



Bethany Bible Study & Discussion

Daniel (Part-2), Chapter 1:4-21

Conviction & Courage (4-20): Why were Daniel and his friends chosen? How were they indoctrinated to serve the King? How are our children being indoctrinated today? What is the secret of their courageous decision? How did Daniel approach this seemingly risky decision? What was the outcome, and was Daniel confident of the outcome? Is the dilemma of Daniel different from what we face today? How do you respond to similar situations in your life? What can we learn from Daniel's decision?

King Cyrus (21): Who was King Cyrus and what's his significance in Jewish history?

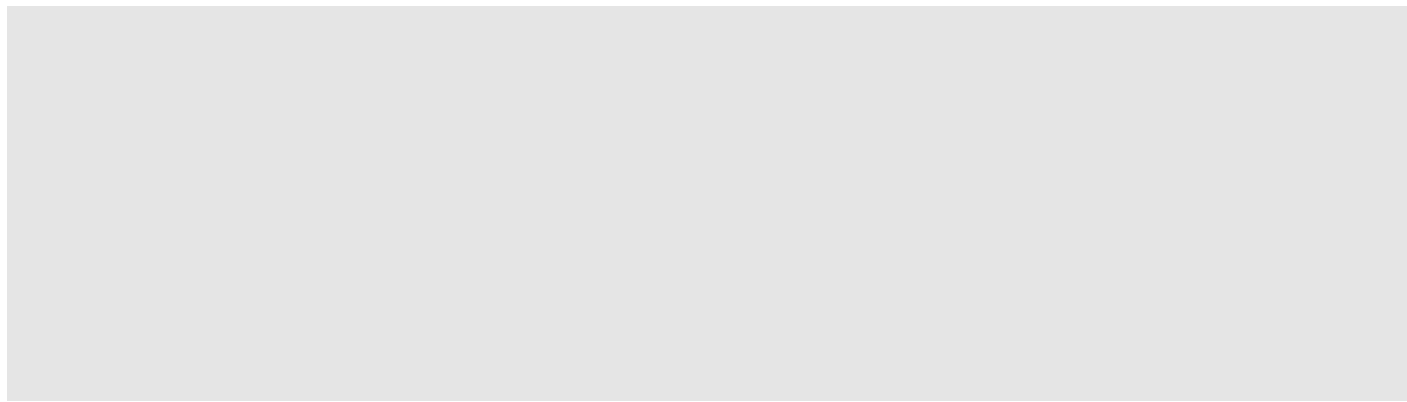
God's attributes: What attributes of God are demonstrated in this chapter?

Key verse (Psalms 119:11): What verse will be good to commit to our memory?

11.10.2021

Chapter 1

Why were Daniel &
his friends chosen? (4)



Criteria for the chosen children (4)



