

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Daniel – week 1 – Part 1



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member your understanding of the life of Daniel in the Old Testament?
2. What does v.1 tell us happened to Israel? (**Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.**)
3. Who were part of the slaves according to v.3 – 4? (**...The royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skilful...**).
4. What were they to be educated in according to v.4b? (**...Teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.**)



Let's go deeper

5. Who were Daniel's friends in v.6? (**Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.**)
6. What were new names according to v.7? (**Daniel – Belteshazzar, Hananiah – Shadrach, Mishael – Meshach, and Azariah – Abednego.**)
7. What did God give Daniel in v.9? (**And God gave Daniel favour and compassion in the sight of the chief of eunuchs.**)
8. What did Daniel tell the steward over them to do in v.12? (**Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.**)



Let's apply this

9. **Daniel 1:6 – 7**; Among these were **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael**, and **Azariah** of the tribe of Judah. And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel – Belteshazzar, Hananiah – Shadrach, Mishael – Meshach, and Azariah – Abednego
  - Do you have friends that you can call upon in times of crisis?
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to show you who the friends are you need to invest in relationally?
  - Ask the Holy Spirit to show you, how you can be a better friend to others?

SUMMARY:

**Daniel:** Week 1 – 10 Tests for every man

**Read:** Daniel 1:1 – 21

For God's people, Babylon, was the last place on earth they wanted to live in, they are going there as slaves with no rights and a godless king Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel is taken as a slave and he is a teenager between 13 to 16 years old. Behind Babylon is the spirit of Babylon. It is a demonic power that creates a counterfeit copy kingdom that is opposite to God. What God creates Satan copy and that is Babylon. Daniel has the spirit of Babylon around him and the culture tempting him, but he has the Spirit of God in him. In chapter 1 Daniel faces **TEN tests that all men face**:

**1. The friend test (vv.6; 17).**

Daniel is tempted to conform to the culture, they change his name, religion, identity and they want him to pick new friends. Daniel picks three friends who are with him throughout the book of Daniel. Your friends determine your future. Daniel has the relationships before the crisis in chapter 2, he knows who to call. Men, do you know who to call when crisis hits? Fathers, it is NB to teach your child how to pick friends.

**2. The gender test (vv.3 – 4).**

Daniel was put under the chief overseer of the eunuchs, the king had something called a harem, a lot of women that was part of his household, and now the king has a lot of young men with high IQ, EQ, good looking strong men, so what do you do? You make them eunuchs. They took away Daniel's God-given gender and sexuality. What did Daniel do, he continued to fulfil his male role and responsibilities as a man. The spirit of Babylon wants to remove your God-given gender and sexuality.

**3. The sex test (vv.3 – 4).**

Do you think Daniel had any vision for his sex life in his future, yes or no? Do you think Daniel hoped to be married and enjoy his marriage? Daniel is a virgin, taken as a slave as a teenage kid. He has not consummated a marriage. He is eunuch. Is this the life he wanted? No, but he continues to fulfil God's plan and purpose for his life.

**4. The education test (vv.4 – 5).**

Daniel is sent to the "university of Babylon" to be educated and brainwashed in Babylonian culture and traditions, he does very well in his studies, but he does not allow his studies to transform his biblical view of God, and His Word. Daniel understood Babylon, but he did not agree or believe Babylonian theology.

**5. The work test (vv.4 – 5).**

Do you think Daniel liked his job? In the interview they made him a eunuch. He is in Babylon he does not want to be there; he works for Nebuchadnezzar, he does not want to work for him, he works in the harem, he does not want to work there. But Daniel does his best, he honours God and his boss in his job, and God promotes him.

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Daniel – week 1 – Part 2



Let's hear your story

1. Tell of a time when you had to explain to a friend or family member about the prophet Daniel in the Old Testament?
2. For how many days did the steward test Daniel and his friends with the other young men who ate the king's food in v.14? **(For ten days.)**
3. What was the result in v.15? **(At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the king's youths.)**
4. What did the steward do according to v.16? **(The steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.)**



Let's go deeper

5. What did God give the four friends in v.17? **(God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom...)**
6. What does v.19 tell us? **(Among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. They stood before the king.)**
7. What does v.20 tell us? **(The king found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.)**
8. Did Daniel serve the Lord till the end of his life? **(Yes, v.20 tells us that Daniel was there until the first year of king Cyrus.)**



Let's apply this

**9. Daniel 1:21;** And Daniel was there until the first year of king Cyrus.

Daniel was faithful to God in his teenage years, and faithful to God in his 20's and all the way to his 80's.

- How is your relationship with God, the Holy Spirit?
- Take some time this week to read and study Daniel chapter 1 and allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you.
- How has the life of Daniel impacted you in chapter 1?

SUMMARY:

**Daniel:** Week 1 – 10 Tests for every man

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**6. The worship test (v.5).**

Daniel is constantly tempted, the king says, eat my food and drink my wine. It is the opposite of communion; he is to eat and drink with the Lord and Nebuchadnezzar says why do you not you eat and drink with me and my demon gods. Daniel must choose between worshipping God and persecution, or not worship God and have a lot of pleasure? Pleasure or persecution? The worship test is, am I going to worship God and be persecuted or am I going to choose pleasure and not worship God? A lot of the tests that men have is around food, alcohol, pleasure, and bodily enjoyment.

**7. The marriage test**

As a young man Daniel would have looked forward to meeting his wife and getting married. He never got that, and his heart's desire, and longing was continually unmet. That was the marriage test, and was he going to get bitter against God and rebel against God, no he was going to keep following and trusting God.

**8. The parenting test**

Daniel likely desired and longed to be a dad, the Old Testament genealogies are filled with fathers and their children and it is a big deal to have a family. Daniel did not get that. Daniel never got to be a husband or a dad.

**9. The political test (v.20).**

Did Daniel get the government that he voted for? No, he did not get the government that he wanted. Daniel could have moaned and groaned about the government, but he did not. Daniel was a slave and slaves never got to vote. Daniel seeks to be a faithful citizen in a very unfair and ungodly government.

**10. The life stage test (v.21).**

Daniel starts as a teenager, by the end of chapter 12, he is an old man in his 80's; 69 years of his life is recorded in the 12 chapters of Daniel. Daniel was faithful to God in his teens, faithful to God in 20's up to his 80's. He never gets to go back to his homeland, he never got the life that he hoped for, but he faithfully obeyed God.

**Every man needs:**

A relationship with God, and a few friends for the journey through Babylon.

Daniel was empowered by the Holy Spirit. As men we need to know that more than sex, a job, a wife, and obedient children; ultimately the two things that all men need the most is a relationship with God, and a few friends for the journey through Babylon. That is the story of Daniel.