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By Dan Maines

Daniel 1

Daniel 1:1

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

† This marks the beginning of the Babylonian captivity, fulfilling the warnings given by the prophets because Judah continued in rebellion.

† Historically, Babylon invaded Jerusalem around 605 BC,

taking many captives including young nobles from the royal line.
† Prophetically, this judgment symbolized the fading glory of the old covenant nation, soon to be replaced by God's greater kingdom.

† Josephus confirms that Nebuchadnezzar's invasion fulfilled Jeremiah's prophecies of Jerusalem's desolation.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, this reminds us that disobedience leads to captivity, but Christ has freed us from bondage through His finished work.

Daniel 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.

† God's sovereignty is clear here, He delivered Jehoiakim, showing that judgment came by divine appointment, not Babylonian power.

† The taking of temple vessels symbolized the desecration of God's house and the departure of His presence from the physical temple.

† This foreshadows the first-century judgment on Jerusalem when Christ declared the temple "desolate."

† Eusebius records that Israel's repeated idolatries brought these very fulfillments upon them.

† Today, believers are God's living temple, where His Spirit dwells forever, not in physical structures made by hands.

Daniel 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.

† Babylon sought to train Israel's best youths to serve its empire, blending them into pagan culture.

† Historically, this practice was common for ancient conquerors

who used educated captives for administration.

† Spiritually, this mirrors how the covenant people were scattered, yet God preserved a remnant who would remain faithful.

† Clement of Rome wrote that God always kept faithful servants amid corruption, just as Daniel and his friends endured.

† In Christ's kingdom, believers serve as royal priests in a foreign world, maintaining faithfulness amid spiritual Babylon.

Daniel 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.

† These chosen men represent the finest of Judah, showing that Babylon desired to reshape Israel's wisdom.

† The Chaldean language and learning were deeply rooted in astrology and pagan philosophy.

† This foreshadows the early church's conflict with worldly wisdom versus spiritual truth.

† Tertullian, in "Against Marcion," argued that worldly knowledge cannot save, only the revelation of Christ.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, true wisdom comes from the Spirit, not from earthly systems or philosophies.

Daniel 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.

† Babylon's training aimed to conform their identity to the empire's image through luxury and influence.

† Historically, this three-year training reflects the full process of assimilation for royal servants.

† Prophetically, it points to the world's attempt to reshape God's people, which Christ later overcame by forming a new spiritual kingdom.

† Josephus notes that Daniel's refusal of the king's food displayed loyalty to God above earthly authority.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, believers must remain spiritually separate, feeding on the Word rather than worldly indulgence.

Daniel 1:6

Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

† These four young men symbolize the faithful remnant preserved by God even in captivity.

† Each name carried a meaning that honored the God of Israel, which Babylon sought to erase.

† Their steadfastness prefigures those in the first century who held fast to Christ despite persecution.

† Early church writers praised Daniel as a model of holiness and courage under pressure.

† Today, the faithful stand firm in the completed kingdom, reflecting loyalty to Christ amid spiritual compromise.

Daniel 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 Abednego.

† Changing their names was an attempt to redefine their identity under Babylon's gods.

† Historically, each new name contained a reference to Babylonian deities, erasing the memory of Israel's God.

† Spiritually, this represents how the world tries to rename God's people, yet their true identity remains with Him.

† Eusebius affirmed that faithful men under persecution never lost their divine calling despite worldly pressure.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, believers bear Christ's name, not the world's, sealed by His eternal covenant.

Daniel 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.

† Daniel's resolve to stay pure shows spiritual courage and commitment to covenant law even under pressure.

† Historically, Babylonian food was often offered to idols, which made it ceremonially unclean.

† Prophetically, this separation points forward to Christ's call for spiritual holiness apart from worldly compromise.

† Clement of Rome admired those who, like Daniel, resisted defilement and stood firm in righteousness.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, believers must also refuse spiritual corruption and remain devoted to Christ alone.

Daniel 1:9

Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials.

† God's providence worked even in captivity to give Daniel influence and protection.

