He rode approximately 700 km's, across the Syrian Desert, over 22-23 days and claimed the throne and kingship.

King Nebuchadnezzar put the vessels from the temple of God into the temple of Marduk (formally named Bel) the god of the Babylonians, Jeremiah 50:2.

All of this came to pass according to the word of the Lord through Isaiah the prophet. (2 Kings 20:16-17)

The unbelievable irony!



While the king of Judah was burning the Bible in Jerusalem



This would have been devastating to Jeremiah



Setting the stage...

Babylon was located in a flat valley between the Tigris & Euphrates rivers, near modern day Baghdad, Iraq. Daniel 1:2 notes that Babylon was built in the same spot as the tower of Babel on the plain of Shinar (Genesis 11). Babylon mastered the Middle East by defeating the Egyptian armies in 605 BC. Then Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, made three attacks on Jerusalem.

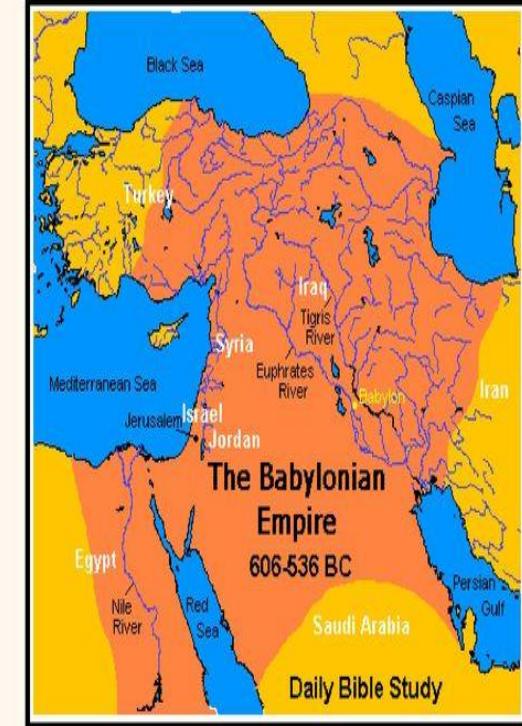
The first attack was in 605 BC: when Jehoiakim reigned as king of Judah.

Fulfilling the Scriptures (Jeremiah 25:4-12) In this attack Daniel, and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were taken captive, along with others, and carried away to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar also took some of the vessels from the Lord's Sanctuary, and brought them "Into the treasure house of his god."

605 BC: first attack and deportation of Jews to Babylon (including Daniel)

597 BC: second attack on Jerusalem

586 BC: third attack on Jerusalem – the city and Temple destroyed



THE STORY



Setting the stage...

The second attack was in 597 BC: against king Jehoiachin, son of Jehoiakim. This time Ezekiel was one of the many taken captive, along with more vessels from the temple.

The third attack was in 586 BC: This time king Zedekiah was captured and made to watch as the army of Babylon killed his sons “before his eyes.” Then they put out king Zedekiah’s eyes, bound him in chains, and put him in prison until his death. This fulfilled the Scriptures in Ezekiel 12:13 and Jeremiah 52:11.

Now both Jerusalem and the temple were destroyed and all except some poor people were taken back to Babylon.

The light that Daniel received direct from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfilment, and all the events foretold will soon have come to pass. 4BC 1166.5



Setting the stage...

Still, the opening lines of Daniel make it clear that the defeat of Jerusalem is not credited to the superior power of the Babylonian king; rather, it has occurred because “the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his [Nebuchadnezzar’s] hand” ([Daniel 1:2](#)).

Much earlier, God announces that should His people forget Him and break the covenant, He would send them as captives to a foreign land. So, Daniel knows that behind and beyond the military power of Babylon, the God of heaven is leading the march of history. It is this clear view of God’s sovereignty that sustains these young men and gives them strength and courage to face the temptation and pressure of the Babylonian empire.

Read [2 Kings 21:10-16](#), [2 Kings 24:18-20](#), and [Jeremiah 3:13](#). Why does God give Judah and Jerusalem into the hands of the Babylonians?



Daniel 1:3-5 – Training for Service

Daniel 1:3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;

4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.



Lets see what is happening here...

Isaiah prophesied of the fact that king Hezekiah's sons, or the kings seed, would be taken captive by the Babylonians, and made eunuchs, in the palace of the king of Babylon. (Isaiah 39:7) The Hebrew word "sarîs" used for eunuchs refers to a high officer of the court. Example: Genesis 39:1 calls Potiphar a "sarîs" even though he was married.

Upon arrival in Babylon, these young men have to face a most serious challenge to their faith and convictions: they are selected to undergo special training in order to serve the king. Ancient kings would often recruit some of their best captives to serve in the royal palace, and, thereby, switch their loyalty to the king and the gods of the empire that captured them.

Nebuchadnezzar told Ashpenaz, the master of the eunuchs, to choose out children of the kings seed (which can be read as youth as Daniel was 18 years of age), that had no blemish, or physical defects, (Leviticus 24:19-20) but well-favoured or good looking in appearance. Skilful in all wisdom, cunning in knowledge, understanding science, and have the ability to be able to stand or hold a position in the king's palace.

Those that were chosen had to be able to be taught in the schools and tongue of the Chaldeans.



The Language in Babylon at that time

The Young Hebrews were to learn “the language and literature of the Chaldeans” (Daniel 1:4).

The “language” most likely included:

1. **Akkadian** – the native language of the Babylonians.
2. **Sumerian** – the ancient language of Sumer used in their religious practices and for their technical literature.
3. **Aramaic** – the language of international commerce and diplomacy.

Their curriculum most likely included also the study of Astrology and the art of divination or reading omens, practices severely condemned (Deuteronomy 18:10). Whether they somehow managed to avoid these subjects, we do not know.

What we do know is that through a consistent prayerful dependence on God they were able to escape the corrupting influences of their studies.



The wisdom used by the captor...

It is obvious that those who were chosen were well educated, which is another reason why they were not just children. What should make the reader sit back and look at what has just been read is this; an idolatrous king demanded perfection in those who were chosen. And he was so concerned in their well being, that he would not allow ordinary food to be fed to them. Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to be fed with what he regarded as the best, which is the food from his own table. If this is expected by an idolatrous king, how much more is expected by the King of kings, Jesus Christ.

The question must be asked, why did Nebuchadnezzar not wipe out the opposing kings seed, but wish to educate them in the affairs of his kingdom so that they could stand in his palace? The answer is rather a simple one. Nebuchadnezzar was a very wise king, and by doing this he would guarantee, more fully, the loyalty of the captive nation to his own kingdom.

At the end of three years they were to stand before the king, obviously to be tested by him to see how they have faired, verses 18-20.

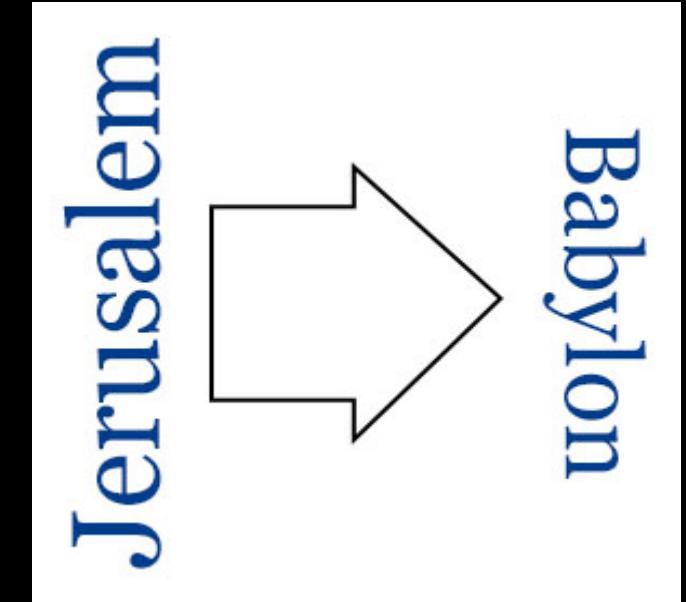


Daniel 1:6-7 – Change of Names

Daniel 1:6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

The captives were treated well. They were offered with the king's food and drink, taught in the best schools. To change their focus of who they were and what their heritage was, their names were changed, from Hebrew names that pointed them to the God of heaven, to Babylonian names attached to the Babylonian gods.

