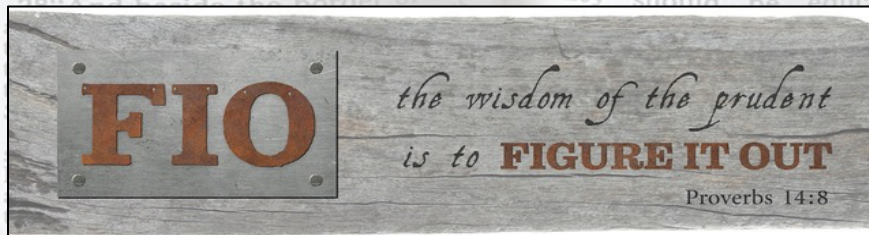


Figure It Out

DANIEL 1:8-21

The First Test In Babylon



January 16th

THINK OF DANIEL'S AS HE WAS LED AWAY IN 605 BC
THE CHOICE YOUNG MEN

IN the third year of the reign of ^aJehoiakim king of Judah, ^bNebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

2 And the ^aLord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the ^bvessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of ^cShinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his ^dgod.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his ¹officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the ²royal ^afamily and of the nobles,

4 youths in whom was ^ano defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every ^{branch} of wisdom, endowed with understanding, and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and ^blanguage of the ^cChaldeans.

5 And the king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three

years. And at the end of the three years, the king brought them before him, and he found that they were all well, and that they had gained knowledge and skill in all that the king had appointed them to learn; and he placed them in charge of the palace.

8 But Daniel ¹made up his mind that he would not ^adefile himself

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gates: the gate of Simeon, one; the gate of Issachar, one; the gate of Zebulun, one.

34 "On the west side, 4,500 cubits, shall be the ¹allotment which you shall ²set apart, 25,000 ³cubits in width, and in length like one of the portions, from the east side to the west side; and the ^asanctuary shall be in the middle of it.

9 Now God granted Daniel ^afavor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,

10 and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would ¹make me forfeit my head to the king."

11 But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.

13 "Then let our appearance be ¹observed in your presence, and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

14 So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days.

15 And at the end of ten days their appearance seemed ^abetter and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food.

16 So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables.

17 And as for these four youths, ^aGod gave them knowledge and intelligence in every ^{branch} of ¹literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of ^bvisions and dreams.

18 Then at the end of the days

of the testing, the king brought them before him, and he found that they were all well, and that they had gained knowledge and skill in all that the king had appointed them to learn; and he placed them in charge of the palace.

19 And at the end of the days of the testing, the king brought them before him, and he found that they were all well, and that they had gained knowledge and skill in all that the king had appointed them to learn; and he placed them in charge of the palace.

DANIEL 1:1-7

DANIEL 1:1-7

- **Youths** *forcibly removed from Jewish noble families* [30-50 boys age 10-11-12]

- **605 BC** *hostages travel north thru Damascus to top of rivers then down to Babylon*

NO more speaking Hebrew

NO Torah, Psalms, Prophets - Moses, David, Solomon - Passover, Shabbat, Law

- **Akkadian** language ALL the time

- *Chaldean literature* Nimrod Hammurabi Sennacherib

- *Chaldean gods* Ishtar Bel [Marduk] Nergal Nergo etc...

- 3 years [when age 12-15] *then go into personal service to Nebuchadnezzar*

- **Jeremiah Isaiah Ezekiel** *all prophesy about “your offspring becoming eunuchs”*

Zedekiah eyes gouged out “never sees Babylon – dies there”

Babylon in 605 BC

Nebuchadnezzar's Palatial City

- Expanded famous "Hanging Gardens" one of the 7 Wonders of Ancient World
κρεμαστός = *overhang* literally trees planted in raised terraces



Babylon in 605 BC



Population: 200,000

Area: 2,500 acres total

500 acres within walls

Straddle the Euphrates River



First Test in Babylon

DANIEL 1:8-10 But Daniel made up his mind [literally **purposed-decided** in his heart] that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or the wine so he sought permission from the commander of the officials [eunuchs] that he might not defile himself - Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king [Nebuchadnezzar] who has appointed your food and drink - for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king."

- **choice food** NOT prisoner's rations but literally the SAME food the king eats!

- **Decision** Romans 12:1-2 do not be conformed to this world but be transformed

- **"my head"** Jeremiah 39:6-7 Zedekiah eyes
Jeremiah 29:22 enemies over an open flame
Daniel 2:5 torn into small pieces and make your home a "dung hill"

Consider Age-12

These 12 year-olds were just old enough to Remember the basics of Law of Moses regarding clean & unclean foods [last week **Leviticus II**] - and/or meat offered to idols

THE KEY - Daniel did not want to **defile** himself גָּאַל gaw-al = pollute, desecrate so what exactly would defile him?