† Historically, divine favor often preserved faithful servants within foreign courts, such as Joseph in Egypt.

† This foreshadows how God granted favor to His apostles under Roman rule during the gospel's expansion.

† Early Christian writings affirm that those who walk faithfully often find God's favor in unlikely places.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, God's grace continues to open doors of influence for those who walk in integrity.

Daniel 1:10

And the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid

of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king."

† The official's fear shows the absolute authority of Babylon's king, whose word meant life or death.

† Historically, Babylonian rulers demanded total obedience and feared rebellion, even in small matters.

† Prophetically, this reflects the oppression of worldly powers that ruled until the everlasting kingdom arrived in Christ.

† Eusebius noted that earthly fear often blinds rulers to God's higher purpose.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, perfect love casts out fear, because Christ reigns as the true King.

Daniel 1:11–13

But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

† Daniel requested a fair test of faith, trusting that obedience would prove God's faithfulness.

† Historically, the ten-day test demonstrated the physical blessing of living according to God's law.

† Spiritually, it points to endurance and faithfulness under trial, just as the early believers proved faithful through testing.

† Clement and other fathers saw Daniel's faith as a model for trusting God's provision.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the believer's faith is still tested, revealing the strength of spiritual conviction.

Daniel 1:14–15

So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days. At the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food.

† God vindicated Daniel's faith through visible blessing.

† Historically, this miracle proved that obedience brought strength beyond human reasoning.

† Prophetically, this showed that those who remained faithful to God would be sustained even under foreign dominion.

† Tertullian taught that divine favor sustains the righteous far beyond natural means.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, spiritual nourishment from Christ strengthens the believer's life and witness.

Daniel 1:16

So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables.

† Daniel's example influenced others, showing how one person's faith can shift the actions of leaders.

† Historically, this obedience became a quiet resistance to idolatry within Babylon.

† Spiritually, it foreshadows the early church's steadfastness under persecution.

† Eusebius recorded similar examples of believers who maintained purity under Roman control.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, faithful living influences others toward righteousness and truth.

Daniel 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.

† God rewarded faithfulness with divine wisdom, setting them apart in Babylon.

† Historically, dreams were a key form of communication in the ancient Near East, but Daniel's understanding came from God alone.

† Prophetically, this anticipates the Spirit's revelation given to the apostles in the first century.

† Early church writers saw Daniel as a type of the prophets and apostles who discerned divine mysteries.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, God's Spirit continues to grant wisdom and understanding through His Word.

Daniel 1:18–19

Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar. 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.

† These young men rose to prominence because of God's favor and excellence of spirit.

† Historically, their rise fulfilled God's promise to exalt those who honor Him.

† Prophetically, this prefigures the elevation of Christ's faithful ones in His kingdom.

† Clement and Eusebius both recognized that God uses faithfulness to influence kings and nations.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, those who walk in truth reign with Christ in spiritual authority.

Daniel 1:20–21

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. And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.

† God's wisdom surpassed all the false wisdom of Babylon's magicians.

† Historically, Daniel's success endured through multiple empires, showing God's enduring faithfulness.

† Prophetically, this points to the triumph of divine wisdom in Christ over all earthly power.

† Early writers saw Daniel's longevity as proof that truth outlasts tyranny.

† In the fulfilled kingdom, the wisdom of Christ reigns eternally, never to be overthrown.

How it applies to us today

† Daniel's integrity shows how faithfulness to God overcomes the pressure of worldly conformity.

† Just as Babylon sought to reprogram Israel's youth, today's world pressures believers to compromise truth for comfort.

† The story of Daniel demonstrates that obedience always brings favor and spiritual strength.

† The fulfilled kingdom calls us to stand firm, knowing Christ reigns and all prophecy is complete in Him.

† We live in the same spiritual victory Daniel foreshadowed, walking in righteousness in the everlasting kingdom.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† The Holy Bible, NASB

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, Book 10

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History, Book 9

† Tertullian, Against Marcion, Book 4

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement

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