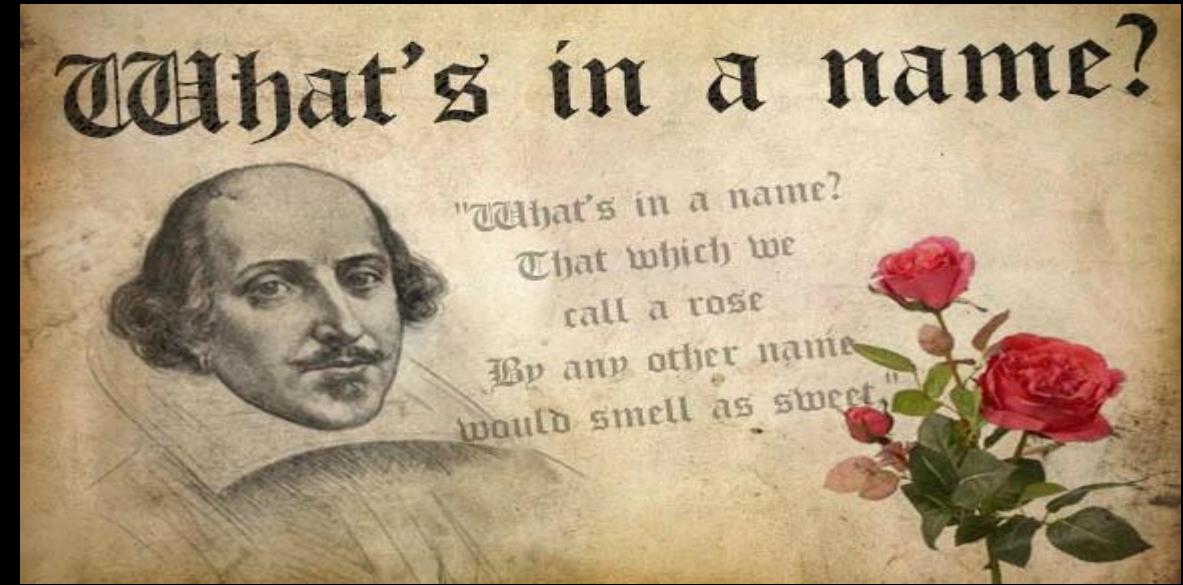


Names given by parents	The Pagan name change by Nebuchadnezzar
Daniel: God is my judge -	Belteshazzar: Keeper of the hide treasures of Bel
Hananiah: Yahweh is God -	Shadrach: Inspiration of the sun (worship of Sun)
Mishael: Who belongs to God -	Meshach: Of the goddess Shaca (worship of Venus)
Azariah: Yahweh helps -	Abednego: Servant of the shining fire



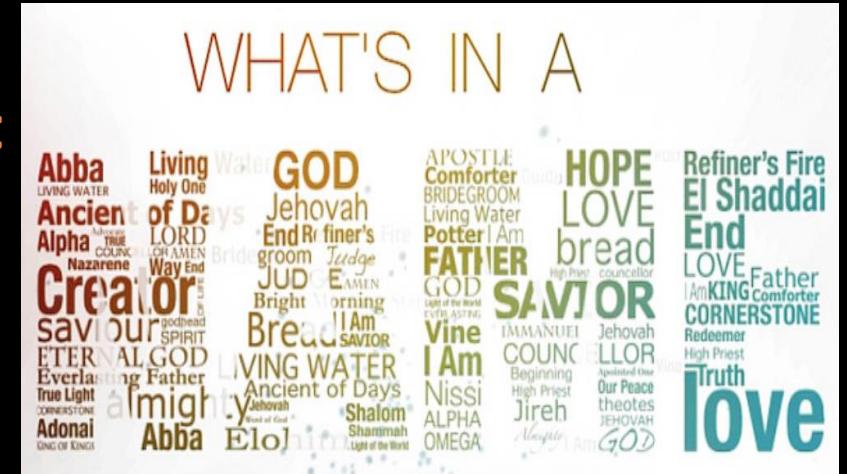
What is in a name???

In western culture, where the meaning of names is not very important, the change of names may seem insignificant. In the ancient Near East, however, names and their connotation formed part of a person's identity. Thus the Babylonians began the process of re-education by obliterating any reference to the Hebrew God and substituting names containing allusions or references to Babylonian gods. Nebuchadnezzar did not compel the Hebrew youth to renounce their faith in favour of idolatry, but he hoped to bring this about gradually. – Prophets and Kings p484.



Change of Name means Change of Identity

Indeed, the whole process was intended to effect some kind of conversion and indoctrination that would result in a change of worldview. As part of that process, the Hebrew captives have their names changed. A new name signals a change of ownership and a change of destiny. Thus, by renaming the captives, the Babylonians intend to assert authority over them and force them to assimilate the values and culture of Babylon. Their original names, which point to the God of Israel, are replaced with names honouring foreign deities. In addition, the king determines that the young men should eat from his table. Eating from the king's food had deep implications in antiquity. It meant undivided allegiance to the king and reflected dependence on him. And as the food was usually offered to the god or gods of the empire, eating also had a profound religious meaning. It obviously meant acceptance of and participation in the king's worship system. – Fundamentals of Christian Education p78.



Why is it women take their husband's name after marriage?



The lure of worldly power & fame

Thus, Daniel and his companions find themselves in challenging circumstances. For them to remain loyal to God and survive the overwhelming power of the imperial system demands nothing less than a miracle.

To further complicate matters, the city of Babylon itself also stood as a monumental expression of human achievement. The architectural beauty of the Babylonian temples, the hanging gardens, and the Euphrates River meandering across the city conveyed an image of unsurpassable might and glory.

So, Daniel and his friends are offered an opportunity for promotion and the chance to enjoy the benefits and prosperity of this system. They can cease to be Hebrew captives and become royal officers.

Will they compromise their principles to tread the easy path to glory?

In what ways could these boys have rationalized a decision to compromise their convictions?

In what ways might you now be facing similar, if subtler, challenges?



Daniel 1:8 – The Solid Stand

Daniel 1:8 *But 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.*

This verse is interesting because it shows Daniel's determination, along with his three friends, to keep themselves pure and undefiled by the Babylonian food or customs. It says that Daniel "Purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor the wine which he drank."

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah must have had faithful parents. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Obviously he had been trained to be loyal to God! It all starts at home!

In foreign countries it was common for the meat and drink to have, before hand, offered to their idol gods. It could have also been unclean, but, either way Daniel did what was right in God's eyes and asked for an alternative diet.



Check out Daniel & his 3 friends...

The Hebrew word “Zeroa” translated “Pulse” (Daniel 1:13) is built on the same root as the word “seed” in the record of Creation, where it mentions “every herb seeding seed”, and again, the “fruit of a tree seeding seed”. - Genesis 1:29.

This makes it clear that Daniel’s request included grains, legumes, fruits, and vegetables-a vegetarian diet of good variety, together with good clean water.

Daniel and his three friends stood faithful to God through this trial, when others went along with the orders, not wanting to make a wave.

It appears that the four Hebrew captives do not object to their Babylonian names.

Most likely there is nothing they can do about it, apart from using their Hebrew names among themselves.

But in regard to the food and wine from the king’s table, it is certainly in their power to consume it or not. Thus, the free choice of the four men is very important here.



The 1st Test – 3 Examples...

However, if an officer can change their names, he can also change the menu. There are two likely reasons why the four do not want to eat from the king's table.

The first test that these young men were faced with was the test of appetite. This seems to be rather an insignificant matter. But if we look to history we find that Adam and Eve's first test was upon appetite. (Genesis 3:1-3)

Christ's first test in the wilderness, in reclaiming what man had lost, was appetite. (Matthew 4:3)

This should be a warning sign to us today that appetite has a direct link to our spiritual life, for it shows that when the appetite is ruling sin is lying at the door. And when it is not ruling but under the control of reason, it is harder for sin to take hold upon us. So what we eat and drink can either hinder or promote our relationship with God.

Why Daniel and his friends purposed/determined in their hearts not to eat or drink of the king's food is because the "law of his God was in their hearts" Psalms 37:31, so "they inclined in their hearts to perform God's statutes always" Psalms 119:112, and to "not do any evil thing" Psalms 141:4, in "defiling the temple of God" 1 Corinthians 3:16-7.



The 1st Angel's Message – Last message of Love from God to Humanity

Revelation 14:6 - *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,*

7 *Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*

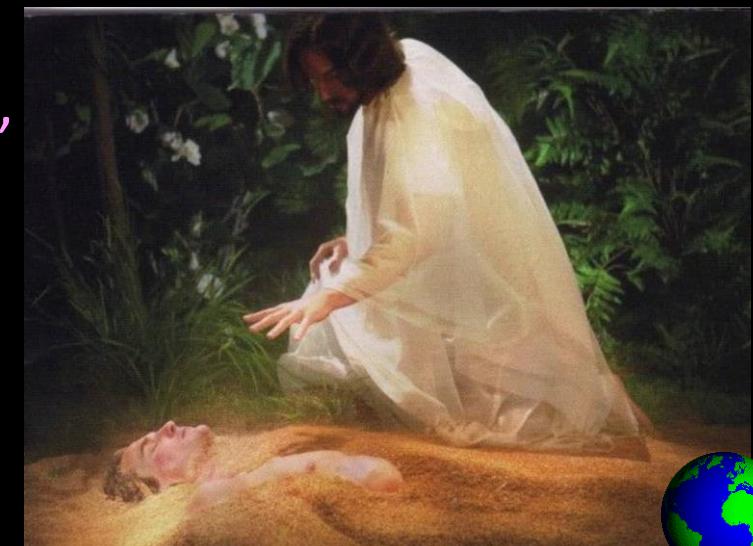
For example, the first angel presents the "**everlasting gospel**: the only time the gospel is presented as the "everlasting gospel" in the Bible," a warning to **worship the creator God Who made everything**, and a warning that His "**judgement IS come**."

The angel represents God's messengers in the last days, his saints, engaged in the task of proclaiming the everlasting gospel, with earnestness, because the "**judgment is come**."

The area of flight through the "midst of heaven" indicates the **world-wide work** of God's messengers.

What does it mean to give glory to God? God Himself tells us what His glory is: ...for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him." (Isaiah 43:6, 7).

The call now is to get back to the creation state of man, in other words the image of God in all things.



What does it mean for us today???

