



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

CHAPTER 1: GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER NATIONS AND MEN

I. Outline of the chapter

A. *Conquering Babylon, vrs. 1-7*

1. The successful siege vrs. 1-2
2. The captives of Judah vrs. 3-7

B. *The test of food, vrs. 8-16*

1. Daniel's purpose and plan vrs. 8
2. Daniel's progress vrs. 9
3. Daniel's proposition vrs. 10-13
4. The successful test vrs. 14-16

C. *God blesses His faithful servants, vrs. 17-21*

1. God's gifts vrs. 17
2. The king's examination vrs. 18-19a
3. The brilliant students vrs. 19b-21

II. Points in the chapter

A. *The theme of the book is established in verse 2.*

1. The word “**Lord**” is the Hebrew word 'Adonay {ad-o-noy}'. Title, spoken in place of Yahweh in Jewish display of reverence.
2. The “**Lord gave**”, not Nebuchadnezzar took.
 - a) God promised to curse the Israelites if they did not follow him. Joshua 24:20
 - b) It is a fearful thing to fall into God's hands. Hebrews 10:30-31
3. Part of the temple vessels are taken to Babylon and put into a pagan temple. These play a big role in chapter 5.

B. *The “children of Israel” in verse 3 denote the same individuals as the “children of Judah” in verse 6.*

C. *“bring... of the seed royal and of the nobles”, verse 3. See Ezekiel 17: 11-14*



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D. “No blemishes and have understanding”, verse 4.

E. “Nourished three years”, verse 5.

1. This does not require a full 36 months in order to be fulfilled. See Genesis 42: 17-18; Esther 4:16 & 5:1

F. But Daniel “purposed” verse 8.

G. “God made Daniel” God is involved at the national level (verse 2) and with the individual as well (verse 9).

H. Daniel persists, verse 11.

I. Daniel’s request granted. Verse 16

J. The Lord gives wisdom and understanding, verse 17.

1. Babylonians were accomplished in the sciences but believed in the magical and superstitious.
2. God gives wisdom. James 1:5-7

K. Nebuchadnezzar finds the four friends superior, verse 20.

L. Daniel alive when Cyrus the Persian reigns, verse 21.

1. Daniel sees the captives return. Ezra 1:1
2. This does not mean that he died then but only that he saw the new empire ushered into power.

In chapter 1 we find God executing his wrath upon the kingdom of Judah, but at the same time providentially protecting his faithful servants. He had warned the Israelites for hundreds of years to be faithful to Him, for He was a jealous god and promised to punish them with captivity but they were rebellious and would not listen. In this chapter we see the fulfillment of scores of prophecies regarding them being sent into captivity because of their idolatrous behavior.

He chooses Daniel to receive the miraculous ability to interpret dreams and this young man becomes God’s prophet in the king’s palace whereas Ezekiel would prophesy, and live with the captives in Babylon and Jeremiah would prophesy from Judah and then Egypt with the poorest of the land that would be left.

This chapter introduces the characters and sets the stage for the remainder of the book.