



# Israel Exiled to Babylon

## A Study of Daniel 1

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File: Daniel 1

# Relationship with Christ

- The Most Important Understanding about our Salvation:
  - We believe eternal life is a gift from God in **Christ Jesus** and we are justified by His grace and His faith who paid the price; death, for our transgressions

**Romans 3:21-26; 4:4-5,25; 6:23; Ephesians 2:4-10; Titus 3:4-7** (Is 53; Eze 36:25-27; John 3:3-8,16; 16:8; Rom 5:6-10; 8:1-4, 14-17; 1Cor 15:3-4,20-22; 2Cor 5:14-15,19-21; Gal 1:4; 3:13-14,26; 4:4-7; Phil 2:6-11; Col 1:13-14; Heb 8:7-12; 1Pet 1:23; 2Pet 1:3-4; 1John 2:2; 4:10)

- God “sent his angel to show his servants” the future (Rev 22:6) **“Do not despise prophecies.”** 1Thess 5:20
  - Purpose: To share the vital necessity of a character transforming relationship with **Christ**, namely the Gospel of **His sacrifice for all who call Him Lord and Savior** (Ps 1:1-2; Matt 20:25-28; Luke 19:17-20; John 20:21; Rom 12:2; 2Cor 3:17-18; Gal 5:22-25; Eph 5:19-21; 6:12-18; Phil 3:7-14; Col 2:6; 1Thess 5:16-23; Heb 10:25; 2Pet 2:9; 3:18; 1John 4:4)

# Principles of Bible Study

- Paul's counsel to Timothy:
  - <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,**  
<sup>17</sup> **that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.** 2Tim 3:16-17 (Ps 119:105; Prov 30:5-6; Is 8:20; John 17:17; 1Thess 2:13; Heb 4:12)
  - **for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.** 2Pet 1:21
- Bible versions:
  - Use versions with the closest translation to the original language
    - **Recommend comparing NKJV (used here), NASB95, KJV, and ESV**
  - Concordance sources: [www.abibleconcordance.com](http://www.abibleconcordance.com); [www.blueletterbible.org](http://www.blueletterbible.org)
- Use of Expository study methods (versus Thematic study)
  - This method explores the literal meaning of each word in Scripture and its relationship to other words in its context (exegesis)

# Principles of Interpretation

- It's important to be consistent by using the same principles, pattern, and understanding of the **Book of Daniel** for the prophecies in **Revelation** (Num 12:6; 2Chron 20:20; Joel 2:28-29; Amos 3:7; Acts 2:14-21; Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 22:8-9)
- **Every word deserves careful consideration**
  - **“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little.”** Isaiah 28:10,13
- The Historicist method of interpretation is used for both Daniel and Revelation
- Some of Daniel and much of Revelation is symbolic; identified based on context and content
  - Look for definitions elsewhere within these two books first, then the Bible as a whole; then in history
- ✓ The visions of Daniel 2, 7, 8, 9, and 10-12 build on each other progressively, amplifying and adding important details; **“repeat and enlarge”**
- ✓ Application of the 1 prophetic day = 1 year rule (**Numbers 14:34, Ezekiel 4:4-6**) is key to the interpretation of time prophecies in Daniel and Revelation (Gen 29:27; Lev 25:1-7)

# Rebellion or Redemption?



# Daniel the Prophet Matt 24:15

- Daniel and his 3 friends were exiled in 605<sup>BC</sup> when the Lord allowed Nebuchadnezzar to rule over Jerusalem as foretold by Jeremiah (Jer 25; 27:22) as recorded in 2Ki 24:10-17 (Is 39:6-7; Jer 29; Micah 4:10)
  - Ezra indicates (2Chr 36:15-21) that the 70 year Babylonian exile was directed by God because His chosen people did not turn from evil and false worship
- Much of Daniel is literal, however symbolic language is used such as Dan 1:20 (“**ten times**”), the beast’s descriptions (Daniel 7, 8 & 11) referring to kings and kingdoms, and both literal and spiritual applications in Daniel 11:40-45
- The book of Daniel is written in a chiasm, a double list of related items in which the order of the second list is opposite of the first list:
  - The outer chapters (Dan 1:1-2:4a and 8-12) were written in Hebrew
  - The inner chapters (Dan 2:4b – Dan 7:28) were written in Aramaic

