

E2E- Part 106a

Daniel 1

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1. While critics discredit Daniel, the assessment of Jesus demonstrates that Daniel was a real, historical person used by God to reveal truth.
2. Daniel has endured a forced identity change in every possible category, except in his commitment to the things of God. He displays great personal resolve.
3. Daniel experiences what we all do—unavoidable temptation, yet the response to temptation is under our control. Daniel purposed to make godly decisions no matter what.
4. The way Daniel approaches his supervisor is full of respect, maturity, and tact. His request to abstain from the king's food was a passionate plea in a heart-to-heart conversation.
5. Daniel is decisive, humble, and expectant that God will honor his desire to be faithful.
6. Daniel wisely proposes a solid solution to Ashpenaz's hesitation and fear of repercussions from King Nebuchadnezzar regarding the dietary request.
7. Daniel trusts God to intervene and grant clarity of mind and strength of body from the food he eats, and God provides.
8. As a result, God gives Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah the ability to master every scholarship. The king admits they are ten times smarter than the best of the best.
9. If Daniel had been more concerned about pleasing people and being "popular," he would have yielded to the pressure and failed the Lord. Instead, he was faithful, and his witness had a phenomenal impact.
10. Daniel is evidence that it's not where we are that ultimately matters. It's what we are and who we belong to (God) that matters most.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Ga'al (gaw-al´); to soil or desecrate :— defile, pollute, stain

Suwm (soom) :— determine, to purpose, + steadfastly

çariyç, (saw-reece´); to castrate- by implication, valet (especially of female apartments) :— chamberlain, eunuch

Zera-on (zay-raw-ohn´); something sown, i.e. a vegetable (as food) :- pulse

TODAY'S WORSHIP

Lord I Need You
Revelation Song
A Thousand Hallelujahs
King of Kings

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In some ways, Daniel (and his three friends) submitted to the Babylonians' efforts to make them Babylonians (mastering the language and the false-gods-exalting writings of that culture, the changing of their names from Yahweh-glorifying ones to those that glorified false gods, and probably even their own castration). However, they drew the line at what they ate and drank.
 - Why do you think this is where they drew the line?
 - How do you think Daniel's understanding of his true identity and purpose as an image-bearing representative of Yahweh helped him navigate these challenges?
 - How might we apply their thinking to our own lives in our culture?
2. At the end of Daniel 1, what would Nebuchadnezzar have thought about his control over the lives of Daniel and the three friends? What would Daniel have thought?
3. What are some areas within our culture where we are regularly exposed to temptations to sin, or expect we may be?
 - If we were to resolve in our hearts to not engage in that activity, but to take a God-honoring course, what could that look like in those different areas?
4. Mark mentions three qualities that Daniel exhibited in dealing with his circumstances. He was Decisive, Humble, and Expectant that God would honor his desire to be faithful to Him.
 - What parallels can we draw between how Daniel thought about and handled his challenging and non-God-honoring environment and our own similar situations?