no blemish,



well favored



wise



knowledgeable



understood
science

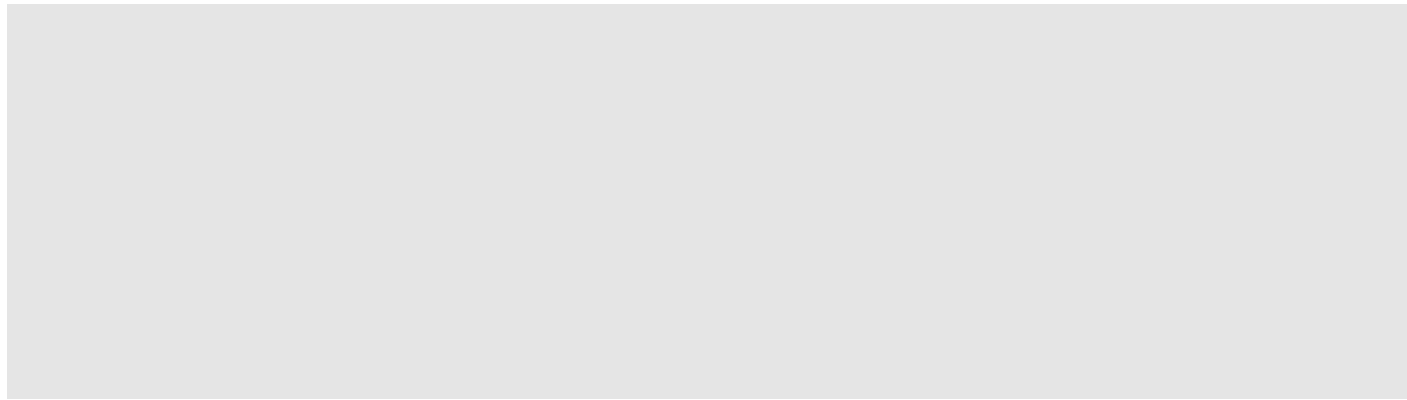


ability to stand in
the king's palace

God's chosen ones, Deuteronomy 7:6-10

- For thou *art* an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that *are* upon the face of the earth.
- The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Therefore know that the LORD your God, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;

What do we mean by
'indoctrination'? How were Daniel &
friends indoctrinated in Babylon?



Dictionary

Search for a word



in·doc·tri·na·tion

/inˌdɑktɹəˈnɑːʃən/

noun

the process of teaching a person or group to accept a set of beliefs uncritically.
"I would never subject children to religious indoctrination"

The indoctrination plan



CHANGE IN
FOOD



CHANGE IN
EDUCATION



CHANGE OF
NAME



3-YEAR
TRAINING



FOREIGN
LANGUAGE



FOREIGN
CULTURE

Changed names (el=God; as in Daniel and Mishael) (example, el Roi = God who sees me, Genesis 16:13)

Daniel (meaning God is my judge) was changed to **Belteshazzar** (meaning Bel's prince).

Hananiah (meaning Jehovah is gracious) was changed to **Shadrach** (meaning Illumined by Sun-god).

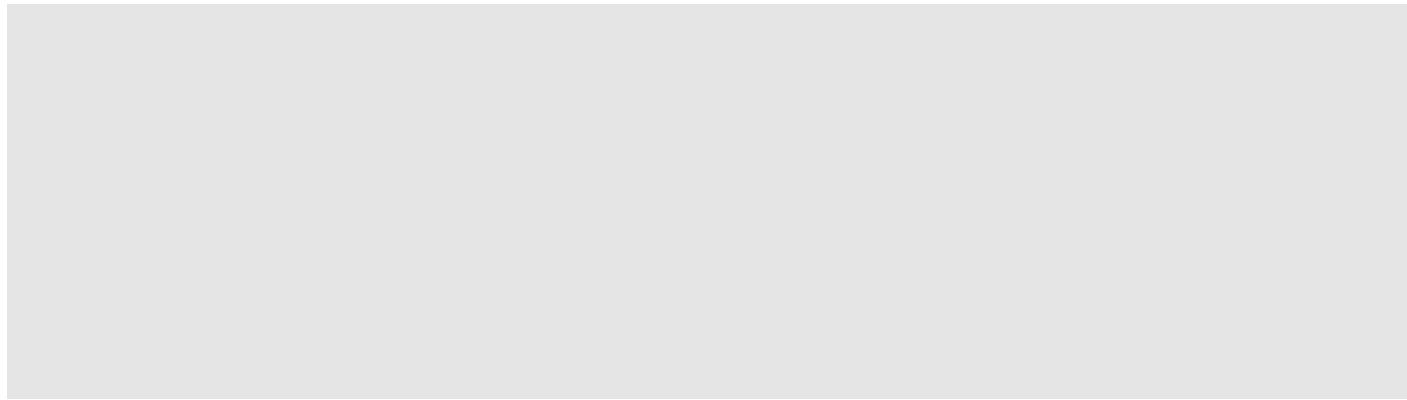
Mishael (meaning Who is as God?) was changed to **Meshach** (which may mean Who is like Shach, which was likely a Babylonian goddess corresponding to Ishtar or Venus).