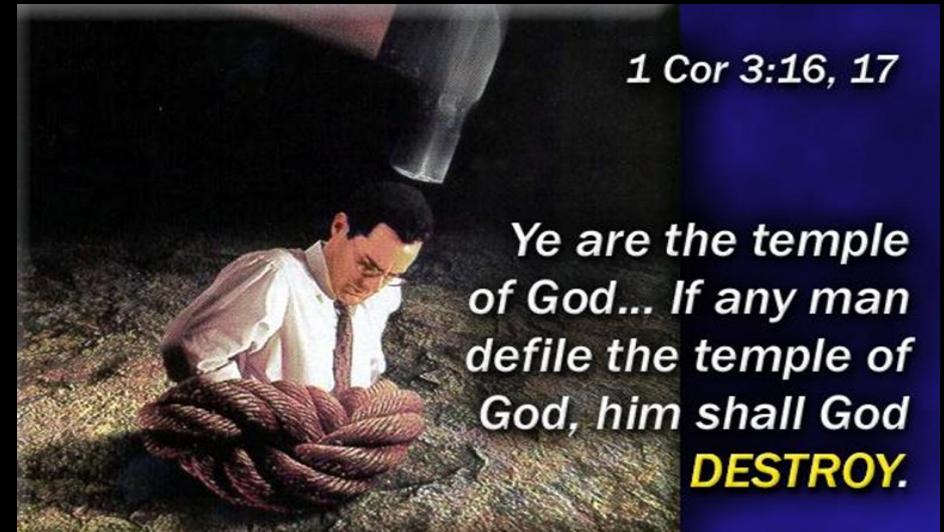
Romans 12:1 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*

This verse tells us to “*Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God.*” **It is a proven fact that people are what they eat!** We live in a world that is focused on living for yourself and self gratification.

Yet the bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 10:31 - “*Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.*”

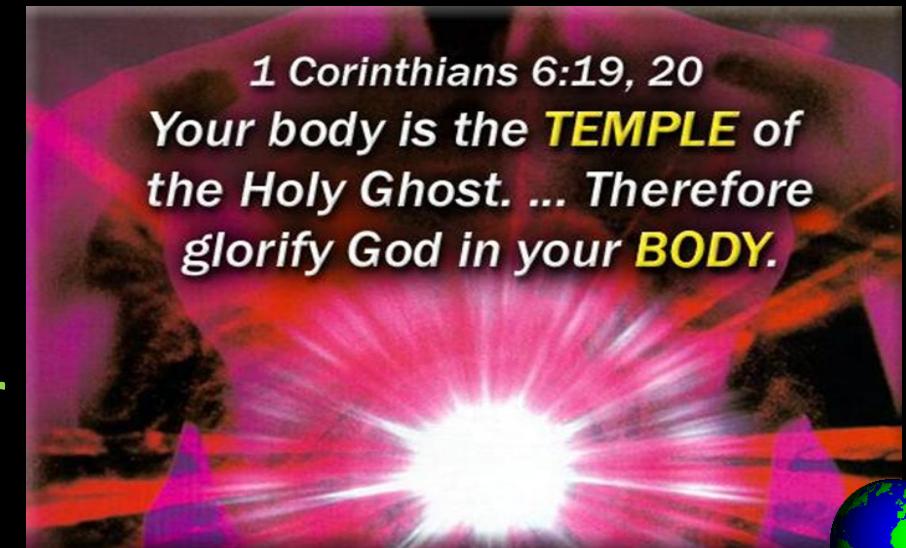
And in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - “*Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*”

Even today God desires that we glorify God, through our temple (our body), which means we need to be careful what we put into our bodies, so we can be strong and healthy like Daniel and his three friends were.



1 Cor 3:16, 17

Ye are the temple of God... If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God DESTROY.



1 Corinthians 6:19, 20

Your body is the TEMPLE of the Holy Ghost. ... Therefore glorify God in your BODY.

Daniel 1:9-14 – Test of Loyalty

Daniel 1:9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

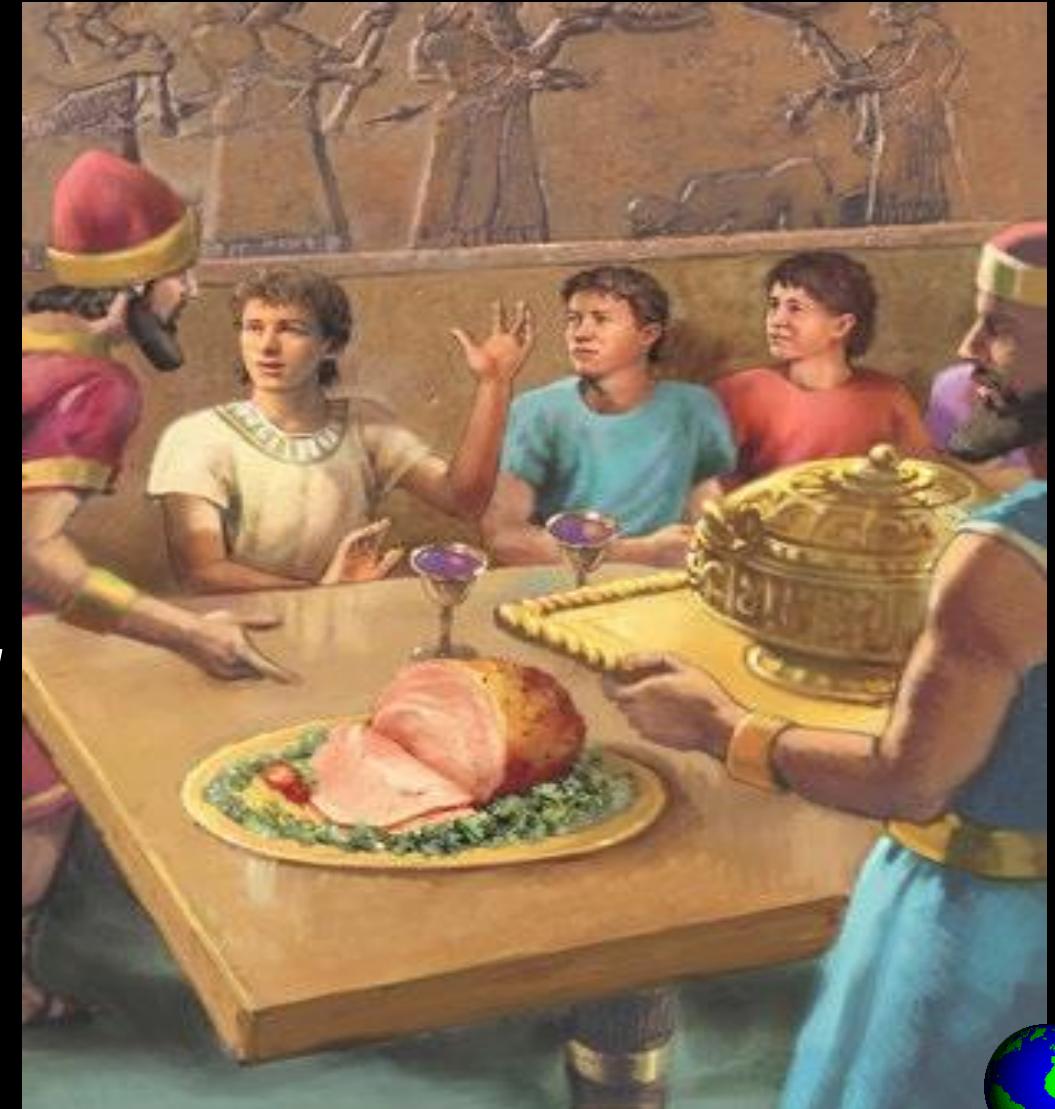
10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.



Persistence even amidst difficulty

Why was Daniel brought into favour with the prince of the eunuchs? Because Daniel and his friends would not compromise but stood fast to the principles of God. And why did they stand fast? Because they had committed their ways unto the Lord; and also trusted in Him to bring it to pass. (Psalms 37:5) Their obedience to Gods ways pleased the Lord and God could make their enemies to be at peace with them, Proverbs 16:7. So God can bless faithfulness to him.

But the prince of the eunuchs feared the king, for it was the king himself that had appointed their meat and drink, and if the king should see them looking worse than the other Jews he would endanger his head. So he went to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had placed in charge of them, and requested of him the same thing. Daniel was persistent.

This shows 2 points:

- 1) That the king and those under him honestly thought that this type of diet was the best for building muscle and mind.
- 2) Not all the Jews stood to the principles of God but compromised. So Melzar feared the result but Daniel knew better as we will find out.



Daniel's Firm Stand...

Daniel set his face like a flint and believed that the Lord would help him ([Isaiah 50:7](#)) and asked Melzar to go against the kings orders. This is a lesson for us in trusting the promises of the Lord, for Daniel had an incredible amount of trust in God in saying “prove us 10 days...then compare us with the others.” But he had a good reason to and so do we. See [Psalms 56:11; 125:1](#).

Daniel was very wise in choosing 10 days, because he knew that they had only just marched from Jerusalem, which would take its toll on the health and vitality of the body. So the best food is needed to help the body recover; food that is highly nutritious to aid the body to quickly repair itself, light and easily digested by the stomach, and food that would keep the mind clear and sharp to be able to discern the guiding of the Lord and not effect their spiritual perception. But most importantly food that the Lord could bless and strengthen them with, (as ultimately it was the Lord that blessed them with the result that was gained, because Daniel’s faith was a faith that had corresponding works out of his love for God, [James 2:17-20](#), [Galatians 5:6](#)), unlike the food from the kings table.