## Chronological Overview

# The Book of Daniel

- Daniel 1: an account of the first Babylonian exile (605BC)
- **Daniel 2: Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the kingdoms** (603BC)
- Daniel 3: Nebuchadnezzar builds the image of his dream to worship
- Daniel 4: Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great tree
  - Chapter 4 is a letter written by Nebuchadnezzar
- **Daniel 7: Daniel's dream of the kingdoms as beasts** (553BC)
- **Daniel 8: Daniel's vision with further kingdom details** (551BC)
- Daniel 5: an account of the fall of Belshazzar and Babylon (539BC)
- Daniel 6: The lion's den and Darius the Mede (539/8BC)
- **Daniel 9: Gabriel further explains 2300 days/yrs in ch.8** (538BC)
  - Including the 70 weeks (490 yrs) "cut off" of the 2,300 years until Christ's ministry began
- **Daniel 10-12: Gabriel provides specific details of the kings and kingdoms to come through the second coming of Jesus** (535BC)

# Daniel – A Sad Perspective

- ✓ Moses pronounced curses if God's law was trespassed, including a nation against Israel with a foreign tongue, as swift as the eagle. Deut 28:49-50
- ✓ During Micah's ministry (735-710BC), while Assyria was in power, the Babylonian captivity was predicted. Micah 4:10
- ✓ Isaiah warned King Hezekiah after his illness was healed (near 700bc) that Babylon would conquer Judah. Is 39:1-7
- ✓ God warned that the Babylonians (Chaldeans) would soon invade the land. Hab 1:6-11 (Jer 4:11-13; Eze 7:24)
- ✓ The Lord revealed to Jeremiah in 605bc, just *before* the exile, that Judah would be captive for 70 years. Jer 25; 27:22
- ✓ Nebuchadnezzar defeated Egypt at Carchemish. Jerusalem was then approached from the north. Jer 1:14-16; 46:2
- ✓ Nebuchadnezzar's father, Nabopolassar died on 8/16/605bc. Nebuchadnezzar rushed back to Babylon across the Arabian desert and took the throne on 9/07/605.



# Daniel – A Sad Perspective

- ✓ King Jehoiakim of Judah (609-598BC) rebelled so Nebuchadnezzar took aristocratic captives. 2Ki 24:1-4; 2Ch 36:5; Jer 51:20-26 (**Rebellion is witchcraft** according to 1Sam 15:23)
- ✓ The captives were marched some 600 miles from Jerusalem to Babylon (60 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq)
- ✓ Soon after the first captivity, Jeremiah sent this letter to the exiles confirming the 70 year prophecy: Jer 29
- ✓ Daniel was a young man, about 18. He lived through the 70 year captivity prophesied in Jer 25:8-14
  - In 539BC, Daniel, noting Jeremiah's prophecy, prays for the Lord to fulfill His promise (Dan 9:3-20)
- ✓ Daniel and his three friends were contemporaries of the prophets Habakkuk [607], Jeremiah [627-580], and Ezekiel [592-570], likely knowing them

# Daniel – A Sad Perspective

- ✓ Daniel and his three friends were contemporaries with the last five kings of Judah. (Josiah [641-609], Jehoahaz [609], Jehoiakim [609-598], Jehoiachin [598-597], Zedekiah [597-586])
- ✓ Daniel was trained and taught by his parents. (egwwritings.org) {PP 592.2-3}
- ✓ Jesus referred to "Daniel the prophet" in Matt 24:15. The Hebrews were to be a witness of God in Babylon, as well. Jer 51:9
- ✓ In Zechariah's vision of 2/15/519, the Angel referred to 70 years of spiritual "captivity" (no temple, yet), as Zerubbabel (Sheshbazzar of Ezra 1:11) had led 49,897 people back to Jerusalem in 537BC (Ezra 2:64). Zech 1:12
- ✓ The Lord asks about the 5th and 7th month fasts for the past 70 years since the temple was destroyed, and governor Gedaliah was murdered (Jer 40:7-43:7). The new temple was completed 3/12/515BC. Zech 7:5
- ✓ Ezra (active 457-440BC), reflecting back, notes that the Babylonian exile occurred because God's people did not turn from evil and false worship. 2Chron 36:15-21

