



CAPITOL COMMISSION®

God-Given Leadership

FEBRUARY 24, 2022

Pastor David Andersen / 804-796-9411 / PO Box 2020, Chesterfield, VA 23832 / David.Andersen@capitolcom.org

Daniel 1:16-21 *Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine which they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. 17) As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18) Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19) Then the king interviewed them, and among them all was none found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. 20) And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. 21) Thus Daniel continued until the first year of king Cyrus. (NKJV)*

BUT SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED TO YOU. JESUS CHRIST-MATTHEW 6:33

Was the godliness of Daniel and his three friends continually triumphant? Did God give them exactly what they needed? What was their final graduation examination? Should King Nebuchadnezzar have begun to realize God’s intervention when all four of the top students were from Israel? Did these top four continue to excel, even as they served in the king’s court? Did these Hebrew slaves become even better than all their teachers? What was the significance of “the first year of king Cyrus”?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- > MARCH 3: DANIEL 2:1-6 **THE EMPEROR'S DEMAND: DO THE IMPOSSIBLE OR DIE!**
- > MARCH 10: SELECTED SCRIPTURES: **GUEST PASTOR, DR. MARK BECTON**

Nebuchadnezzar in his tyranny and pride would have never accepted the truth that “*God gave*” (v. 2) him the victory over Israel and especially Jerusalem. He had just defeated the growing empire of the Assyrians at the Battle of Carchemish and no-doubt considered himself invincible. However, he would come to that realization in Daniel 4. Daniel gives God all the glory after he had “*purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself*” with the king’s delicacies and wine because to partake of them was direct disobedience against the Word of God. Thus he acknowledges that literally “*God gave*” (v. 9) him favor with the chief of the eunuchs, which was in answer to the prayer of Solomon 400 years earlier at the dedication of the Temple (1 Kings 8:50). It was this leader of the eunuchs who gave him the keys to do his ten-day test with the steward. Thus Daniel and his three friends were able to obey God faithfully under the demands of an evil tyrant who carefully schemed to make them forget their true God and serve his false gods. Our passage includes the third time that “*God gave*” in this chapter.

NOW GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN. 1 TIMOTHY 6:6

I. GREAT GAIN

DANIEL 1:16

Daniel had led and his three friends had joined him in their stand to be obedient to the Word of God. They let obedience to the God’s Word decide their battles. Why didn’t the other captives from Israel join them after the success of their test? They must have liked the food or still feared the king more than they feared their God. No

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

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doubt this experiment continued with the understanding between them and the steward that if they began to lose weight or look worse in any way, the king's diet would be resumed. Thus God continued His miraculous work of daily making these young men look better and heftier on vegetables throughout the three years of their training. In gratitude for the cooperation of the chief of the eunuchs, Daniel and his three friends surely worked even harder on their Babylonian language and literature studies.

THE MOST HIGH RULES IN THE KINGDOM OF MEN, GIVES IT TO WHOMEVER HE WILL, AND SETS OVER IT THE LOWEST OF MEN.
NEBUCHADNEZZAR-DANIEL 4:17

II. GOD'S GIFT

DANIEL 1:17-20

God begins with an emphasis on these four obedient young men as the objects of His supernatural gifts to advance their leadership. "God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom." These were the essential gifts to administer the empire. This was why they were chosen and why Nebuchadnezzar had invested in them as much as he possibly could. They were not only given the best food that the king himself ate each day, they would have been given the best teachers the Chaldeans could offer. They had just acquired a great library from the Assyrians to add to their own library which was already extensive. Inherent in this gift from God was the ability to quickly learn and easily read (and possibly even speak) in at least four foreign languages so they could master the material offered to them in the Babylonian collections. Of the four words describing the four exiles' supernatural giftedness, two of them match what God had given Solomon when he became king over Israel in the place of David his father (2 Chronicles 1:1-12). They are "knowledge" and "wisdom," but he is also given three others that he did not even ask for. If verse twelve is only referring to "kings," then it is possible that Daniel even excels Solomon, particularly in the fact that he is given

two more areas of supernatural giftedness, "*understanding in all visions and dreams.*" It was specifically in visions and dreams that the Chaldeans considered their learning to exceed the rest of the world of their day. Yet Daniel later proved that he was farther advanced than them all with God's supernatural help. On their graduation day, when these four godly scholars were presented with their whole school of exiles before the king after their three year Babylonian education, "*among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.*" Because of their God-given leadership, "*they served before the king.*" When they joined their teachers in administrating the kingdom in the king's court, Nebuchadnezzar would have been astounded. "*He found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.*" These youths far exceeded all his most trusted empire advisors!

I HAVE MORE UNDERSTANDING THAN ALL MY TEACHERS, FOR YOUR TESTIMONIES ARE MY MEDITATION. I UNDERSTAND MORE THAN THE ANCIENTS, BECAUSE I KEEP YOUR PRECEPTS.
PSALM 119:99-100

III. GALLANT GRACE

DANIEL 1:21

Also, Daniel is given a long life. Here he has out-lived several emperors and even the Babylonian Empire itself. However, this verse is not about the long life of Daniel because he lives longer (10:1), it is all about God answering prayer and His faithfulness to His Word. God had promised that the Israelites would return to their land after seventy years of captivity (Jeremiah 25:9-12, 29:10-14). However, there had been three deportations. Daniel and his friends were among the first in 605 BC. There was a second, much larger deportation in 597 BC and an even larger deportation in 586 BC. Daniel's prayer (9:1-19) is mercifully answered by God, and this verse celebrates their return. God has not only kept his Word, He has graciously granted them the most early return!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you give God the glory for the political position He has given you?
- 2) When it comes to deciding your battles, are you choosing them by obedience to Scripture?
- 3) Are you taking God at His Word and mercifully praying for the salvation of your fellow leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-4)?