The faith of Daniel in God's grace...

As we look into the interaction between Daniel and the Babylonian officer, a few important points stand out.

First, Daniel seems to understand well the difficult position of the officer, so he proposed a test. Ten days of consuming the alternative meals should suffice to demonstrate the benefits of the diet and thus to put down the fears of the officer.

Second, Daniel's certainty that the outcome would be so positive within such a short time span stems from absolute confidence in God.

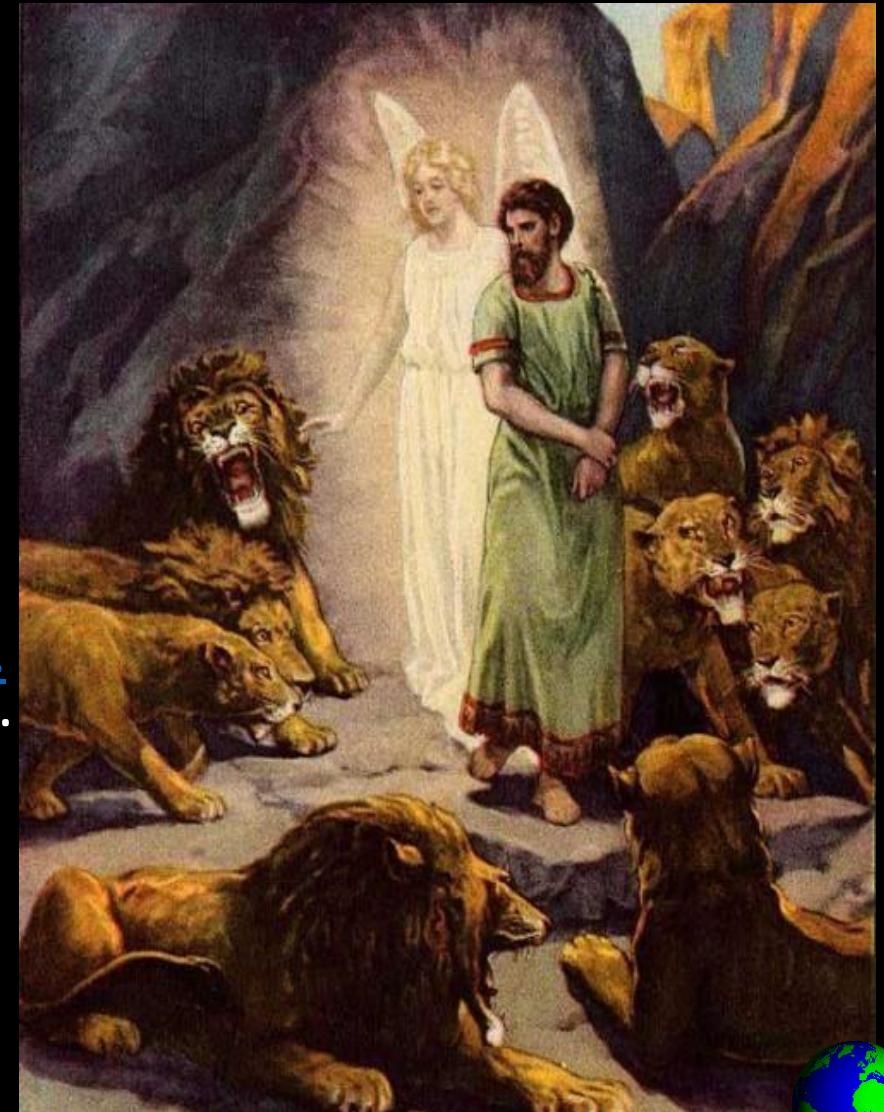
Third, the choice of a diet of vegetables and water points back to the food God gave humanity at Creation (see [Gen. 1:29](#)), a fact that perhaps influences Daniel's choice as well.

After all, what could be a better diet than the one God originally gave us?

What is so important about Daniel's free choice that opens the way for God to act as He does (see [Daniel 1:9](#))?

What lessons can we draw from this about the importance of our choices?

How should our trust in God impact our choices?



Have you ever gone on a diet?

How much of a difference does ten days make?

Not very much, yet because of their faithfulness to God, He blessed their health and also gave them “Knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom.” – Daniel 1:17

“In all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.” – Daniel 1:20.

- **God wants to bless His people today if they would follow the health principles He shows us in the Bible.**

John 17:17- Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

We are sanctified through the Truth. The Bible is our roadmap to discover what God’s will is for our lives. Within the Bible we find principles that can guide every aspect of our life.



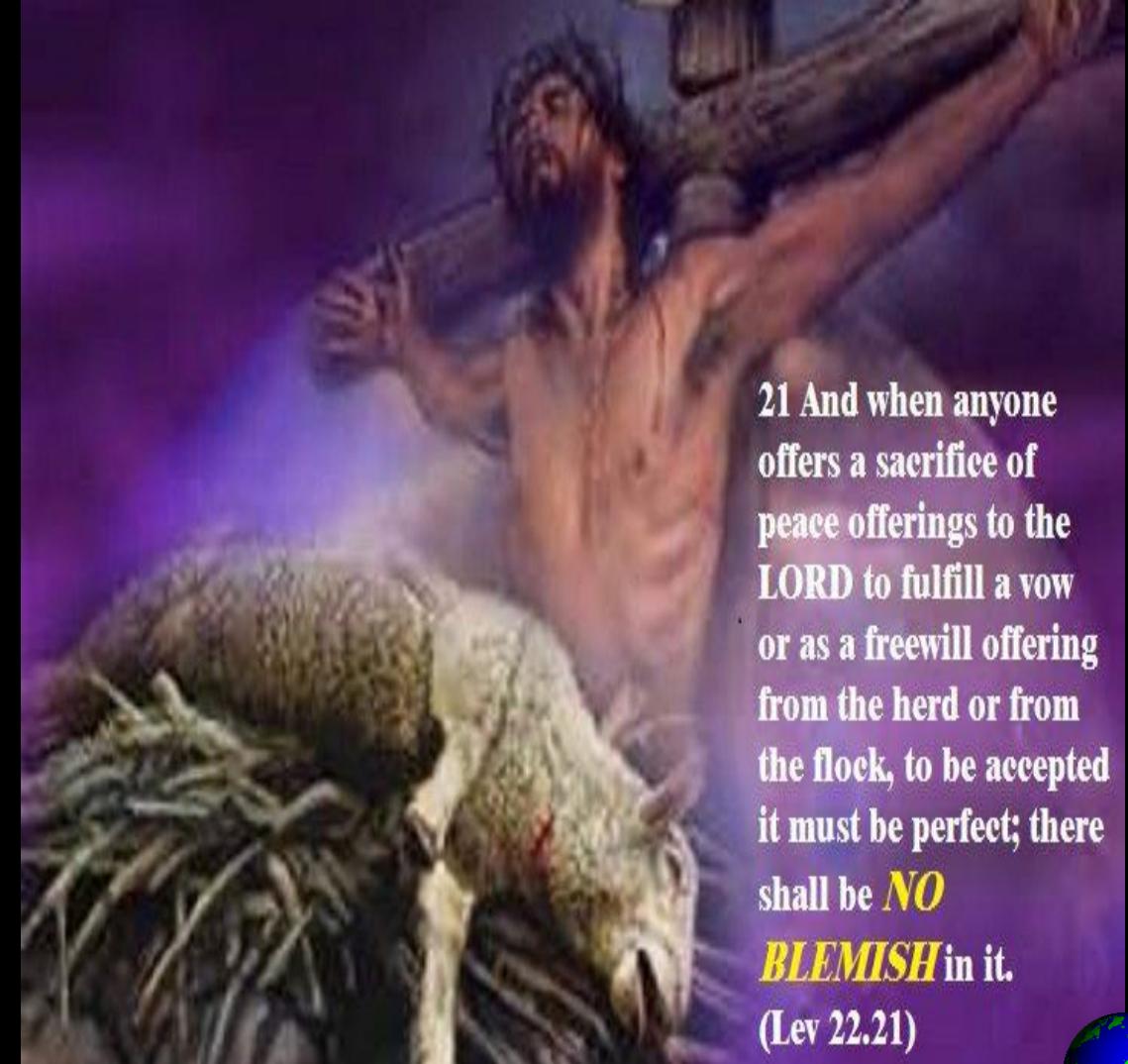
Babylonian king applies God's statutes

Daniel and his companions are chosen for royal service because they fit within the profile established by Nebuchadnezzar.

According to the king, palace officers must have "no blemish" and be "good-looking" (Daniel 1:4).

Interestingly, sacrifices and people serving in the sanctuary should have no "blemish" (Leviticus 22:17-25; 21:16-24).

The Babylonian king seems to compare himself to the God of Israel insofar as he demands similar qualifications for those serving in his palace. On the other hand, such qualifications may inadvertently suggest that Daniel and his compatriots were living sacrifices for God as they faced the challenges of the Babylonian empire.