# Daniel 1

- **Daniel 1 Structure:**
  - The account in Daniel 1:1-7 is a record of the first exile of Judah out of its “promised land” by Babylon
    - Daniel and his three friends were deported in 605BC, (Jer 25:1-14) the first of three Judean exiles. Ezekiel was part of the second exile of 597BC, and King Zedekiah was exiled in 586BC when Jerusalem and Solomon's Temple were destroyed
  - Daniel 1:8-16 is the story of Daniel and his three friends’ commitment to God regardless of consequences
  - Daniel 1:17-21 provides the result of maintaining integrity to the Lord

# Daniel 1:1

- “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.
  - **King Jehoiakim (609-598BC)** (2Ki 23:35-24:7; 2Chr 36:5-8; Jer 36:1-32)
    - **The first full calendar year of rule is designated as when to count dates in Judah at that time, therefore the siege and first exile was in 605BC** (Jer 25:1)

# Daniel 1:2

- “And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.”
  - **Shinar was the land of the Chaldeans, Babylon** (Gen 10:10; 11:2; Is 11:11; 39:3; Zech 5:11)
  - **It was common to show superiority of “gods” with military successes**
    - **Gold and Silver vessels** (2Chr 36:7; Jer 27:19-20; Dan 5:2)
  - **The Lord gave Israel to Babylon – Why?**
    - **Violence, iniquity, strife, contention: Hab 1:1-11**
    - **Unrighteousness, covetousness, oppression and violence: Jer 22:13-19**
    - **God controls who is and is not placed into positions of authority** (Dan 2:37)

# Daniel 1:3-4

- “<sup>3</sup> Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, <sup>4</sup> young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.”
  - **Daniel and his friends were made eunuchs in Nebuchadnezzar's court as predicted to King Hezekiah** (2Ki 20:17-18; Is 39:7)
  - **Moses' experience was similar (Ex 2). An intentional plan for assimilation into a new culture.** (Gen 41:45)

# Daniel 1:5

- “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 that time they might serve before the king.”
  - **Delicacies and wine: These literally included forbidden foods and fermented wine**
    - Spiritually, “delicacies and wine” represent false doctrines. **“Babylon was a golden cup in the Lord’s hand, That made all the earth drunk. The nations drank her wine; Therefore the nations are deranged.”** Jer 51:7 (Is 5:11-12; 21:9; 66:3-4; Jer 16:18; 25:15-16,28; 51:51,57; Eze 5:6-11; 11:18,21; 18:10-13; 23:31-34; Dan 5; Matt 15:1-9; 23:27-28; Mark 7:1-8; Luke 5:37-38; Rev 17:4) **“...you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition...in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”** Matt 15:6,9

# Daniel 1:6-7

- “<sup>6</sup> Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> 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.”
  - **Renaming the Hebrew captives was a form of cultural assimilation** (2Ki 24:17)
    - **Pharaoh did the same to Joseph** (Gen 41:45)



# Daniel 1:8-10

- “<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. <sup>10</sup> 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.”
  - Daniel **purposed** in his heart, meaning he resolved to be faithful to God by His grace (Is 50:7; Phil 2:13). He refused to be defiled by the meat and wine provided. (Ex 34:12-15; Deut 32:38; Ps 17:3; Prov 23:1-3; 20:1; 23:29-35; Eze 4:13; Hos 9:3; 1Cor 6:19-20; 10:31; Rev 14:8)
  - God influenced the prison keeper of Joseph favorably (Gen 39:21; Ps 106:46; Prov 16:7)

# Daniel 1:11-14

- “<sup>11</sup> So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> “Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> 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.” <sup>14</sup> So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.”
  - **The creation diet (100% plant-based) was requested by Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah** (Gen 1:29-30; Ps 104:14; Rev 21:4; 22:2)

# Daniel 1:15-17

- “<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. <sup>17</sup> 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.”
  - **God will provide *wisdom* and *understanding* when we earnestly seek it and by living according to *all* the light God has provided.** (Deut 4:6; 1Ki 3:12; Job 28:28; Ps 19:10; 111:10; Prov 1:7; 9:10; 15:33; Dan 9:22; 10:11-12; Eph 1:16-18; Col 2:2-3; James 1:5,17)
  - **Dreams and visions are used by God to communicate** (Joel 2:28; Acts 12:6)

