



# CAPITOL COMMISSION<sup>®</sup>

## Daniel and his Friends Take their First Stand

FEBRUARY 17, 2022

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**Daniel 1:8-15** *But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9) Now God had brought Daniel into favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. 10) And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king." 11) So Daniel said to the steward who the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12) "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13) Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants." 14) So he consented to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. 15) And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. (NKJV)*

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THE GREAT MISSIONARY TO CHINA, HUDSON TAYLOR, SAID, "UNLESS THERE IS THE ELEMENT OF *EXTREME RISK* IN OUR EXPLOITS FOR GOD, THERE IS NO NEED FOR FAITH" (NEWELL, *EXPECT GREAT THINGS*, 89, EMPHASIS ADDED). THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT THAT DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS' EXPLOITS ... HAD ... *EXTREME RISK*. DANNY AKIN

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What was it about the king's delicacies that would "defile" Daniel? Was Daniel risking his own life and those around him with his request? How much favor had God given to Daniel in the eyes of the chief of the eunuchs? Did he give the most important key to Daniel regarding their food? Why were they provided an additional "steward"? Was Daniel's offer almost irresistible? What was the key outcome the king wanted?

### FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > FEBRUARY 24: DANIEL 1:16-21 *GOD GRANTS DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS THE HIGHEST LEADERSHIP*
- > MARCH 3: DANIEL 2:1-6 *THE EMPEROR'S DEMAND: DO THE IMPOSSIBLE OR DIE!*

These Judean princes from the royal line of David, named during the revival of King Josiah, were now emasculated slaves. They had been kidnapped because of their excellence and deported over nine hundred miles from home. To remove from them all loyalty to their God, their names had been changed by their captors to honor and praise their false gods. Most of the world, and especially the Babylonians, assumed their gods had conquered the God of Israel. The continual use of these names by the Judean princes in their palace proved their assumption true in their minds. Worse, the "*literature of the Chaldeans*" they were forced to learn would have also honored their false gods. To make matters even worse, their menu of delicious "*delicacies*" and best wine from the king would have been first been offered to these false gods to sustain the priests in their pagan temples. Where was this avalanche of onslaught against the true God of Israel to stop? Daniel made his decision by God's Word.

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*BLESSED IS THE MAN WHO WALKS NOT IN THE COUNSEL OF THE UNGODLY, NOR STANDS IN THE PATH OF SINNERS, NOR SITS IN THE SEAT OF THE SCORNFUL; BUT HIS DELIGHT IS IN THE LAW OF THE LORD, PSALM 1:1-2A*

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### BIBLE STUDIES

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

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

# Virginia

## Daniel and his Friends Take their First Stand

### I. PURPOSE TO OBEY

#### DANIEL 1:8

In verse seven the concept is repeated twice that the “chief of the eunuchs gave” them their new names. The word “gave” means “to put, place, or set” with a sense of finality so that here it carries the meaning “to impose.” The same word is used to begin verse eight, “Daniel imposed upon his heart.” He “purposed” with a sense of finality. He would not allow otherwise because it would “defile” him which would be in direct disobedience to the Word of God. Leviticus 11:7 names a specific delicacy that would have been among the scavengers that the Babylonians would have eaten. It was also necessary to drain animals properly and not to eat the blood (Genesis 9:4-6, Leviticus 17:13; 19:26, Deuteronomy 12: 23-25). Finally, these delicacies and wine would have been first offered to the Babylonian pagan deities in worship and gratitude for conquest, which things God had clearly forbidden (Exodus 34:14-15, Numbers 25:1-2).

problem. Daniel does not know whether the delicacies appointed personally by the king are primarily to 1) make them worship his gods as this food has been dedicated to them, 2) make them dependent upon him, emphasizing their slavery, 3) reward their difficult labor in studying his language and literature, or 4) fatten them up because the king doesn’t want sad, skinny teenagers, but happy, hefty young men in his court. The chief of the eunuchs relates to Daniel that the latter is the reason and he also seems to place a “steward” over them to minimize his risk and their risk. He probably has also separated them from the others so that if they choose the risk, they will not be noticed. All of this is given by God for their obedience.

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WHEN A MAN'S WAYS PLEASE THE LORD, HE MAKES EVEN HIS ENEMIES TO BE AT PEACE WITH HIM.  
PROVERBS 16:7

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KEEP BACK YOUR SERVANT ALSO FROM PRESUMPTUOUS SINS; LET THEM NOT HAVE DOMINION OVER ME. THEN I SHALL BE BLAMELESS, AND I SHALL BE INNOCENT OF GREAT TRANSGRESSION. PSALM 19:13

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### II. PROTECTION FROM THE OFFICER DANIEL 1:9-11

The chief of the eunuchs would have been surprised to hear these youths desiring to pass on the king’s delicacies. The usual response would have been to report them immediately to the king who would have probably become enraged at their ingratitude and killed them. Yet by their obvious love and commitment to Him, God “gave” (same word as verse two) him a great love for them in “favor and goodwill.” The first word is usually translated “lovingkindness” and the second is a plural of intensity revealing a deep sympathy. Yet his answer seems to be “no” in that he was not willing to risk his life for Daniel and his friends. The two things he does do in his response provides Daniel the keys to overcome the

### III. PREVAILING BY OBEDIENCE DANIEL 1:12-15

Now that Daniel knows the rich delicacies are to fatten them up, he devises a strategy that requires great faith and some strategic wisdom. He asks the steward for a ten-day test with just “vegetables” and “water.” The word for “vegetables?” includes anything grown from seed. Such would include all the breads, dates, fruit and vegetables that were available but would not have been sacrificed to the gods because the meat and wine were considered to be the best. John Walvoord’s commentary says (p. 35), “A. Leo Oppenheim lists deliveries of oil for the sustenance of dependents of the royal household in ancient literature and includes specific mention of food for the sons of the king of Judah in a tablet dating from the tenth to the thirty-fifth year of Nebuchadnezzar.” Curiosity alone would demand a yes to this non-risky ten-day test and the steward is the one deciding whether or not it will continue by the results. God granted them to appear “better and fatter in flesh” than everyone else! They were then able to continue in their obedience to God.

#### Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you choose your battles by obedience to God’s Word?
- 2) Are you willing to take significant risks avoid sin and be obedient to God?
- 3) Does your love for God encourage you to find creative solutions to also be at peace with others?