21 And when anyone offers a sacrifice of peace offerings to the LORD to fulfill a vow or as a freewill offering from the herd or from the flock, to be accepted it must be perfect; there shall be **NO BLEMISH** in it.
(Lev 22:21)



Daniel 1:15-17 - God Honours Faithfulness

15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Daniel and his companions knew not what would be the result of their decision; they knew not but that it would cost them their lives; but they determined to keep the straight path of strict temperance even when in the courts of licentious Babylon (The Youth's Instructor, August 18, 1898). 4BC 1167.1

Good Behaviour Gained Favour—This officer saw in Daniel good traits of character. He saw that he was striving to be kind and helpful, that his words were respectful and courteous, and his manner possessed the grace of modesty and meekness. It was the good behaviour of the youth that gained for him the favour and love of the prince (The Youth's Instructor, November 12, 1907). 4BC 1167.2



An Intelligent Decision

As Daniel and his fellows were brought to the test, they placed themselves fully on the side of righteousness and truth. They did not move capriciously, but intelligently. They decided that as flesh-meat had not composed their diet in the past, it should not come into their diet in the future, and as wine had been prohibited to all who should engage in the service of God, they determined that they would not partake of it. The fate of the sons of Aaron had been presented before them, and they knew that the use of wine would confuse their senses, that the indulgence of appetite would be-cloud their powers of discernment. These particulars were placed on record in the history of the children of Israel as a warning to every youth to avoid all customs and practises and indulgences that would in any way dishonour God. 4BC 1166.7

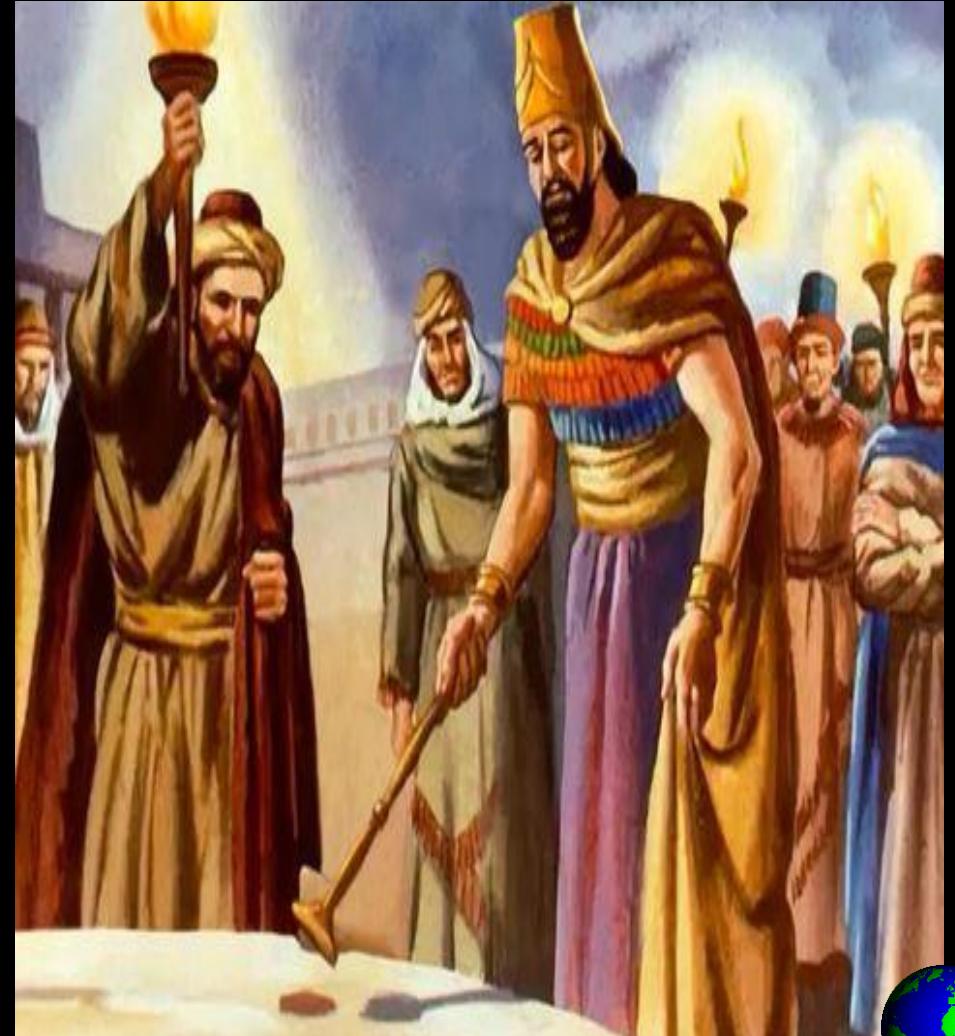


God rewarded and blessed their faithful stand

The results were remarkably in favour of Daniel and his friends, for the Lord blessed them with fairer and fatter countenances. So the portion of the king's food was taken away completely and they were feed pulse and water. *Blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.* (Psalms 34:8)

God blessed them with wisdom and knowledge in learning, as He is the author of these. (Proverbs 2:6, James 1:5) Also to Daniel, He gave the understanding in visions and dreams as we will see in future chapters.

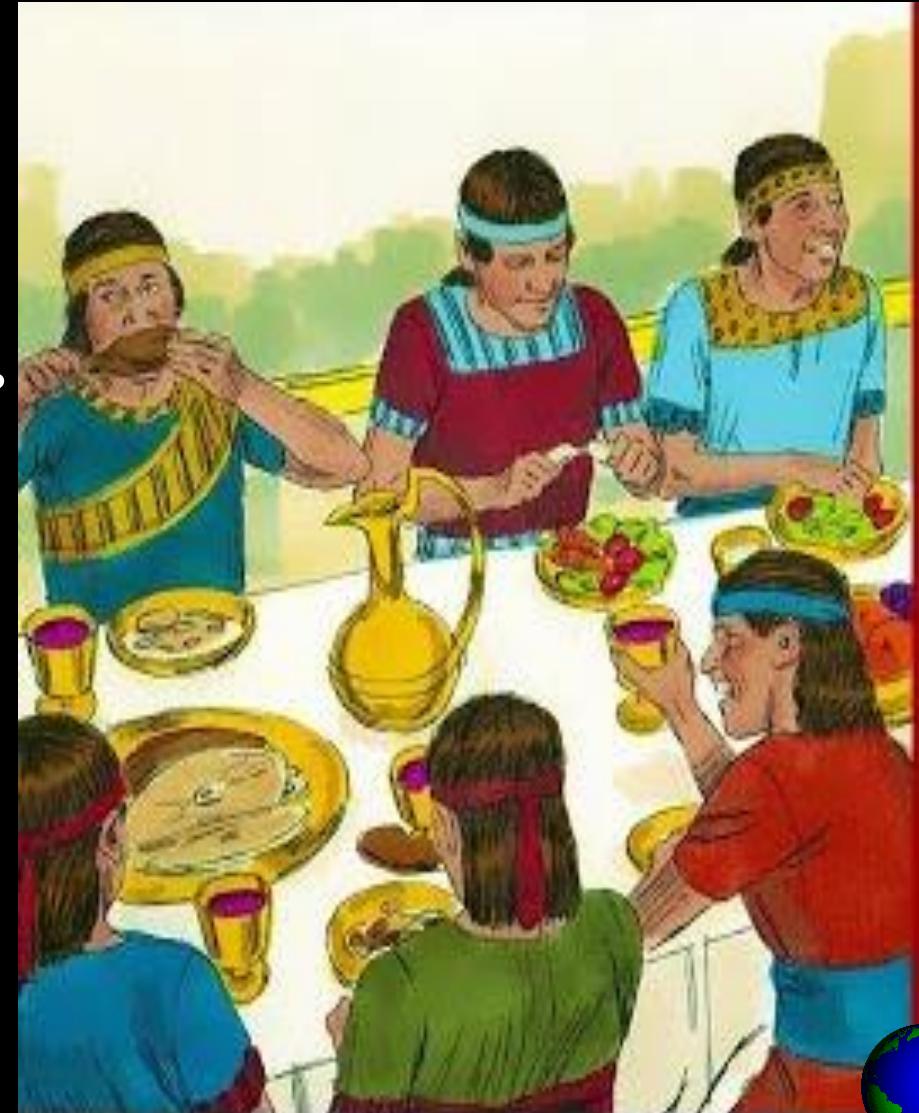
This shows to us that the Lord is willing to bless those that put their faith and trust in Him, but that also we need to not just sit back and wait for the Lord to bless. As Daniel made every effort to have their diet changed, having faith in God to open the door of opportunity, so too are we to move forward by faith.



