



CAPITOL COMMISSION

Daniel – Chief Counsel to Kings

JULY 23, 2010

REV. MATTHEW BARNES / WWW.CAPITOLCOM.ORG

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. 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. 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; 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. 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. Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 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. (Daniel 1:1-7)

“[Daniel] lived a long and active life in the courts and councils of some of the greatest monarchs the world ever had: Nebuchadnezzar, Cyrus, and Darius. Who was more intimately acquainted with the mind of God than Daniel, a courtier, statesmen, and a man of business? If those that have much to do in the world plead [occupation] as an excuse for the infrequency and slightness of their converse with God, Daniel will condemn them.” (Matthew Henry)

Daniel was taken into captivity around 605 B.C. The carrying away of royal captives fulfilled the prophecy made to Hezekiah 100 years previously, that his offspring would be carried away into captivity and would become eunuchs.

Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon. (Isaiah 39:6-7)

King Nebuchadnezzar had strict requirements for the captives that would serve him at court -

- 1.) **Children:** *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; (Daniel 1:3)*

- 2.) **Royalty:** *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; (Daniel 1:3)*
- 3.) **Good Looking:** *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. (Daniel 1:4)*
- 4.) **Smart:** *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. (Daniel 1:4)*
- 5.) **Mature and Discreet:** *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. (Daniel 1:4)*

Among the Hebrews, a man's name generally incorporated one or both of the two principal divine names: Elohim and Yahweh ("Jehovah"). El-, the first syllable of Elohim, might appear in the name either at the beginning (as in "Elijah") or at the end (as in "Daniel" and "Ezekiel"). Yah- (in English variously spelled "Je-", "-jah," or "-iah"), the first syllable of Yahweh, might also appear either at the beginning (as in "Jehu" and "Jehoshaphat") or at the end (as in "Hezekiah," "Zechariah," "Isaiah," and "Elijah").

Any remaining portion of a Hebrew name—any portion that did not point to God—was also meaningful. So, the name as a whole was a condensed thought. For example, "Ezekiel" means "God strengthens" (12). The names of Daniel and his friends express important spiritual truths.

- 1) **Daniel** - "God is my judge"
- 2) **Hananiah** - "God has been gracious"
- 3) **Mishael** - "Who is what God is?"
- 4) **Azariah** - "God has helped"¹

¹ Stanley Edgar Rickard, Jr - www.themoorings.org

BIBLE STUDIES

CHAPEL SERVICES: THURSDAY @ 12:10-12:35 P.M.
STAFF/LOBBYIST BIBLE STUDY: FRIDAY @ 12:30 P.M., CHAPEL ROOM