# Daniel 1:18-20

- “<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. <sup>20</sup> 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.
  - **Many references in Daniel are literal however the reference to Daniel and his three friends being "ten" times better is symbolic of a significant number or obvious difference. The "beasts" of Daniel 7 and 8 also are symbolic of both kings and kingdoms that persecute God's people. Notice God provided **wisdom** and **understanding** as a result of their faith. **The same is necessary today to interpret the "time of the end" prophecies** (Ps 111:10; James 1:5,17; Rev 13:18)**
  - **Ten:** “...and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;” Num 14:22

# Daniel 1:21

- **“Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.”**
  - **Daniel records his ministry throughout the reign of Babylon, continuing after King Cyrus of the Medes and Persians took direct control in 537BC, following the reign of Darius the Mede (Dan 6:28; 10:1)**
    - **Some 150 years earlier, Isaiah prophesied of King Cyrus (himself a “type” of Christ): “Who says of Cyrus, ‘He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, “You shall be built,” And to the temple, “Your foundation shall be laid.” ’ “Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut...” Is 44:28-45:1**
- ✓ **Ezra records that “...the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia...” to rebuild the temple, sending all the gold and silver vessels back with Sheshbazzar/Zerubbabel (Ezra 1:1,7-11). This action fulfilled the prophecy of Jeremiah that the captives would be released 70 years following the first exile. (Jer 25:11-12; 29:10)**

# Our Mission as the Remnant

- **“Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”** (Rev 19:10)
  - The understanding of prophecy is a call to action; to share the gospel of everlasting life through a relationship with Jesus, proclaiming the 3 angels’ message of [Rev 14:6-12](#)
- **“...obey God’s commandments”** (Rev 12:17) and **“Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water.”** (Rev 14:7)
- **“...Everyone who keeps from defiling the Sabbath, And holds fast My covenant—Even them I will bring to My holy mountain, And make them joyful in My house of prayer.** (Is 56:6-7)
- **“Be holy...blameless”** (1Pet 1:16-19; 2Pet 3:10-14)

**He who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming quickly.” Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!** Revelation 22:20

# Additional Information

I am indebted to Tim Roosenberg who has studied Daniel 11-12 since the early 2000's and has dedicated his ministry to providing people with knowledge of the times that we live through seminars and his website; <http://www.islamandchristianity.org>

I am also indebted to two individuals whom have dedicated their lives in a study of Revelation 17 since the late 1990's. Their website, <http://666man.net>, provides significant depth on the many related Bible passages and prophecies that correlate completely to the prophecies of Daniel

For an excellent verse by verse commentary see: <http://www.bibleexplained.com>

For a deep perspective of how Revelation represents the spiritual fulfillment of much of the Old Testament see: Louis F. Were, The Certainty of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Angel's Message, 1945

Ellen Gould White was a prolific author and an American Christian pioneer. Along with other Sabbatarian Adventist leaders such as Joseph Bates and her husband James White, she formed what became known as the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Smithsonian magazine named Ellen G. White among 100 Most Significant Americans in an acknowledgement of her influence on religion. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen\\_G.\\_White](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ellen_G._White)



# Ellen White Comments Daniel

- ✓ **“Read the book of Daniel.** Call up, point by point, the history of the kingdoms there represented. Behold statesmen, councils, powerful armies, and see how God wrought to abase the pride of men and lay human glory in the dust. God alone is represented as great. In the vision of the prophet He is seen casting down one mighty ruler, and setting up another. He is revealed as the monarch of the universe, about to set up His everlasting kingdom—the Ancient of days, the living God, the Source of all wisdom, the Ruler of the present, the Revealer of the future. Read, and understand how poor, how frail, how short lived, how erring, how guilty is man <in lifting up his soul unto vanity.> **The light that Daniel received direct from God was given especially for these last days. The visions he saw by the banks of the Ulai and the Hiddekel, the great rivers of Shinar, are now in process of fulfillment, and all the events foretold will soon have come to pass.”** {Lt57-1896.5-7}
  - Ulai: Daniel 8:2,16
  - Hiddekel: Daniel 10:4 (Gen 2:14)