Daniel's Tempters

In taking this step, Daniel did not act rashly. He knew that by the time he was called to appear before the king, the advantage of healthful living would be apparent. Cause would be followed by effect. Daniel said to Melzar, who had been given charge of him and his companions: "Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat and water to drink." Daniel knew that ten days would be time enough to prove the benefit of abstemiousness.... 4BC 1167.3

Having done this, Daniel and his companions did still more. They did not choose as companions those who were agents of the prince of darkness. They did not go with a multitude to do evil. They secured Melzar as their friend, and there was no friction between him and them. They went to him for advice, and at the same time enlightened him by the wisdom of their deportment (The Youth's Instructor, September 6, 1900). 4BC 1167.4



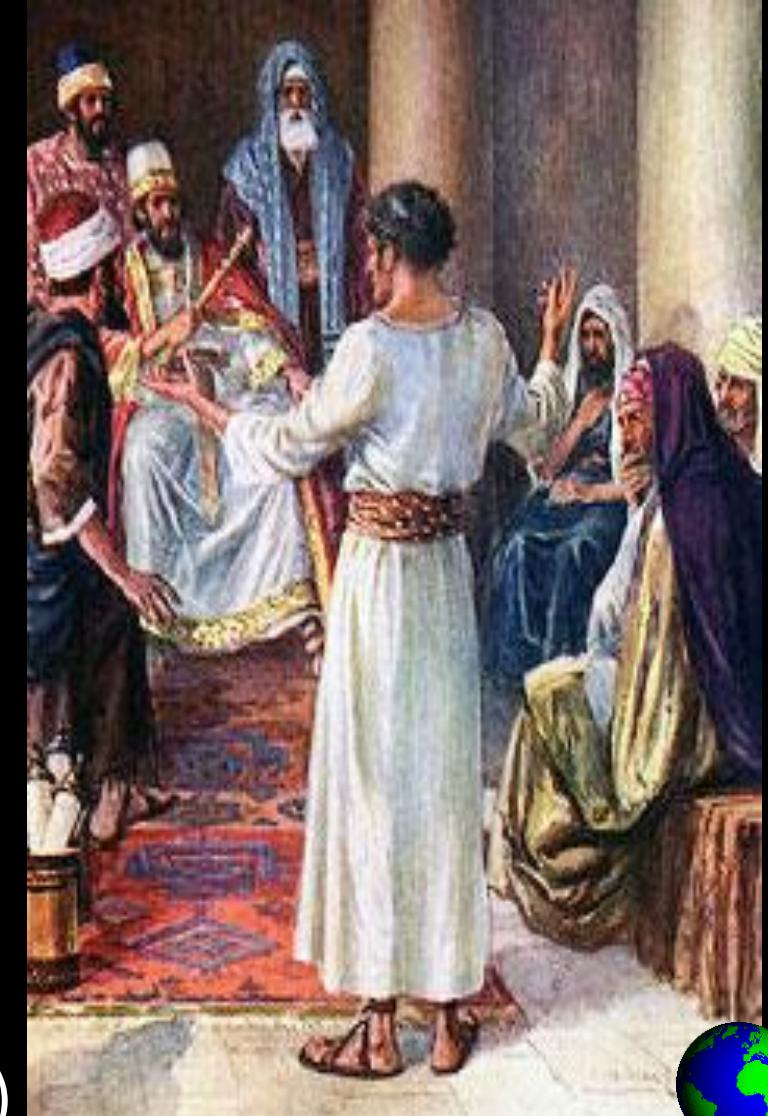
Daniel 1:18-20 – Abundant Blessings

18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

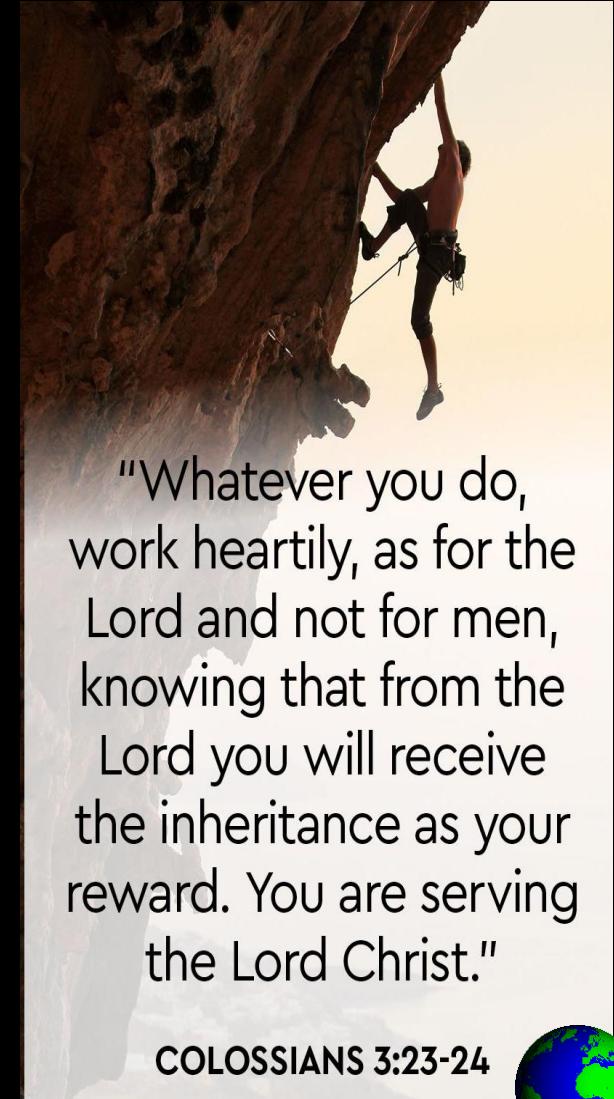
At the end of 3 years the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before king Nebuchadnezzar. The king questioned them and found that none were of the capabilities of Daniel and his friends, for they were 10 times wiser. This shows that the king must have been a very wise man himself to be able to question them in such matters. **Why were they wiser? Because the Lord blessed them with wisdom and this wisdom was a reward for their faithfulness/obedience to God.** (**Proverbs 2:7; 10:31**)



God's Blessing No Substitute for Effort

When the four Hebrew youth were receiving an education for the king's court in Babylon, they did not feel that the blessing of the Lord was a substitute for the taxing effort required of them. They were diligent in study; for they discerned that through the grace of God their destiny depended upon their own will and action. They were to bring all their ability to the work; and by close, severe taxation of their powers, they were to make the most of their opportunities for study and labour. 4BC 1167.5

While these youth were working out their own salvation, God was working in them to will and to do of His good pleasure. Here are revealed the conditions of success. To make God's grace our own, we must act our part. The Lord does not propose to perform for us either the willing or the doing. His grace is given to work in us to will and to do, but never as a substitute for our effort. Our souls are to be aroused to cooperate. The Holy Spirit works in us, that we may work out our own salvation. This is the practical lesson the Holy Spirit is striving to teach us (The Youth's Instructor, August 20, 1903). 4BC 1167.6



"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

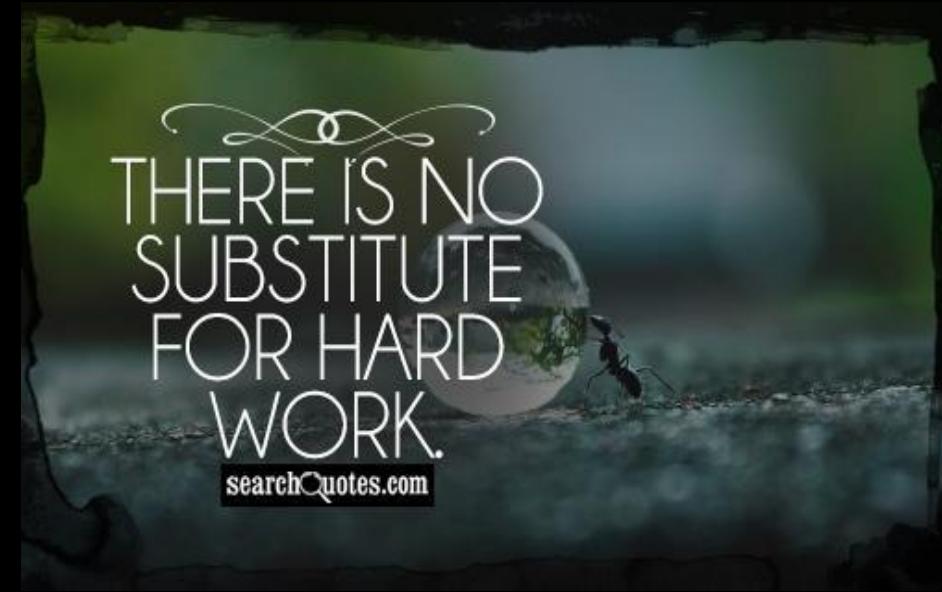


Honor Without Exaltation

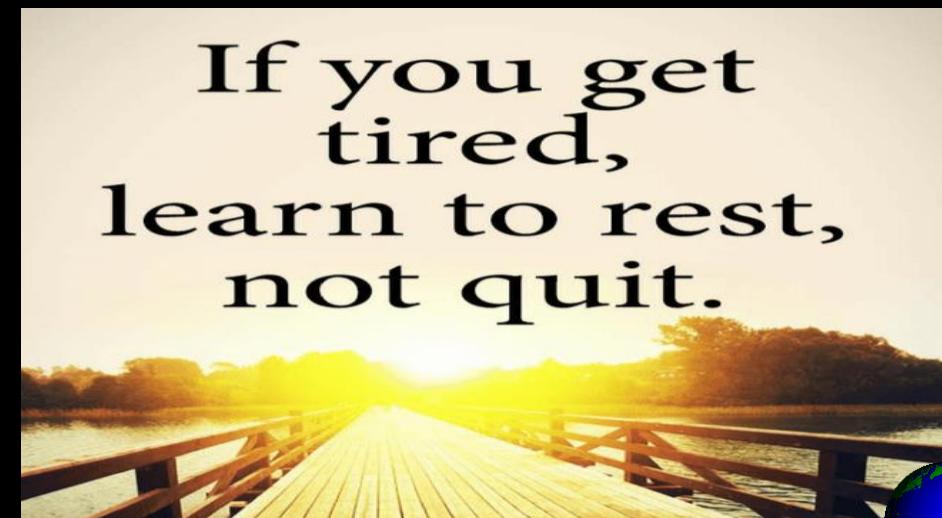
Daniel and his three companions had a special work to do. Although greatly honoured in this work, they did not become in any way exalted. They were scholars, being skilled in secular as well as religious knowledge; but they had studied science without being corrupted. They were well-balanced because they had yielded themselves to the control of the Holy Spirit. These youth gave to God all the glory of their secular, scientific, and religious endowments. Their learning did not come by chance; they obtained knowledge by the faithful use of their powers; and God gave them skill and understanding. 4BC 1167.7

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. - James 4:10

Spirituality and Intellect Grow Together—As in the case of Daniel, in exact proportion as the spiritual character is developed, the intellectual capabilities are increased. 4BC 1168.1



If you get tired,
learn to rest,
not quit.

