

1  **BLESSINGS IN BABYLON**

Daniel 1:17-21

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• <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. <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.

3  **Daniel 1:17-21**

• <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. <sup>21</sup> Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus. (NKJV)

4  **DANIEL WAS BLESSED WITH GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE**

- The Dark Days
  - War with Babylon – Little Judah didn't stand a chance.
  - Nebuchadnezzar demanded POW hostages

5  **Modern-day refugees running from the ravages of war**6  **The Disaster**

- Daniel and his three companions uprooted from their family, their nation and their familiar surroundings – Marched 500 miles to Babylon
- Try to put yourself in Daniel's position
- Look at it from his parent's point of view

7  **How did Daniel become the man he was?**

- Daniel didn't suddenly develop the godly character and sanctified purpose to stand for truth and principle.
- He had been taught, trained and molded into a person who would take his stand for God long before he arrived in Babylon.

8  **What about our children?**

- Story of Daniel reveals a sovereign God – No accidents.
- God has a plan for each of our children – each of YOUR children.
- Lessons for us and our children.
  - Each child is a gift from God.
  - Each child is different

9  **Proverbs 22:6**

- *Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*
  - The best-known and yet most misunderstood Bible verse on child rearing.

- The classic interpretation has two problems:

10  **Jay Green's literal translation**

- *Train up a child in the mouth of his way; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*
- Hebrew word translated "train up" is *hanakh* which means "to dedicate" or "to consecrate."
- This teaches us that each child is a gift from God and we are to dedicate that child to God.

11  **"Train up a child in the mouth of his way"**

- Midwife dipping her finger into crushed up dates in order to massage the palate and gums of a newborn. This encouraged the baby's sucking instinct so that there would be no difficulty in the baby beginning to nurse. In other words, she was stimulating the baby's gums in order to jump start the behavior that would benefit the child.

12  **"Train up a child in the way he should go. . ."**

- The key Hebrew word in the phrase is *derek* or "way." It can refer to a literal way, such as a road, or it can be more metaphorical as in Proverbs 30:18-19

13  **Proverbs 30:18-19**

- <sup>18</sup> *There are three things which are too wonderful for me, Four which I do not understand:*
  - *The way of an eagle in the sky,*
  - *The way of a serpent on a rock,*
  - *The way of a ship in the middle of the sea,*
  - *And the way of a man with a maid."*

14  **Chuck Swindoll**

- "We receive each child from the hand of God, not as a malleable lump of clay to be molded in whatever way we see fit, but as a unique, distinctive person with a destiny. We are to honor God's creation of this one-of-a-kind individual by adapting our training to his or her characteristic manner. To fight it is to fight God's creation."

15  **Daniel's parents understood**

- A good job, or making a lot of money, or having good health. These are the things that preoccupy most people – the blessings they seek.
- God blesses us in a variety of ways.
- God had placed Daniel in Babylon for a purpose, and I think Daniel understood that.

16  **Jeremiah 29:4-5**

- <sup>4</sup> *Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon: <sup>5</sup> Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.*

17  **Jeremiah 29:6-7**

- <sup>6</sup> *Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your*

*daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. <sup>7</sup> And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the Lord for it; for in its peace you will have peace.*

18  **DANIEL WAS BLESSED WITH KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM**

- Daniel reveals to us how God is sovereign and in control even when the world is falling apart.
- Daniel 1:17: *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.*

19  **Daniel 1:19-20**

- <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.

20  **BLESSED WITH THE GIFT OF REVEALING VISIONS AND DREAMS.**

- God gave Daniel an additional gift that the others did not receive.
- “. . . and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”
- An important part of Babylonian culture
- How can we apply this to us today?

21  **BLESSED WITH INFLUENCE TO IMPACT HIS WORLD**

- What a blessing! -- Three young Hebrew men elevated to the highest positions as advisors and officials in the court of the King of Babylon.
- Daniel 1:18-19: <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.

22  **BLESSED WITH A LONG, FRUITFUL SERVICE.**

- Daniel was taken captive in 605 B.C. The scripture here says that “*Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus,*” which would have been about 539 B.C. or 66 years. If he were 15 when taken captive, it would have made him almost 90 years of age.
- Daniel reminds us that faithfully serving the Lord has great reward.
- The greatest reward is the reward of eternal life with Jesus.