

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Chapter 1

Lesson # 2

Daniel chapter one can be divided into two major sections. In **vss. 1-7** we are given a brief account of how Daniel and his friends ended up in Babylon, why they were singled out to be trained to serve in the King's court, and told that they received new Babylonian names. Then in **vss. 8-21** we have a narrative describing Daniel's first trial in Babylon and how he responded to it. Answer the questions below as best you can and be prepared to participate in class discussion.

I. **HOW DANIEL ENDED UP IN BABYLON** (read Dan. 1:1-7)

- A. Who was Jehoiakim?
- B. Who was Nebuchadnezzar?
- C. What does it mean to "besiege" a city?
- D. Often we think of wars being won by the greatest army or the greatest military leader. What do we learn from **vs. 2** is the determining factor for which side wins in a war? Look up the verses below and write down what they teach you about the answer to this question.
 - 1. Isa. 40:21-24
 - 2. Lk. 1:49-52
 - 3. Rom. 13:1
 - 4. Dan. 4:17, 25, 32; 5:18, 21
 - 5. How can what we learn from these verses be applied to our lives today? Why is it important to remember these things?
- E. According to **vs. 2**, what items did Nebuchadnezzar take from Jerusalem and why were these items special? (See Ex. 37:16; Lev. 8:10-11; Dan. 5:1-3)
- F. Shinar is another name for what country?

G. In **vss. 3-4** we learn that among those taken captive to Babylon after the fall of Jerusalem were youths, but not just any youths. In fact the text says they had to meet seven different criteria. What were those seven criteria?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.

H. According to **vss. 5-7** what three things did the king appoint for Daniel and his friends?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Why did the king do this?

I. The commander of the officials assigned new names to Daniel and his friends. Below, write down their Jewish names and new Babylonian names. See if you can find out what both their Jewish and Babylonian names meant.

1. Jewish name:
 - a. Babylonian name:
2. Jewish Name:
 - a. Babylonian name
3. Jewish name:
 - a. Babylonian name:
4. Jewish name:
 - a. Babylonian name:

- J. Meditate on what it must have been like for Daniel and his friends. Their country has been conquered. They have been taken captive, removed from their families, given new food, new names, new training, a new language, and everything is different for them. Yet, they were teenagers. How do you think they felt about all of this and how did they cope with the incredible trials of their lives?

- K. What do we learn about God's allowing this to happen to Israel in general, but Daniel and his friends in particular?

II. **HOW DANIEL MADE IT THROUGH HIS FIRST TRIAL**

- A. In **vs. 8** what two things did Daniel seek to do? Why?
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3. How is Daniel an example for us today? What did he do that all Christians can pattern their lives after?

- B. In **vss. 9-13** we are told what happens after Daniel sought permission not to defile himself with the king's choice food.
 - 1. Who came to Daniel's rescue according to **vs. 9**? Why? Is this true for every believer in every circumstance?
 - 2. What did Daniel's advocate cause to happen according to **vs. 9**? Does this ever happen for believers today? If so, when?
 - 3. What was the commander of the officials objection to Daniel's plan and how did Daniel respond? What does this teach us about Daniel and what can we learn from his response?

- C. Usually people don't gain weight after going on a vegetarian diet. According to **vss. 14-16** what happened to Daniel and his friends after eating only vegetables? Why?
- D. In **vs. 17** we learn that Daniel and his three friends were all granted something from God. What three things were granted to them and how do they differ?
1. What special gift was granted to Daniel? Why?
 2. Does God still do this kind of thing today or was this only an Old Testament phenomena?
- E. According to **vss. 18-20**, what was the consequence of Daniel and his friends being blessed by God?
1. Considering this end result, how was everything else God did for Daniel and his three friends related?
 2. God doesn't always tell us what He is doing in our lives or how He is arranging things to get us where He wants us to be. What is the doctrine that describes God working behind the scenes to bring His will to pass? Look up the text below and see what they teach you about this doctrine.
 - a. Gen. 45:4-9; 50:20
 - b. Rom. 8:28
 - c. Jer. 29:11
 - d. How does the doctrine alluded to in these verses apply to the lives of believers today?

- F. Read the story below and as you do consider how this story parallels with the first chapter of Daniel. Write down your observations.

The story is told of a king who had a close friend with whom he grew up. The friend had a habit of looking at every situation that ever occurred in his life (positive or negative) and remarking, "This is good!"

One day the king and his friend were on a hunting expedition. The friend would load and prepare the guns for the king. In preparing one of the guns, the friend had apparently done something wrong, for after taking the gun from his friend, the king fired it and his thumb was blown off. Examining the situation the friend remarked as usual, "This is good!" To which the king replied, "No, this is Not good!" and proceeded to send his friend to jail.

About a year later, the king was hunting in a dangerous area. Cannibals captured him and took him to their village. They tied his hands, stacked some wood, set up a stake and bound him to it. As they approached to set fire to the wood, they noticed that the king was missing a thumb. Being superstitious, they never ate anyone that was less than whole. So after untying the king, they sent him on his way.

As he returned home, he was reminded of the event that had taken his thumb and felt remorse for his treatment of his friend. He went immediately to the jail to speak with his friend. "You were right," he said, "It was good that my thumb was blown off." And he proceeded to tell the friend all that had just happened. "And so I am very sorry for sending you to jail for so long. It was bad for me to do this."

"No," his friend replied, "This is good!"

"What do you mean, 'This is good'? How could it be good that I sent my friend to jail for a year?" "If I had Not been in jail, I would have been with you."

- G. After looking over chapter one of Daniel, what do you feel are the major lessons we can learn and how can these lessons be applied to the lives of Christians today?
- H. Sooner or later you are going to encounter a trial in your life. What plan of action are you going to resolve to do based on the lessons learned from this study?
- I. If our country was overrun by enemies and conquered and you were taken captive, given a new name, trained in a new language, forced to eat new food, how could you endure that without anxiety, fretting, worry, or "stressing out?"