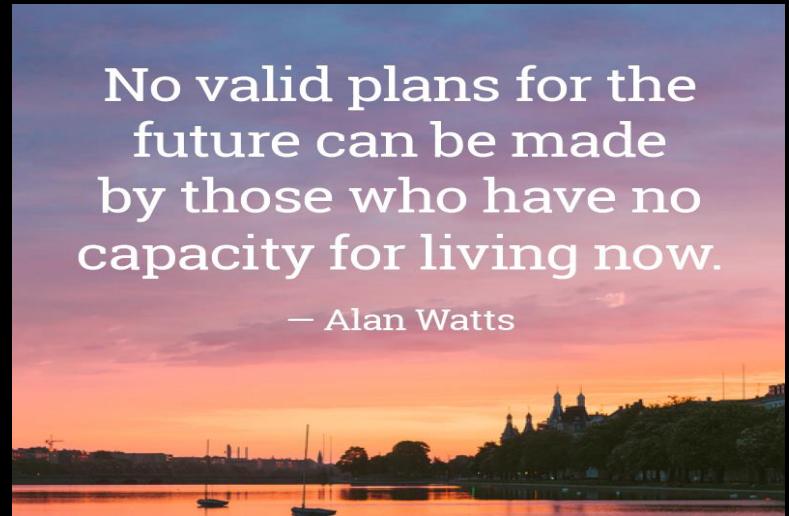


No Different Plan Now

When Daniel was in Babylon, he was beset with temptations of which we have never dreamed, and he realized that he must keep his body under. He purposed in his heart that he would not drink of the king's wine or eat of his dainties. He knew that in order to come off a victor, he must have clear mental perceptions, that he might discern between right and wrong. While he was working on his part, God worked also, and gave him "knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."

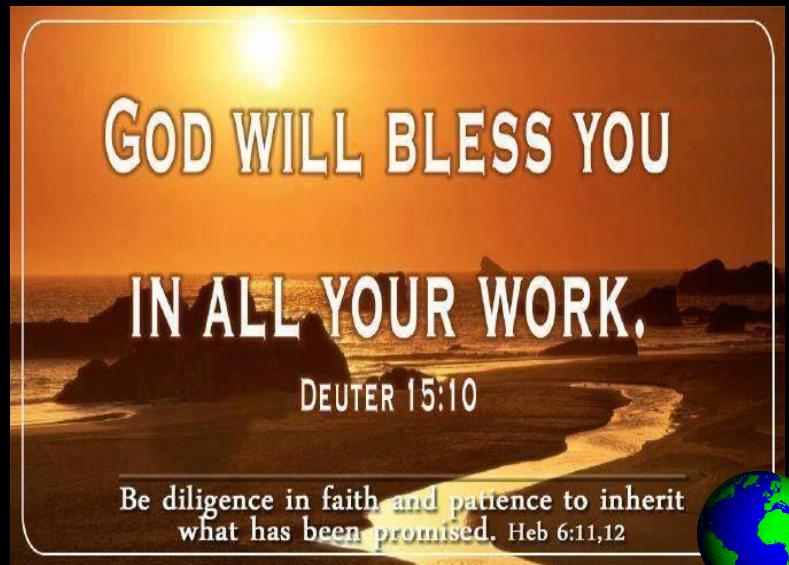
This is the way God worked for Daniel; and He does not propose to do any differently now. Man must cooperate with God in carrying out the plan of salvation (The Review and Herald, April 2, 1889). 4BC 1166.6

The light that Daniel received direct from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfilment, and all the events foretold will soon have come to pass. 4BC 1166.5



No valid plans for the future can be made by those who have no capacity for living now.

— Alan Watts



True science and Bible religion are in perfect harmony

Let the students in our schools learn all they possibly can.

But, as a rule, let them be educated in our own institutions. Be careful how you advise them to go to other schools, where error is taught, in order to complete their education. Do not give them the impression that greater educational advantages are to be obtained by mingling with those who do not seek wisdom from God. **The great men of Babylon were willing to be benefited by the instruction that God gave through Daniel, to help the king out of his difficulty by the interpretation of his dream.** But they were anxious to mix in their heathen religion with that of the Hebrews. **Had Daniel and his fellows consented to such a compromise, they would, in the view of the Babylonians, have been complete as statesmen, fit to be entrusted with the affairs of the kingdom.** **But the four Hebrews entered into no such arrangement.** They were true to God, and God upheld them and honoured them.

The lesson is for us. “*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*” 4BC 1167.8 (Matthew 6:33)



Making GOD Your Priority

Matthew 6:33

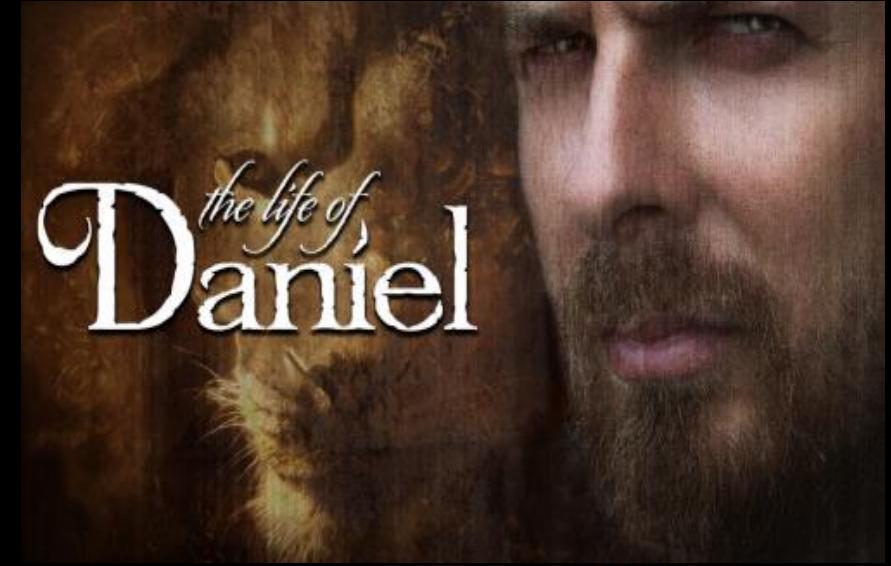


Daniel 1:21 – Lifted till the End of Life

Daniel 1:21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

Because of his faithfulness, Daniel is able to be alive when Cyrus, king of Persia, issue the decree to restore and build Jerusalem and the temple. **Daniel is an example of what God's people must be at the end of time.** They must be willing to be faithful to the truths of God's Word, regardless of life, position, or money!

Just as God honours the faith of his servants in the Babylonian court, He gives us wisdom as we face the challenges of the world. From the experience of Daniel and his companions, we learn that it is indeed possible to remain untainted by the corrupting elements of our society. **We also learn that we do not need to isolate ourselves from society and its cultural life in order to serve God.** Daniel and his companions not only live amid a culture built on lies and errors and myths, but are schooled on those lies and errors and myths. And yet, they remain faithful.



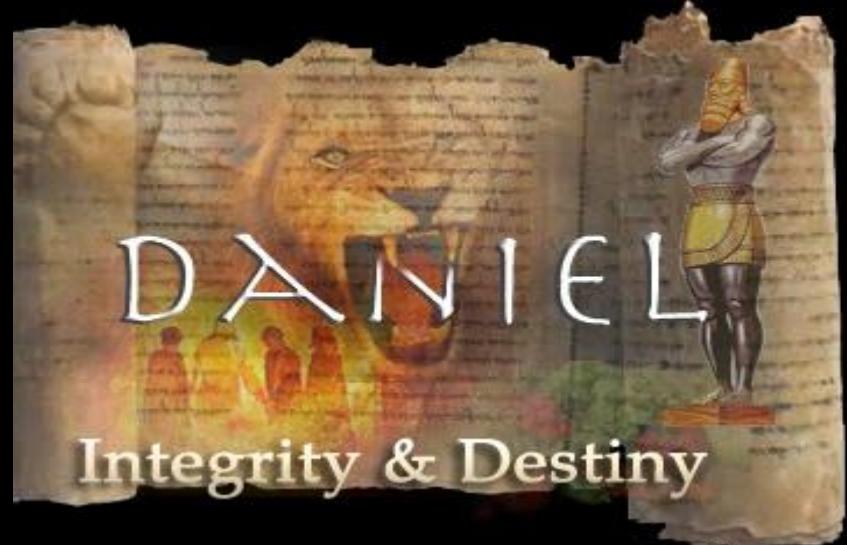
Summary

When Nebuchadnezzar attacks God's Holy City and the Sanctuary, he tries to subvert God's people and His truth. Daniel and his friends stayed true to God, and God blessed them with wisdom and understanding of visions and dreams.

