



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

When Your Name is a Lie!

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

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Daniel 1:3-7 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of the eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, 4) young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had the ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. 5) And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of the time they might serve before the king. 6) Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 7) To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego. (NKJV)

SINCE THEIR NAMES WERE CHANGED, EITHER THE KING OR HIS PREFECT ASHPENAZ WISHED TO FORCE THEM UNDER THE YOKE, AS IF HE WOULD PUT BEFORE THEIR EYES THE JUDGMENT OF THEIR OWN SLAVERY AS OFTEN AS THEY HEARD THEIR NAMES...TO CAUSE THESE MISERABLE EXILES TO FEEL THEMSELVES IN CAPTIVITY, AND CUT OFF FROM THE RACE OF ISRAEL; AND BY THIS MARK OR SYMBOL THEY WERE REDUCED TO SLAVERY...THIS WAS INDEED A HARD TRIAL, BUT IT MATTERED NOT TO THE SERVANTS OF GOD TO BE CONTEMPTUOUSLY TREATED BEFORE MEN, SO LONG AS THEY WERE NOT INFECTED WITH ANY CORRUPTION. JOHN CALVIN

What were the fifteen qualifications that these new exiles had to possess? How many dealt with outward appearance? Which ones required leadership and intellect? Of what did their course work comprise? What would have been their only delight? Why three years? How fierce was the scholastic competition? What was unique about the names of those from Judah? Were their new names a means of manipulation?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > FEBRUARY 17: DANIEL 1:8-15 **DANIEL & HIS FRIENDS ALONE TAKE THEIR STAND FOR GOD**
- > FEBRUARY 24: DANIEL 1:16-21 **GOD GRANTS DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS THE HIGHEST LEADERSHIP**

Nebuchadnezzar has just been given Jerusalem, the capital of the southern kingdom of Israel, by God. He immediately hears that his father, King Nabopolassar, has died, so he rushes back across the desert to establish his kingdom over the Babylonians. But before his departure, he takes some of the most valuable golden articles from the Temple as a conquest of war. This was not to stop the worship in the Temple, but to prove the superiority of his god. The second thing he requires before he departs are hostages that will be captive in his own court to personally help him manage his expanding empire, bring honor of conquest and talent to his court, help him quell any rebellion from their nation, and hopefully enjoy wisdom beyond that of Solomon in their collective solutions. Ashpenaz is required to identify these with at least than fifteen qualifications for the king's approval.

THE KING WANTED NO FOREIGN-SOUNDING NAMES AROUND HIS PERSON, SO HE CHANGED THE NAMES OF THE FOUR YOUNG HEBREW PRINCES, THUS SIGNIFYING THEIR ADOPTION INTO THE BABYLONIAN COURT AND CULTURE. HE WOULD HAVE THEM FORGET NOT ONLY THEIR PAST ... BUT ALSO THEIR RELIGION AND RACE. JOHN PHILLIPS

BIBLE STUDIES

THURSDAY @ 6:30 AM –PRAYER MEETING – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

THURSDAY @ 7:00 AM –BIBLE STUDY – GAB 6TH FLOOR SPEAKER'S CONFERENCE ROOM

Virginia

When Your Name is a Lie!

I. THE BEST MEN

DANIEL 1:3-4

Much to the dismay of his fellow Chaldeans, the rulers of the Babylonians, their new King Nebuchadnezzar gave a level field of opportunity for those whom he would promote to serve with him in his new empire. However, his people had the advantage of already knowing the language, land, culture and literature. Yet the foreign students were pre-qualified, accelerating the competition. They had to be men, of noble birth, young, without blemish, cheerful, handsome, masculine (having skillful leadership), with all wisdom (intelligence in every discipline), gifted, with knowledge (inquisitive-curious enough to acquire knowledge), with understanding (knowing enough of the past to anticipate the future), with discernment (smart), strong and fit in body, with the ability to stand in the palace of the king, able to quickly learn languages, and able to assimilate the literature of the Chaldeans. These were the best men with the best minds!

THERE SHALL COME FORTH A ROD FROM THE STEM OF JESSE, AND A BRANCH SHALL GROW OUT OF HIS ROOTS. THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST UPON HIM, THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD. ISAIAH 11:1-2

II. THE BEST MEALS

DANIEL 1:5

Once these young men got to Babylon and began their three year Masters Program with their Chaldean instructors, Nebuchadnezzar awarded them personally and continually by commanding day by day their precise menu to match his own. This would have been the highest quality, freshest, most delicious and considered the most healthy and most well prepared and attractively presented meals by the royal master chefs of the king, for the king! The wine was also the best in the empire, aged to perfection. Everything else may have been difficult, especially the expectations placed upon them for their

learning, but the meal time would have been fully enjoyed by all the other foreign students, otherwise suffering from their exile and the demands of their scholarship. But mealtime was the most difficult time of all for Daniel and his three friends, because the food was commanded by the king. God had commanded that certain meats were “*unclean*” and were not to be eaten in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. How could they know what kind of meat it was until they tasted it, or drew attention to themselves by asking about it? Worse, by not eating the meats they would be even drawing greater attention to themselves and potentially the wrath of the king! To add to their dilemma, most likely all the meat and wine had first been offered and dedicated to the Babylonian gods.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM, AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY ONE IS UNDERSTANDING. PROVERBS 9:10

III. THE BEST MANIPULATION

DANIEL 1:6-7

Godly parents had named these lads during the revival led by King Josiah. Daniel’s name meant “God is my Judge,” a reminder that God would judge his thoughts, actions and life. Hananiah meant “Yahweh is gracious.” Mishael meant “Who is what God is?” And Azariah meant “Yahweh has helped.” Their new names exalted their captors’ false gods: Daniel was called “Belteshazzar” meaning “May Bel protect his life” pointing to the king’s god (Daniel 4:8). Hananiah was named “Shadrach,” showing he was commanded by “Aku” their moon god. Mishael became “Meshach” meaning “Who is what Aku is?” And Azariah was “Abednego” meaning “Servant of Nebo.” Therefore, multiple times a day as they heard their names, their minds went to the false gods they were named after, which they knew didn’t even exist! Would they challenge their evil education from the Chaldeans, their delicious food from the king or their pagan names?

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Who do you turn to in times of hardship and difficulty?
- 2) Are you committed to Jesus Christ and obedience to Him and His Word?
- 3) How do you decide which are the most important issues for you to take your stand?