Azariah (meaning Jehovah is my helper) was changed to **Abed-Nego** (meaning Servant of Nego).

They continued to use their Jewish names

Then Daniel went to his house, and made
the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael,
and Azariah, his companions: (2:17)

This world is like Babylon ...
How are our children being
indoctrinated?



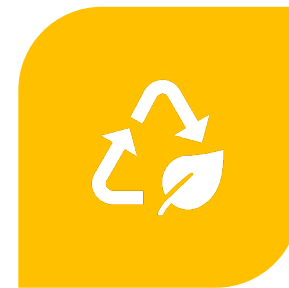
How are our children being indoctrinated?



EDUCATION

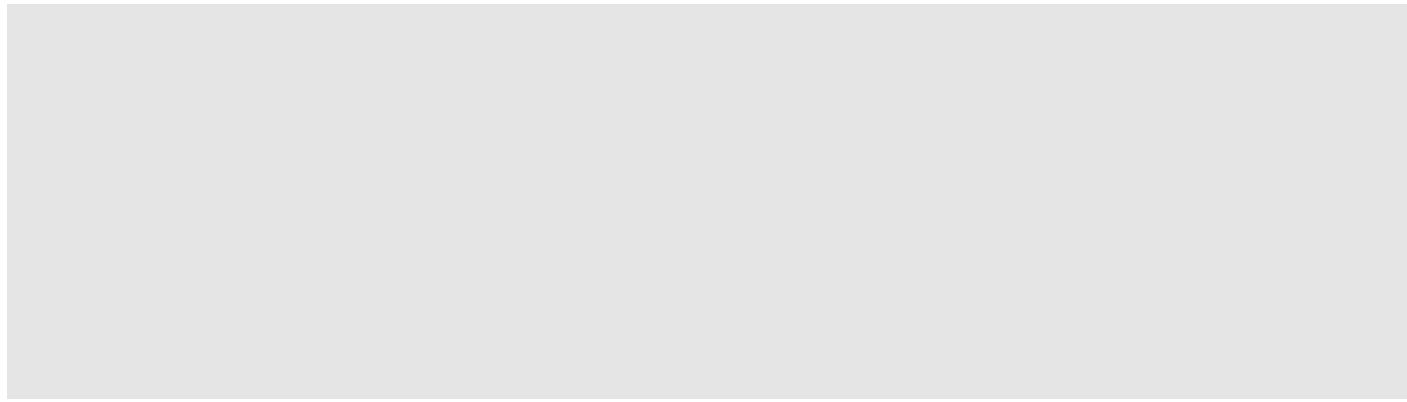


ENTERTAINMENT



ENVIRONMENT

How has it impacted them?



How has it impacted them? Has it made them stronger or weaker in faith?



EDUCATION



ENTERTAINMENT



ENVIRONMENT

Daniel's
resolve (1:8)

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.

Taking a
stand
(8, 11-14)

Why did Daniel deny King's food?

How did Daniel approach this risky decision? Did Daniel believe for sure that he will be healthier at the end of ten days?

What was the outcome?

Taking a
stand
(8, 11-14) &
outcome (15-
20)

Why did Daniel deny King's food? (not kosher, offered to idols, wanted to depend on God for sustenance and strength)

Did Daniel believe for sure that he will be healthier at the end of ten days? (had faith that God will do what is best; 3:17-18)

How did he approach the risky decision? (humbly – I beseech thee, and with data – test after ten days) **What was the outcome?**

The outcome of an uncompromised life - I



Daniel 1:15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

Daniel 1: 17 God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams

The outcome of an uncompromised life - II



Daniel 1:19 Among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore stood they before the King

Daniel 1: 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the King enquired of them he found them ten times better ...