Though positioned to be steeped in Akkadian language with all Chaldean literature/ religion / philosophy there remained within young Daniel's mind a remnant that remembered God's Word to His people
Outwardly he complied with their training program
Inwardly he knew who he really was and to whom he gave worship

Skip King's food could be:

- 1- Youths look worse than others
- 2- Youths look as good as others
- 3- Youths look BETTER than others

8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself

First Test in Babylon

DANIEL 1:11-13 But Daniel said to the overseer [proper noun **Melzar**] whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah "Please test your servants for **10 days** and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink - then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food - and deal with your servants according to what you see"

- **Gideon Judges 6** tested God with a fleece TWICE

- **Abraham Genesis 18** negotiated with God for Lot re: Sodom and Gomorrah

- **Paul 2nd Corinth. 12** asked God 3 times to remove his "thorn"

- **Moses Exodus 3** asked God for proof that he was sent by the Almighty

- **Dave Newton 1982 AD** asked God for comparable job performance without having to work nights

**John Hancock
Tucker, Anthony & Co.
Bankers and Brokers**

Members New York and Boston Stock Exchanges

First Test in Babylon

DANIEL 1:14-16

So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for 10 days

At the end of 10 days their appearance seemed better and they were more fat than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food so the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink - and kept giving them vegetables

- **Basis for vegan-vegetarian? NO** – this is one anecdote, **NOT** a basis for doctrine

- **Romans 14:1-4** accept the one who is weaker in faith and do not quarrel over opinions

One person has faith to eat all things, the one who is weak eats only vegetables

The one who eats meat does not regard with contempt the one who does not

The one who does not eat meat [eats veggies] does not judge the one who eats meat

- **1st Corinth. 8:1-13** concerning meat sacrificed to idols, we all have knowledge – which

makes arrogance, but love edifies! There's no such things as a "true" idol-god, so

some of you are 100% okay with that verse-8 food will NOT condemn us to God

The key is to take CARE with your liberty!

8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself

Daniel's Resolve

18 Then at the end of the days

The Interview

DANIEL 1:17-20

As for these 4 youths - God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom - Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams at the end of the days [3 years] which the king had specified, the commander of the officials [eunuchs] presented them before King Nebuchadnezzar - the king talked with them and out of them ALL not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah - so they entered the king's personal service. As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm

- endowed by God knowledge-intelligence-wisdom-understanding

astronomy, astrology, architecture, math, agriculture in "land of the 2 rivers"

- Daniel interprets visions-dreams [novice-apprentice for Magi]

- Nebuchadnezzar personally interviews ALL the youths after the 3 years!

- Daniel writes using his and the others' Hebrew names

5 "And beside the border of Manasseh, from the east side to the west side, one portion.
6 "And beside the border of Issachar, from the east side to the west side, one portion.
7 "And beside the border of Reuben, from the east side to the west side, one portion.
8 "And beside the border of Judah, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

9 "The allotment that you shall set apart to the Lord shall be 25,000 cubits in length, and 10,000 in width.
10 "And the holy allotment shall be for these, namely for the priests, toward the north 25,000 cubits in length, toward the east 10,000 in width, and toward the south 25,000 in length; and the LORD shall be in the middle of it.

11 "It shall be for the priests who are sanctified, the sons of Zadok, who have kept the commandments of the LORD, that they do not go astray, as the Levites went astray.

12 "And it shall be for the priests, a most holy place, by the border of the Levites.

13 "And alongside the border of the priests the Levites shall be 25,000 cubits in length, and 10,000 in width. The whole length shall be 25,000 cubits and the width 10,000.

14 "Moreover, they shall have this choice portion of land; for it is holy to the LORD.

15 "And the remainder of the land shall be for common use for the city, for dwelling, and for open spaces; and the LORD shall be in the midst.

16 "And these shall be the measurements: the north side 4,500 cubits, and the west side 4,500 cubits.

17 "And the city shall have open spaces: on the north 250 cubits, on the south 250 cubits, on the east 250 cubits, and on the west 250 cubits.

18 "And the remainder of the length alongside the holy allotment

shall be 10,000 cubits toward the east, and 10,000 toward the west; and it shall be alongside the holy allotment. And its produce shall be for the workers of the city.
19 "And the workers of the city, out of all the tribes of Israel, shall cultivate it.

20 "The whole allotment shall be 25,000 by 25,000 cubits; you shall set apart the holy city.

21 "And the portion for the prince, on the one side and on the other of the holy allotment, shall be 10,000 cubits toward the east border and width 10,000 in length.

22 "And exclusive of the property of the Levites and the property of the prince, which is the portion of the LORD, that which belongs to the prince, everything between the border of Judah and the border of Benjamin, shall be for the prince.

23 "And the portion for the prince, on the one side and on the other of the holy allotment, shall be 10,000 cubits toward the east border and width 10,000 in length.

