



Lesson 152

Daniel Takes a Stand

Story Elements

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Text: Daniel 1:1-21 • Setting: circa 605 BC, in Babylon • Main Characters: God, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, Nebuchadnezzar, and • Plot: Daniel begins life as a captive in Babylon by taking a stand for his people and his God. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key word(s): “_____ in his heart” (v 8) • Climax: Daniel 1:13 <i>Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king’s meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.</i> |
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Biographical Sketch

1. (vv 1-2) The conquest of Jerusalem by the Babylonians came in three stages: the first in 605, the second in 597, and the final stage was in 586 BC, when the city was completely destroyed. Daniel was taken captive in the first invasion of _____ BC (which was the third year of Jehoiakim's reign according to Babylonian dating).
 - (a) Daniel was approximately ____ years of age when he was taken to Babylon. As a captive in Babylon, he was trained in Chaldean language and culture, and used as a counselor in the royal court.
 - (b) Daniel served in the government at Babylon for many years, outliving the Babylonian Empire and surviving to serve under the Persian emperor Cyrus. He served the empire as a statesman, and he served God as a prophet. Many believe he lived to be about ____ years of age, possibly more.

Tempted and Tried

2. (vv 3-4) Daniel was recruited to serve in the royal court as an advisor because he met four qualifications: 1) he was from a wealthy family, 2) _____ and free of physical defects, 3) educated and intelligent, and 4) well-mannered and poised.
3. (vv 5-7) Part of the process of preparing the chosen captives for life as courtiers included:
 - (a) _____ years of education in Chaldean culture and language
 - (b) _____ changes that reflected the pagan gods of their new king
 - (c) Being fed with the same sumptuous _____ that the king enjoyed
4. (v 8) *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.”* There are two possible reasons why Daniel, who seems to have led the other Hebrew youth in this matter, refused to eat the king's rich diet:
 - (a) Pagan meat and drink were usually offered to _____. Therefore, to stay true to the law of Moses, abstaining from the king's table was necessary.

Exodus 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God: 15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;

(b) It is likely that many of the foods offered violated Jewish _____ law.

Ten Times Better

- (vv 9-14) Ashpenaz, the chief of the eunuchs, was hesitant to allow Daniel and his friends to eat from a restricted menu – he feared _____ from the king if the chosen youth fared poorly. But Daniel suggested a trial period of ten days to see whether the Hebrew children maintained their health under the kosher diet.
- (vv 15-16) At the end of the ten-day trial, the prince of the eunuchs saw that Daniel and his friends not only maintained their health but _____ the health of the other youth who were fed from the king's table. The Hebrews were allowed to continue in their humble diet.
- (vv 17-21) The LORD blessed Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. They were divinely _____ with wisdom and intelligence and exceeded the pagan astrologers and magicians in their ability to answer questions and solve problems.

Application

- God honors those that honor him. Daniel and his companions could have become _____ against God for their captivity, but instead they turned their trial into an opportunity to stand for God in a pagan culture.

1 Samuel 2:30 ...for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.

- As Christians, we are called to stand for Christ in a world that is opposed to the Gospel. Daniel was rewarded in this life for his stand, but Christians especially look to eternity for our reward.

Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall _____ me before men, him will I _____ also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.

Notes: _____

Answer Key: Key word(s): “purposed” • 1. 605; a) 15; b) 85 • 2. attractive • 3. a) three; b) name; c) diet • 4. a) idols; b) dietary • 5. punishment • 6. exceeded • 7. gifted • 8. embittered • Matthew 10:32 confess; confess

How to use this worksheet for personal Bible study: (1) Read the Bible passage given in the **Story Elements** section. (2) Read through the worksheet and try to fill in the blanks without looking at the **Answer Key**. (3) Check your answers with the key and make the necessary corrections. Keep in mind that some answers are a matter of opinion, and often more than one answer is correct. (4) Write down your own thoughts, applications, and questions for further study in the **Notes** section.