

Daniel 1

EXAMINE

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.

The Lord wants to speak to you personally from His Scriptures!! Before you begin the remainder of the homework, read this chapter of Daniel slowly and carefully. Prayerfully ask the Lord to be your Teacher, and make a note of the things He shows you. You may want to ask Him to instruct you specifically in some of the following areas:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- What do You want me to learn about You as God the Father, God the Son and/or God the Holy Spirit?
- Is there something for which to praise or thank You?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- How do You want the lessons I have learned to affect my life today?

EXPLORE

1. Please read the following Scriptures and note what you learn about the background and setting of the book of Daniel.
 - 2 Kings 24:8-16
 - 2 Kings 25:8-16
 - Jeremiah 24:1-10
 - Jeremiah 52:12-30
 - Daniel 1:1-2

2. Record everything you learn from verses 3 and 4 about the *children of Israel* who were taken to Babylon. Based on these verses, what did the king want to teach them?

3. Many commentators believe that most of these *young men* were between thirteen and seventeen years of age. Try to imagine what went on in their minds as they were carried away from their homes and the land of their birth and deported to Babylon. Write down your thoughts.

4. The nation of Babylon into which Daniel and his friends were deported was wicked and worldly. It was very different from their homeland, and they were aliens there. They had to learn to be *in* that world but not *of* it. In the same way, we as Christians are aliens here on this earth; this world is not our home. From the time of Abraham, God's people have seen themselves as sojourners. We are pilgrims or sojourners here as we wait to go to our true home, which is heaven. Define each of the following terms. After doing so, explain how you can live in this world while remembering that your true citizenship is in heaven. You may want to look up one or all of the following verses: Hebrews 11:13-16, 1 Peter 1:17-19, 1 Peter 2:11-12
 - Alien

 - Pilgrim

 - Sojourner

5. Please read the prophecies in 2 Kings 20:17-18 and Isaiah 39:7. Although commentators disagree about whether or not these young men were made literal eunuchs, it is clear that they went through a very traumatic experience as they were taken from their homes and deported to Babylon *against their will*. Can you relate? Has there been a situation in your life where the decision(s) of another affected you in a very negative way? You will not be asked to describe the situation, but can you share one way the Lord proved Himself faithful on your behalf during this time?

6. Describe what verse 5 tells you about each of the following:
- The daily provision appointed for the young men
 - The time allotted for their training
 - The purpose of their training
7. It appears that the training described in verse 5 was systematic and comprehensive. Define the word *training* and explain how it differs from *teaching*.
- Why is it important that a person receive training before entering into service?
 - How does the need for training relate to Christian service?
 - Share an example of good training that you received.
 - Are you currently training anyone? If so, how are you doing this?
8. Using the information in verses 6-7, fill in the chart below with the Babylonian names given to the young men. (Note: Bel, Aku and Nego were Babylonian gods.)

Hebrew Name	Meaning of Hebrew name	Babylonian Name	Meaning of Babylonian Name
Daniel	God is my Judge		Bel protect the king
Hananiah	The Lord is Gracious		Command of Aku
Mishael	Who is like the Lord?		Who is what Aku is?
Azariah	The Lord is my Helper		Servant of Nego

9. Refer to the chart in the previous question, and look at the meanings of the Hebrew names contrasted with the meanings of the Babylonian names. The chief of the eunuchs may have been attempting to erase any reference to Yahweh, the God of Israel, from the Babylonian court. What are a few ways God's name is being erased in our culture today?

10. According to verse 8, what did Daniel *purpose* in his heart? Consider the meaning of the word *purpose*; it carries with it the idea of *commitment or determination, referring to something done intentionally with the goal of attaining a specific result*. What is one thing you have purposed in your heart recently? How has this affected your life?

11. Define the word *defile*. Based on this definition, can you think of something in your life that is defiling to you? Describe how you can eliminate this from your life.

12. Although Daniel purposed not to defile himself with food or wine, there is no record that he objected to his name change or to instruction in the language and literature of the Chaldeans. Why do you think he made this distinction? Can you describe a similar situation in your own life?

13. Please look at verse 9. Define *favor* and *good will*. Can you think of a time when God brought *you* into the favor and good will of someone? If so, please explain.

14. Write your own summary of verses 10-16. Based on your reading of this section, what word would you use to describe Daniel's manner as he approached the chief of the eunuchs? Is there an area of your life where you need to follow his example?

15. Look over verses 17-21. What do you learn about Daniel from these verses?

16. Fill in the missing words from the following verses:

- Verse 2 ~ And the Lord _____ Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand...
- Verse 9 ~ And God had _____ Daniel into the favor and good will of the chief of the eunuchs.
- Verse ~ 17 As for these four young men, God _____ them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom...

The same word, *nathan* (or *natan*), is used in each of these verses. Forms of this word occur over 2,000 times in the Bible. According to Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words it means *to deliver, give, give over, ascribe, place, set up, make, dedicate, effect a result, commit to someone's care*. In each of the verses above, *nathan* describes what *the Lord* did. Take some time to consider all that the Lord has given or committed to you. What does this tell you about His character and His nature?

ENJOY

Take time today to sit with the Lord and enjoy Him. Delight yourself in the God of your salvation! Bask in His love, rest in His protection, and take pleasure in a time of intimate fellowship with Him.

What have you learned from Him and about Him this week? How has this knowledge drawn you closer to Him? Make a note below. Now praise Him for who He is and thank Him for all He has done for you.