God honours the loyalty of the four Hebrew captives, and at the end of their ten-day testing period they look healthier and better-nourished than the other students who have eaten from the royal table. They are not only healthier than the other students, they surpass them in knowledge and wisdom. The four are immediately hired to serve the king.

As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. (Daniel 1:17). This gift will play a significant role in Daniel's prophetic ministry.

Through the experience of Daniel, God gives an example for His people in the last days. We are able to understand the prophecies only when we surrender our wills to God in obedience to His Word.



Conclusion

Nebuchadnezzar may think that such accomplishment would have something to do with the palace diet and the training program the four students have undergone. However, Daniel and his companions know, and the narrative clearly shows, that their superior performance owes nothing to the Babylonian system.

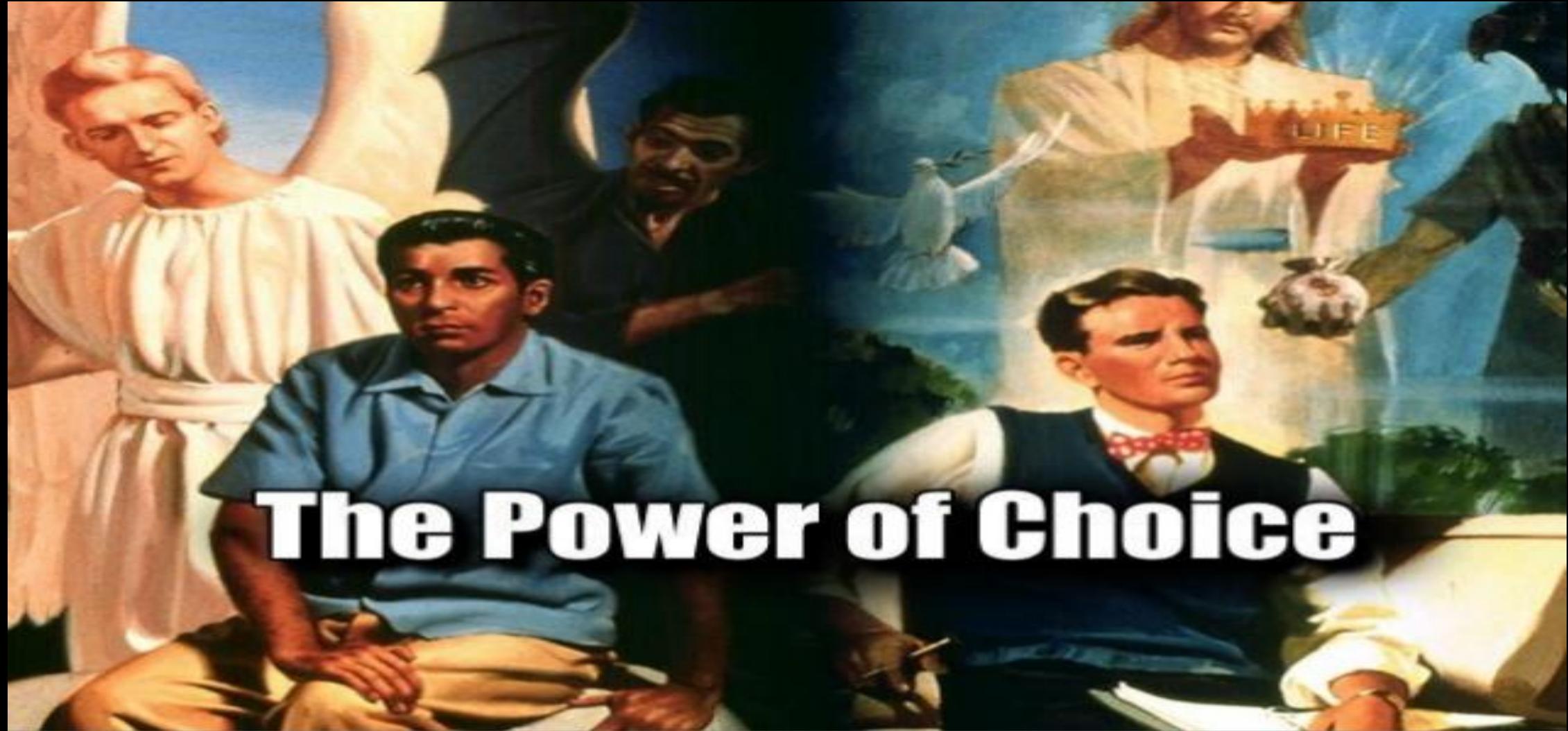
Everything comes from God. What a powerful example of what God can do for those who trust Him. We should not fear the overwhelming power of media, governments, and other institutions that may threaten to destroy our identity as God's children. As we place our confidence in God, we can be sure that He can sustain us in difficult moments and preserve us against all odds. The key is for us to make the right choices like Daniel and when confronted with challenges to our faith we shall overcome.

Looking at Daniel 1, we learn some very important lessons about God:

- (1) God is in control of history.
- (2) God gives wisdom so that we can navigate the hostile environment of our culture and society.
- (3) God honours those who trust in Him through inner conviction and lifestyle.

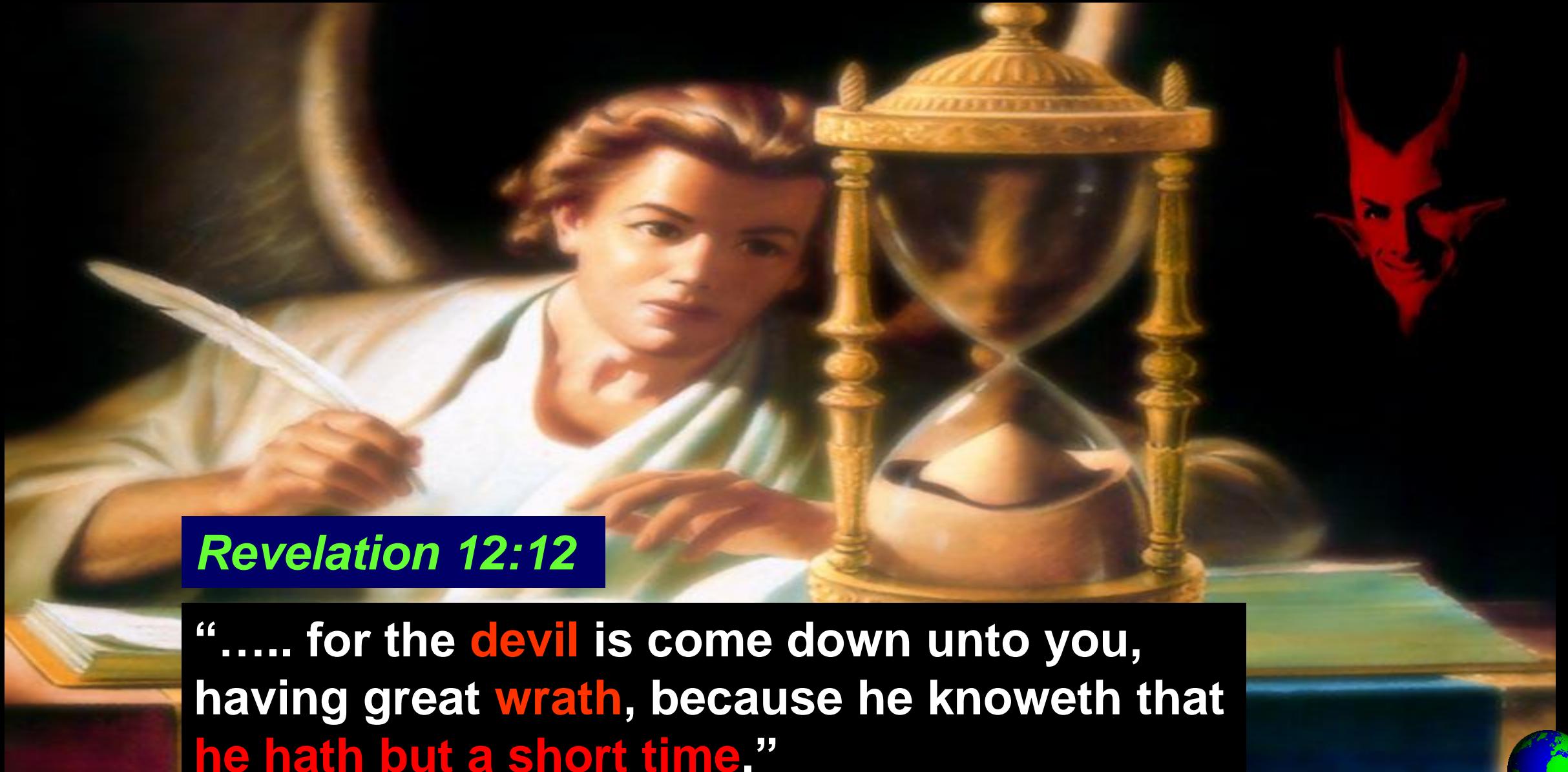


God has given all:



The Power of Choice





Revelation 12:12

“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you,
having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that
he hath but a short time.”

Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at
the door, and
knock: if any man
hear my voice,
and open the door,
I will come in to
him, and will sup
with him, and he
with me. –
Revelation 3:20





ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?