# Ellen White Comments Daniel

- ✓ “As a people and as individuals we need to have a deeper sense of our duty to God and our responsibility to the world. There should be more earnest study of the Scriptures. I have been deeply impressed with the importance of studying the book of Daniel in connection with the smaller prophets, especially Malachi. And we need to give careful attention also to the lessons taught in the building of the tabernacle and the temple, and in the temple service. Through the prophets God has given a delineation of what ***will come to pass*** in the last days of this earth’s history, and the Jewish economy is full of instruction for us.” {RH November 10, 1896, par. 11}
  - “We are to become familiar with the Levitical law in all its bearings; for it contains rules that must be obeyed; it contains the instruction that if studied will enable us to understand better the rule of faith and practice that we are to follow in our dealings with one another.” {Lt3-1905.11}

# Ellen White Comments Daniel

- ✓ “In God’s providence, Daniel and his fellows were connected with the great men of Babylon, that these men might become acquainted with the religion of the Hebrews and know that God rules over all kingdoms. Daniel in Babylon was placed in a most trying position; but while faithfully performing his duties as a statesman, he steadfastly refused to engage in any work that would militate against God. **This course provoked discussion, and thus the Lord brought the faith of Daniel to the attention of the king of Babylon.** God had light for Nebuchadnezzar, and through Daniel were presented to the king things foretold in the prophecies concerning Babylon and other kingdoms. **By the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, Jehovah was exalted as more powerful than earthly rulers.** Thus, through the faithfulness of Daniel, God was honored. In like manner the Lord desires that our publishing houses shall witness for Him.” {7T 161.1}

# Ellen White Comments

Daniel & Revelation

- ✓ “Brethren, the Lord calls for copartnership in his work. He desires us to enlist our interests in his cause, as Daniel did. We should receive great benefits from a study of the book of Daniel in connection with the Revelation. Daniel studied the prophecies. He earnestly sought to know their meaning. He prayed and fasted for heavenly light. And the glory of God was revealed to him in even greater measure than he could endure. We are in equal need of divine illumination. God has called us to give the **last message of warning** to the world. **There will be voices heard on every side to divert the attention of God’s people with new theories.** We need to give the trumpet a certain sound. We do not half realize what is before us. If the books of Daniel and the Revelation were studied with earnest prayer, we should have a better knowledge of the perils of the last days, and would be better prepared for the work before us—we should be prepared to unite with Christ and to work in his lines.” {RH February 9, 1897, par. 13}

# Ellen White Comments Dan 1

- ✓ “Consider the circumstances of the Jewish nation when the prophecies of Daniel were given. The Israelites were in captivity, their temple had been destroyed, their temple service suspended. Their religion had centered in the ceremonies of the sacrificial system. They had made the outward forms all important, while **they had lost the spirit of true worship. Their services were corrupted with the traditions and practices of heathenism**, and *in the performance of the sacrificial rites they did not look beyond the shadow to the substance*. They did not discern Christ, the True Offering for the sins of men. The Lord wrought to bring the people into captivity, and to suspend the services of the temple, in order that the outward ceremonies might not become the sum-total of their religion. Their principles and practices must be purged from heathenism, the ritual service ceased, *in order that heart service might be revived*. The outward glory was removed, that the spiritual might be revealed.” {Lt57-1896.8}

# Ellen White Comments Dan 1:6

- ✓ “Daniel was true, noble, and generous. While he was anxious to be at peace with all men, he would not permit any power to turn him aside from the path of duty. He was willing to obey those who had rule over him, as far as he could do so consistently with truth and righteousness; but kings and decrees could not make him swerve from his allegiance to the King of kings. **Daniel was but eighteen years old when brought into a heathen court in service to the king of Babylon**, and because of his youth his noble resistance of wrong and his steadfast adherence to the right are the more admirable. His noble example should bring strength to the tried and tempted, even at the present day. {4T 570.1}

# Ellen White Comments Dan 1:8

- ✓ “When Daniel was in Babylon, he was beset with temptations of which we have never dreamed, and he realized that he must keep his body under. He purposed in his heart that he would not drink of the king’s wine or eat of his dainties. **He knew that in order to come off a victor, he must have clear mental perceptions**, that he might **discern between right and wrong**. While he was working on his part, God worked also, and gave him “knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.” **This is the way God worked for Daniel; and he does not propose to do any differently now. Man must co-operate with God in carrying out the plan of salvation.**” {RH April 2, 1889, par. 7}

