

## ***Daniel: Tempted to Compromise, Daniel Chapter 1***

***March 16, 2022***



**Introduction:** *In A.D 156 a hostile Roman ruler threatened to burn Bishop Polycarp at the stake unless he renounced his faith. Few of us today face this kind of temptation to deny Christ. Yes, our daily temptations to compromise our commitment to Jesus are just as serious. The seemingly small decisions we make carry with them far-reaching consequences both in our lives and in the lives of those around us.*

*Daniel confronted one of these “small” temptations. Having been forcibly exiled to Babylon, he was offered a prestigious education in the best schools in the country. The problem, however, was this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity also required a small compromise. **Read Daniel Chapter***

1. What was Daniel and his friends brought to Babylon and selected to enter the king’s service (vv.1-4)?
2. What tactics were used to not only train these young men but also help them blend into Babylonian culture (vv.4-7)?
3. Daniel and his companions accept the education offered by Nebuchadnezzar, the possibility of attaining positions in the pagan empire and new names (vv.4-7). Why do you think they agreed to these things but refused the king’s food (v.8)?
4. Why do you think it might have been easy for Daniel to rationalize this seemingly trivial compromise?
5. What creative arrangement does Daniel make with the chief official and the Babylonian guard (vv.8-14)?
6. In what ways does God honor the trust and obedience to the four young men (vv.15-20)?
7. What might have happened to Daniel and his future ministry if he had compromised?

### **Personal reflection and prayer:**

- When is compromise good and when is it bad?
- In what ways are we pressured to conform to our surrounding culture?
- In what small ways are we tempted to compromise our lifestyle or belief?
- In what situations do people ask you to compromise your beliefs and convictions without realizing it?
- In what ways do our obedience in the “little things” have far-reaching implications in our service to Jesus?
- List some temptations you are currently facing and pray about them.

**Lent:** How have you been tempted to compromise yourself during Lent?

**Prayer:** Dear God, please give me the wisdom and discernment to be in the world but not of the world, in Jesus’ name amen.

## Daniel Chapter 1 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

<sup>3</sup> Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, <sup>4</sup> young men in whom *there was* no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who *had* ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. <sup>5</sup> And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of *that time* they might serve before the king. <sup>6</sup> Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. <sup>7</sup> To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel *the name* Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. <sup>9</sup> Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. <sup>10</sup> And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who *are* your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king."

<sup>11</sup> So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants." <sup>14</sup> So he consented with them in this matter and tested them ten days.

<sup>15</sup> And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. <sup>16</sup> Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

<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. <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.