

## The Book of Daniel Syllabus

### Chapter 1

**Dan. 1:1** ¶ *In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.*

**Dan. 1:2** *The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with \*some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of \*\*Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god. (NAS95S)*

Prior to the burning of the Temple, Nebuchadnezzar made this siege and foray into Jerusalem.

*\* some of the vessels of the house of God*

Certainly not the Holy Ark and its vessels. Jewish sources say these were hidden previously by King Josiah and Jeremiah in a place prepared by Solomon.

*\*\*Shinar*

Another name for Babylon. Present day Iraq.

**Dan. 1:3** ¶ *Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles,*

**Dan. 1:4** *youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. (NAS95S)*

The Jews then, as well as now, had a reputation of outstanding wisdom and knowledge. In capturing the "intelligencia" of the royal family of Judea, Nebuchadnezzar hoped to put it to use in his kingdom, and to rob Judea of it.

**Dan. 1:5** *The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they*

*should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.*

**Dan. 1:6** *Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.*

**Dan. 1:7** *Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego. (NAS95S)*

- Verse 6 contains the Hebrew names, of these very young men. Interestingly, we usually call the three Hebrew children by their Chaldean names, much as we do Esther. (Her Hebrew name was *Hadassah*; myrtle in English.) And yet, Daniel retains his Hebrew name in our thinking.
- Daniel's Chaldean name was assigned to him by Nebuchadnezzar himself (Dan. 5:12.) Belteshazzar was derived from a Chaldean god.

**Dan. 1:8** † *But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.*

**Dan. 1:9** *Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials, (NAS95S)*

*Dan. 1:12, 13*

*Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us pulse to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be seen by you...*

*15 At the end of ten days they looked better and fatter than all the youths eating the king's food. (ArtScrolls)*

- Food could have been offered to idols. Certainly would not have been kosher. "Pulse", is defined in the ArtScrolls commentary as raw seeds; e.g. rice, peas, beans, etc.

**Dan. 1:17** † *As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.*

**Dan. 1:18** † *Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.*

**Dan. 1:19** *The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service.*

**Dan. 1:20** *As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm. (NAS95S)*

Though this book is about God's dealings with Israel. And we study it to watch the fig tree and the nations, I think of an example of how Kenneth E. Hagin put its principles to use in a practical way:

I received eternal life as a teenage boy on the bed of sickness, April 22, 1933. Then on August 8, 1934, I was healed by the power of God through faith and prayer.

After my healing, I returned to high school. During the 16 months I'd been bedfast, I missed one school year. And in the 2 years of high school I had completed before, I had been a "D" student.

I had two favorite scriptures I either read or quoted to the Lord and on which I based my confession every morning as I walked to school. John 1:4 and Daniel Chapter 1.

...I had my Bible, and the Spirit of God led me. Every day as I went to school I would say this: 'In Him was life, and the life was the light of men That life is in me. The life of God is in me. That life is the light (I knew light stood for development.) That life is developing me. That life is developing my spirit. That life is developing my mentality. I've got God in me. I've got God's wisdom in me. I've got God's life in me. I've got God's power in me.'

The Bible says that Daniel "purposed in his heart." I used this phrase with the Lord. I knew that even though I wasn't living under the old Covenant, there still was a principle here I could abide by... So I acted upon the same principle Daniel did. I said this to the Lord every morning, 'I purpose in my heart to walk in the light of life.'

Sometimes a bunch of us students took up the whole street as we walked... They thought I was crazy, but I'd explain it to them as we walked along.

I would say, 'Now, you see Daniel had favor with the prince of eunuchs, or as we would say in modern times, the dean of the college. And it was God who gave Daniel favor with him.'

Then I would say to God, 'God, give me favor with every teacher. Thank You for it. It is mine. Now impart to me—because I have the life and nature of God in me—knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom that I may be ten times better...'

Now, I'm not bragging on me; I'm bragging on what God gave me. Because although I had been a "D" student...after being born again and healed, I was the only student in my classes who made a straight "A" report card.

I could take a history book—they tested me on this— read a chapter I'd never read before, put the book down, and recite it word for word. Now, I couldn't do that because I had developed my memory. I didn't know a thing about memorization. I was able to do that because I looked to my spirit.

Most believers have never developed their spirits as they could have. They have just never really walked in the light of what they've had all the time.

—Kenneth E. Hagin, *Faith Food Devotions*, pages 174-178