

Leader

Daniel 1:1,2 (ESV)

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand...

Cong.

Daniel 1:3,4 (ESV)

Then the king commanded...his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel...to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

## Leader

## Daniel 1:5,6 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end...to stand before the king.<sup>6</sup> Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah.

Cong.

Daniel 1:8,10 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food ...Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. <sup>10</sup> and the chief...said ..."I fear my lord the king ...for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths...your own age? So you would endanger my head ..."

**Leader** Daniel 1:12,15,17 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> “Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink...” <sup>15</sup> At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance...than all the youths who ate the king’s food. <sup>17</sup> As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Cong.

Daniel 1:18,19 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king.

Leader

Daniel 1:20,21 (ESV)

<sup>20</sup> And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers that were in all his kingdom.

<sup>21</sup> And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.



Daniel 1:17-21

“Daniel and the New Age”

# Babylonian Empire 606-536 BC



# Theme:

- When you know who you **are** you can stand before the world as ambassadors for Christ.



# Babylon then & now



## Daniel Decided Beforehand (1:8-16)

- Nebuchadnezzar was trying to create a “power encounter” with his gods.
- This would break the barrier between the physical & spiritual worlds.
- But God keeps us when it seems others are in control.



## Daniel Passed the Test (1:17ff)

- He knew how to handle inner, outer & peer pressure by deciding beforehand.
- There are no textbook answers --- only growing wisdom. (James 1:5-8)
- Daniel's wisdom avoided pushing the chief to overcome his *favor* with *fear*.
- God Gave Daniel success in a system that was opposed to him.

## Success (1:17-20)

- God gave the four youths ...
  - Learning (Knowledge)
  - Skill (Success)
- In all ...
  - Literature
  - Wisdom
- Because of this success they were not vulnerable to the satanic counterfeits.

## Success (1:17-20)

- We must understand the real world to have victory in it. Rev. 17:5

– Supernatural world

– Real world

– “Scientific” world

# Success (1:17-20)

## ■ Satan ...

- Mixes truth and error
- Puts things in the guise of science
- Communicates thru entertainment

## ■ We must discern where we have mixed truth and error and make corrections.

## Success (1:17-20)

- They were brought before the king.
- He tested them. None was like them.
- They stood before Nebuchadnezzar.
- In every matter of
  - Wisdom
  - Understanding (bin = between)
  - They were 10X better than the magicians and enchanter.

# Standing in the world

- Satan wants to use the New Age movement, Postmodernism, Secularism or Moral therapeutic Deism to give you a counterfeit experience.
- If you trust God, He'll enable you to discern good & evil & stand before the hostile powers of this world.
- Heb. 5:14 “Solid food...discern”, Prov. 18:16 “...gift...before kings...”

# Standing in the world

- “Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone, dare to have a purpose firm, dare to make it known.” P.P. Bliss
- I want to experience Christ ...
- I want Him over me...
- ...to work thru me (2 Cor. 5:17-21)
- “Give us clear vision that we may know where to stand & what to stand for; for unless we stand for something we'll fall for anything.” Peter Marshall

## Standing in the world (1:21)

- Daniel remained into the reign of Cyrus...70 years later...
- He finished the work he was called to do.
- He started well. He finished well!