24 "And beside the border of Benjamin, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

25 "And beside the border of Simeon, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

26 "And beside the border of Issachar, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

27 "And beside the border of Zebulun, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

28 "And beside the border of Manasseh, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

29 "And beside the border of Ephraim, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

30 "And beside the border of Dan, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

31 "And beside the border of Joseph, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

32 "And beside the border of Asher, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

33 "And beside the border of Naphtali, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

34 "And beside the border of Gad, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

35 "And beside the border of Reuben, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

36 "And beside the border of Judah, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

37 "And beside the border of Issachar, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

38 "And beside the border of Zebulun, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

39 "And beside the border of Manasseh, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

40 "And beside the border of Ephraim, from the east side to the west side, one portion.

31 shall be the gates of the city, named for the tribes of Israel, three gates toward the north; the gate of Reuben, one; the gate of Judah, one; the gate of Levi, one.

32 "And on the east side, 4,500 cubits, shall be three gates: the gate of Joseph, one; the gate of Benjamin, one; the gate of Dan, one.

33 "And on the south side, 4,500 cubits, shall be three gates: the gate of Simeon, one; the gate of Issachar, one; the gate of Zebulun, one.

34 "On the west side, 4,500 cubits, shall be three gates: the gate of Gad, one; the gate of Asher, one; the gate of Naphtali, one.

35 "The city shall be 18,000 cubits in length, and 10,000 in width.

36 "The LORD is here."

37 "The LORD is here."

38 "The LORD is here."

39 "The LORD is here."

40 "The LORD is here."

41 "The LORD is here."

42 "The LORD is here."

43 "The LORD is here."

44 "The LORD is here."

45 "The LORD is here."

46 "The LORD is here."

47 "The LORD is here."

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50 "The LORD is here."

51 "The LORD is here."

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49 "The LORD is here."

50 "The LORD is here."

51 "The LORD is here."

8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself

Daniel's Resolve

The Interview

DANIEL 1:19 King Nebuchadnezzar talked with them and out of them ALL not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah - so they entered the king's personal service.

On every matter of wisdom and understanding which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm

The "Prep-Indoctrination"
The "Interview"
The "Outcome"
The "Assessment"
Ashpenaz 3 years intensive immersion
Nebuchadnezzar
into the King's service at age 15
10x better

Daniel simply asked for a waiver-allowance . . .
BUT GOD granted/gifted wisdom understanding knowledge discernment
and Favor!

First Test in Babylon

DANIEL 1:17-20

Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams

Magi are soothsayers, prognosticators, diviners, have + interpret dreams, astrology

every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them

he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers in all his realm

- magicians [from "Magi"] Daniel a novice-apprentice Mag = "priest"

- Daniel writes using his and the others' Hebrew names

Daniel 1 to 2:3 written in Hebrew

Daniel 2:4 to 7:28 written in Aramaic

Qumran scrolls prove 6th Century BC NOT later! [2nd Cent. Maccabees?]

Daniel chapters 8 to 12 written in Hebrew

BIG DEBATES for centuries among theologians

perhaps Hebrew when about Israel – Aramaic when about Gentiles

DANIEL 1:21 - and Daniel continued [as a Mag] until the first year of Cyrus the king after 3 years indoctrination training program

1. Daniel serves Nebuchadnezzar 602-562 BC

2. Then serves Darius the Mede - Babylon falls to Medes in [Daniel 5:31] then referred to again in Daniel 6 Who is Darius?

Greek historian Xenophon Cyropaedia describes Cyaxares II - throne name is "Darius" Cyrus and Darius/Cyaxares were co-regents - Cyrus did not wipe out those he conquered but assimilated prior peoples into new realm Darius died 2 years after fall of Babylon - then Cyrus had sole power [Herodotus account is revisionist history to legitimize Cyrus as sole ruler]

Darius and Ahasuerus [Xerxes] = throne names of first 2 Persian kings in dynasty that follows Cyrus - GREAT evidence using "throne names" from earlier dynasty

Daniel 9:1 the first year of Darius son of Ahasuerus of Median descent - who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans - Darius the Mede is in fact Cyaxares II

3. Daniel serves until Cyrus [Persian] to throne 539 BC [died 530] so if Daniel born 617 BC age 78 in 539 ["Jews can return"] Begins in 536 exactly 70 years captivity 605-536

Amazing Parallels

DANIEL

- taken captive by force
- exiled slave to Babylon
- blessed with wisdom
- able to interpret ruler's dream
- treachery/betrayal/injustice
- den of lions
- promoted to high position
- understands the "end"

JOSEPH

- dumped in pit + sold to Ishmaelites
- exiled slave to Egypt
- blessed with wisdom
- able to interpret ruler's dream
- treachery/betrayal/injustice
- prison
- promoted to high position
- understands the "end"

Hosea 5:15 Joseph and Jesus

Zechariah 12:10-12 Joseph and Jesus

Figure It Out

Next Monday - January 23rd

DANIEL chapter 2:1-30

VOTE: Monday Jan. 30th I fly in at 11pm
skip that week OR meet Tues. Jan 31st