# Ellen White Comments Dan 1:8

- ✓ **“The servants of Christ are to rely upon God as did Daniel in the courts of Babylon.** Daniel knew the **value of prayer, its aim, and its object;** and the prayers which he and his three companions offered to God after being chosen by the king for the courts of Babylon, were answered. There was another class of captives carried into Babylon. These the Lord permitted to be torn from their homes, and carried into a land of idolaters, because they were themselves continually going into idolatry. The Lord let them have all they desired of the idolatrous practises of Babylon. And the righteous with the unrighteous were taken away into a land where the name of Jehovah would not come to their ears; where songs of praise and thanksgiving to God would not be heard; where prophets with messages of warnings and reproof and counsel would be few and far between. **The youth have an example in Daniel, and if they are true to principle and to duty, they will be instructed as Daniel was.** As the wisdom of the world viewed the matter, Daniel and his three companions had every advantage secured to them in the courts of Babylon, but it was here that their first great test was to come. Their principles were to come into collision with the regulations and appointments of the king.” {YI August 18, 1898, par. 4-6}



# Ellen White Comments Dan 1:8

- ✓ “And now as Daniel and his fellows were brought to the test, **they placed themselves fully on the side of righteousness and truth**. They did not move capriciously, but intelligently. They decided that as flesh-meat had not composed their diet in the past, it should not come into their diet in the future, and as wine had been prohibited to all who should engage in the service of God, they determined that they would not partake of it. The fate of the sons of Aaron had been presented before them, and they knew that the use of wine would confuse their senses, that the indulgence of appetite would becloud their powers of discernment. **These particulars were placed on record in the history of the children of Israel as a warning to every youth to avoid all customs and practises and indulgences that would in any way dishonor God.**” {YI August 18, 1898, par. 9}

# Ellen White Comments Dan 1:8

- ✓ “Daniel and his companions knew not what would be the result of their decision; they knew not but that it would cost them their lives; but they determined to keep the straight path of strict temperance even when in the courts of licentious Babylon. **They rested their case in the hands of God, and the Lord co-operated with them. He took charge of these youth because they prayed to him, and sought his guidance in regard to the course they should pursue.**” {YI August 18, 1898, par. 10}

# Ellen White Comments Dan 1:17

- ✓ “When the four Hebrew youth were receiving an education for the king’s court in Babylon, they did not feel that the blessing of the Lord was a substitute for the taxing effort required of them. **They were diligent in study**; for they discerned that through the grace of God their destiny depended upon their own will and action. They were to bring all their ability to the work; and **by close, severe taxation of their powers**, they were to make the most of their opportunities for **study** and **labor**. While these youth were working out their own salvation, God was working in them to will and to do of his good pleasure. **Here are revealed the conditions of success. To make God’s grace our own, we must act our part. The Lord does not propose to perform for us either the willing or the doing...** The Lord will co-operate with all who earnestly strive to be faithful in his service, as he co-operated with Daniel and his three companions. Fine mental qualities and a high tone of moral character are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends upon the use made of them. The **openings of Providence** must be **quickly discerned** and **eagerly entered.**” {YI August 20, 1903, par. 3-5}

# Ellen White Comments Dan 1:17

- ✓ “The great men of Babylon were willing to be benefited by the instruction that God gave through Daniel, to help the king out of his difficulty by the interpretation of his dream. **But they were anxious to mix in their heathen religion with that of the Hebrews.**” **Had Daniel and his fellows consented to such a compromise, they would, in the view of the Babylonians, have been complete as statesmen, fit to be entrusted with the affairs of the kingdom.** *But the four Hebrews entered into no such arrangement. They were true to God, and God upheld them and honored them.* **The lesson is for us.** “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. [Matthew 6:33.]” {Lt57-1896.13-14}

# Ellen White Comments Dan 1:20

- ✓ “So in Daniel God placed a light beside the throne of the world’s greatest kingdom, that all who would might learn of the true and living God. At the court of Babylon were gathered representatives from all lands, men of the choicest talents, men the most richly endowed with natural gifts and possessed of the highest culture this world could bestow; yet amid them all the Hebrew captives were without a peer. In physical strength and beauty, in mental vigor and literary attainments, and in spiritual power and insight they stood unrivaled. “In all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.” Daniel 1:20. While faithful to his duties in the king’s court, **Daniel so faithfully maintained his loyalty to God that God could honor him as His messenger** to the Babylonian monarch. Through him the mysteries of the future were unfolded, and Nebuchadnezzar himself was constrained to acknowledge the God of Daniel “as a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets.” Daniel 2:47.” {6T 220.1}