Reason for
the good
outcome?

*The decision was in God's will and
God honored it*

*"So you shall serve the LORD your
God, and He will bless your bread
and your water (Exodus 23:25)"*

Babylon (this world) is not our home!

David's prayer For we are strangers before thee, and sojourners, as were all our fathers: (I Chronicles 29:15)

Peter's address and appeal Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; I Peter 2:11

Abraham's Perspective By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: ¹⁰ For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. (Hebrews 11:9-10)



Let us Stand
up for Jesus!

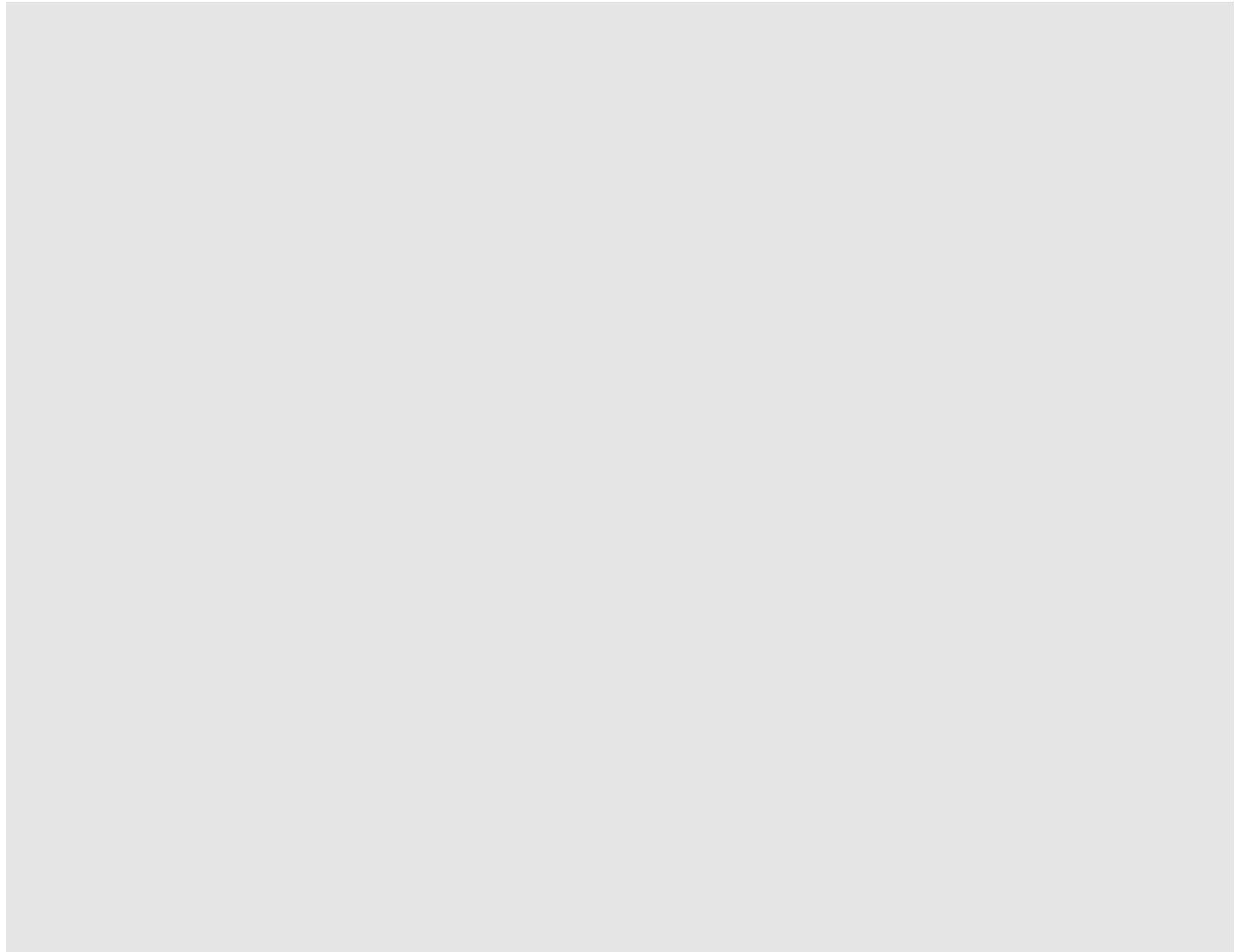
Daniel “purposed in his heart ..”

