

**Lesson 1: Daniel 1:1-21**  
**“A \_\_\_\_\_ Heart”**

**1. v1-2: The Background:**

a. In 640 B.C:

- 1) Josiah becomes king at age 8 and reigns for 31 years.
- 2) He is the last godly king of Judah and second only to David in his spiritual walk with God:
  - a) Begins reforms in 628 B.C.
  - b) Finds book of the law in 622 B.C.
- 3) He renews the covenant with God and reforms the nation.

b. In 609 B.C:

- 1) Josiah meddles to his own hurt by going up against Necho king of Egypt (2 Chron 35:20-25), and he is killed in the battle of Megiddo.
- 2) Josiah’s 23 year old son Jehoahaz becomes king and reigns for only 3 months. Because of his evilness, Necho took Jehoahaz off the throne and carried him away to Egypt where he lived until his death.
- 3) Necho also put Judah under a yearly tribute or tax of 120,000 ounces of silver and 1,200 ounces of gold.
- 4) Necho places Josiah’s son Eliakim on the throne and changes his name to Jehoiakim. He also did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord.

c. **Read v1-2:**

- 1) 605 B.C. – Battle of Carchemish, which ends Assyrian and Egyptian rules, followed by Nebuchadnezzar’s 1<sup>st</sup> siege of Jerusalem (Daniel and his 3 friends are deported). Judah is made a vassal of Babylon.
- 2) 598 B.C. – Jehoiakim dies and his son Jehoiachin becomes king.
- 3) 597 B.C. – Nebuchadnezzar’s 2<sup>nd</sup> siege of Jerusalem (Jehoiachin, Ezekiel, and 10,000 others are deported). Jehoiachin’s uncle, Mattaniah, is made king and his name is changed to Zedekiah.
- 4) 587-586 B.C. – Nebuchadnezzar’s 3<sup>rd</sup> and final siege of Jerusalem (The temple is destroyed). Gedaliah is made governor over Judah.
- 5) 539 B.C. – Babylonian Empire falls to the Persian Empire.

- 6) 538 B.C. – King Cyrus issues a decree allowing the Jews to return to their homeland and approx. 50,000 return to Jerusalem under the leadership of Zerubbabel.

2. v3-21: A \_\_\_\_\_ Heart:

a. **Read v3: Why bring them?**

- 1) To serve as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2) To serve as a pleasant \_\_\_\_\_ to Nebuchadnezzar.
- 3) For the future \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ affairs.

b. **Read v4-5: The temptation of \_\_\_\_\_:**

- 1) They have found favor in the eyes of the king.
- 2) They have been offered the best (right off the king's own table) food to eat and the best wine to drink.
- 3) They have been placed into a 3 year royal training program.

c. **Read v6-7: The name change:**

- 1) **Daniel** = "God is my judge" to \_\_\_\_\_ = "May Bel protect" (Bel was a god of Babylon)
- 2) **Hananiah** = "God has been gracious" to \_\_\_\_\_ = "commander of Aku" (The Babylonian moon-god)
- 3) **Mishael** = "Who is what God is?" to \_\_\_\_\_ = "who is what Aku is?"
- 4) **Azariah** = "God is my help" to \_\_\_\_\_ = "servant of Nebo" (Babylonian god of wisdom & son of Bel)
- 5) **Their Hebrew names indicate their \_\_\_\_\_ to the God of Israel and the \_\_\_\_\_ of their parents.**
- 6) **Their Babylonian names couldn't help but remind them of their captivity and the fact that they had received these new names because of Israel's failure to be \_\_\_\_\_ to God by observing His \_\_\_\_\_.**

d. **Read v8: A \_\_\_\_\_ heart will not allow \_\_\_\_\_:**

- 1) Definitions:
  - a) Purposed = to set, ordain, establish, found, appoint, constitute, make, \_\_\_\_\_, fix.

b) Heart = the \_\_\_\_\_ man; the \_\_\_\_\_ or core of a person; the \_\_\_\_\_ of appetites, emotions, passions, and courage.

c) Defile = to \_\_\_\_\_, desecrate, or stain oneself.

2) The king's meat represented \_\_\_\_\_ defilement. (It did not meet the requirements of the Mosaic Law.)

3) The king's wine represented \_\_\_\_\_ defilement. (It had been dedicated to idols.)

**e. v8-9: A \_\_\_\_\_ heart has the \_\_\_\_\_ of God:**

1) **Read v8:** Please notice Daniel's countenance, attitude, and good judgment – "he requested"

He didn't invite punishment with \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ behavior.

2) **Read v9:** Notice the divine intervention in preparing the way for Daniel's request:

a) favour = kindness or \_\_\_\_\_ will.

b) tender love = deep \_\_\_\_\_.

**f. v10-14: A \_\_\_\_\_ heart has a \_\_\_\_\_ for God:**

1) **Read v10:**

a) Life was cheap in Babylon.

b) Changing the king's orders could cost him his life.

c) He had the power to deny Daniel's request without explanation or reason.

2) **Read v11-14:**

a) Ten = Testimony

1- The 10 \_\_\_\_\_ were God's testimony to Israel and keeping them was Israel's testimony to God.

2- The 10 \_\_\_\_\_ were God's testimony to Israel and against Egypt.

3- The \_\_\_\_\_ (tenth) was Israel's (and ours) testimony of faith unto the Lord.

b) Daniel's testimony is that he is \_\_\_\_\_ God to provide a means to \_\_\_\_\_ the defilement:

**1 Cor 10:13** – “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

**g. Read v15-16: A \_\_\_\_\_ heart has the \_\_\_\_\_ blessings of God:**

“fairer and fatter”

**h. Read v17: A \_\_\_\_\_ heart has the \_\_\_\_\_ blessings of God:**

God gave them the ability to learn the language, customs, religious superstitions, and magic of the Chaldeans.

**i. Read v17-19: A \_\_\_\_\_ heart has the \_\_\_\_\_ blessings of God:**

- 1) Dr. Walvoord: “By knowledge and skill is indicated that they not only had a thorough acquaintance with the learning of the Chaldeans, but that they had insight into its true meaning.”
- 2) God had added His \_\_\_\_\_, which enabled them to distinguish between the true and the false.
- 3) God gave them not only knowledge but \_\_\_\_\_.

**j. Read v20: A \_\_\_\_\_ heart has the \_\_\_\_\_ of God:**

- 1) “ten times better”
- 2) The number 10 appears 3 times in this chapter:
  - a) Three = Divine perfection and completeness (e.g. The Trinity).
  - b) This chapter is a testimony of God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ provision for those who are \_\_\_\_\_ to Him.

**k. Read v21: A \_\_\_\_\_ heart experiences the \_\_\_\_\_ of God:**

Daniel, who was among the first captives taken, lived to see the official end of the Exile.

### **3. In conclusion, let us ask ourselves:**

- a. Do I have a purposed heart for God?
- b. Am I saying no to the defilements of this world?
- c. Am I trusting God to provide me with a means to escape the temptations that come my way?
- d. Am I determined to remain faithful to God no matter the circumstances and no matter the cost?
- e. Do I have a testimony for God and more importantly do I have a testimony of God?