

# Daniel Chapter One

- The third year of the reign of Jehoiakim (son of Josiah, father of Jehoiachin) was in 605 B.C.
- The Nebuchadnezzar of the Bible is actually one of four Babylonian kings of that same name.
- His name is alternately spelled Nebuchadrezzar in Ezekiel and sometimes in Jeremiah.
- Nebuchadnezzar reigned for 43 years (605 – 562 B.C.).
  - He was a successful military leader.
  - He oversaw the creation of the hanging gardens.
  - He was called the servant of God [Jer 27:6].
- In 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem and took captives who were...
  - Sons of Israel [Dan 1:3].
  - Of the royal family and nobles [Dan 1:3].
  - Young men [Dan 1:4].
  - Without defect [Dan 1:4].
  - Handsome [Dan 1:4].
  - Intelligent [Dan 1:4].
  - Able to serve in the king's court [Dan 1:4].
- Ashpenaz was ordered to train these young men to enter into the king's personal service [Dan 1:4-5] and renamed Daniel and his friends [Dan 1:6-7] as follows...
  - Daniel = "God is my judge."
    - Renamed Belteshazzar ≈ "Lady, protect the king."
  - Hananiah = "Jehovah has favored."
    - Renamed Shadrach ≈ "I am fearful."
  - Mishael = "Who is what God is?"
    - Renamed Meshach ≈ "I am despised, humbled."
  - Azariah = "Jehovah has helped."
    - Renamed Abed-nego ≈ "Servant of Nebo."

- The king appointed the young men a first class diet from the king's choice food and wine [Dan 1:5].
- Daniel came to a faith conclusion that eating this food would be a defilement under the Mosaic Law [Dan 1:8].
  - Perhaps there were prohibited meats [Lev 11].
  - Perhaps some of the food had been used as a sacrifice to idols [Ex 34:15].
- Daniel asked Ashpenaz on behalf of the others for permissions to abstain from the diet prescribed by King Nebuchadnezzar [Dan 1:8].
- God granted Daniel favor in the eyes of Ashpenaz [Dan 1:9] who, even though he feared upsetting the king, allowed his overseer to do a 10 day trial with the four of them eating a vegetable and water diet [Dan 1:10-14].
  - Daniel humbly agreed to abide by whatever decision the overseer reached at the end of the trial [Dan 1:13].
  - At the end of the 10 days they were healthier than their counterparts [Dan 1:15].
  - As a result, the overseer permitted them to continue eating their alternative diet [Dan 1:16].
- God poured out His abundant grace upon Daniel and his friends and blessed their temporal life endeavors.
  - God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every area of literature and wisdom (not just in Scriptural matters) [Dan 1:17].
  - They were promoted into the king's personal service where they excelled ten times over [Dan 1:18-20].
  - As a result, Daniel remained in a prominent position in the royal court of Babylon for many years [Dan 1:21].