Joshua “as for me and my house ...”

Job “I made a covenant with my eyes
..”

**Have you taken a stand for the Lord?
What has been the consequence?**

First year of
Cyrus (1:21)
...what is the
significance of
King Cyrus in
Jewish history?



First year of
Cyrus (1:21) ...
decree issued
for Jews to
return home
and rebuild the
temple

King Cyrus conquered Babylon from King Belshazzar (Daniel 5:30) and set Jews free after 70 years of captivity.

1 Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia ...2 Who is there among you of all his people? his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and build the house of the Lord God of Israel, (he is the God,) which is in Jerusalem ...5 Then rose up the chief of the fathers of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests, and the Levites, with all them whose spirit God had raised, to go up to build the house of the Lord which is in Jerusalem

([Read more in Ezra 1, 2 ... the decree of King Cyrus and return of Jews](#))

God's Plans are
mysterious and
marvelous

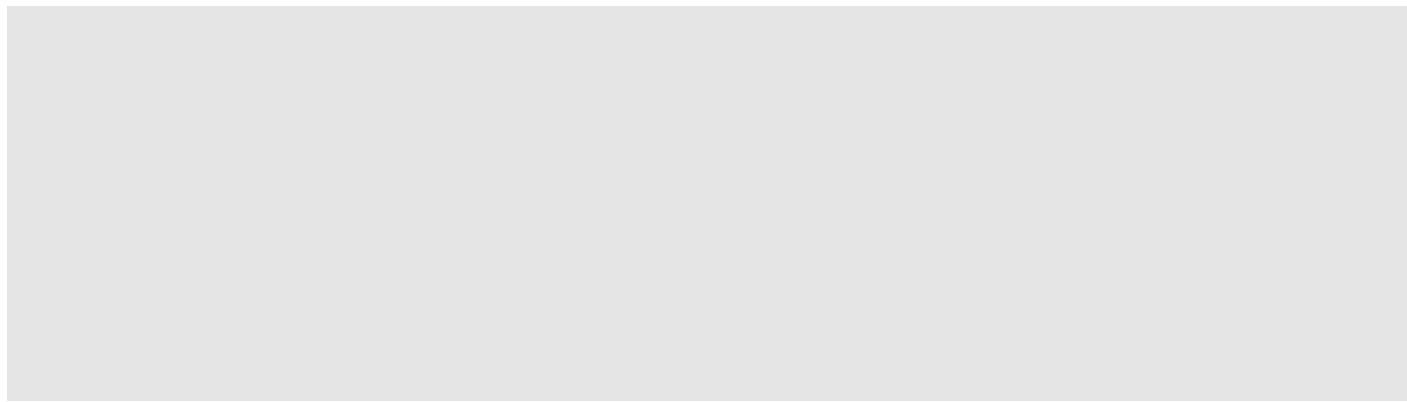
Jews **taken captive** by gentile King
Nebuchadnezzar

Jews **set free** by gentile King Cyrus

God's ways are **mysterious** ...

He used gentile kings to accomplish His
will ... God is **sovereign**

What Attributes of God
are seen in this chapter?



God's unchanging Attributes

God is Merciful (answer to Solomon's prayer, I Kings 8:50)

God is Just (God Honors those who honor him, and those who despise him will be lightly esteemed, I Samuel 2:30)

God is Sovereign

God is Faithful



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Chapter 1