



# Taking a stand

**When to be Different**

**Daniel 1**

Pastor Nathan Mains

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It was a very bad time

**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.*

*2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God.*

*These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. (NIV)*

# Recruiting a Dream Team

**Daniel 1:3-4** *Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace.*

(NIV)

# Exclusive Training Program

**Daniel 1:4** ...*He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.*

*5 The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table.*

*They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. (NIV)*

4 who made the team

**Daniel 1:6** *Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.*

*7 The chief official gave them new names:  
to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar;  
to Hananiah, Shadrach;  
to Mishael, Meshach;  
and to Azariah, Abednego. (NIV)*

# Why change their names?

Hebrew name

Babylonian name

***Daniel*** = “God is  
Judge”

***Belteshazzar*** = “May  
Bel protect his life”

***Hananiah*** = “Yahweh  
is Gracious”

***Shadrach*** = “command  
of Aku” [moon god]

***Michael*** = “who is  
what God is?”

***Meshach*** = “who is what  
Aku is?”

***Azariah*** = “The Lord  
helps”

***Abed-nego*** = “servant  
of Nebo”

# Taking a Stand

**Daniel 1:8** *But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine,  
and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.*

Have you ever taken a stand?  
Have you ever resolved in your heart not to do something everybody else was doing?

Other factors to account for:

**Daniel 1:9** *Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel,*

*10 but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink.*

*Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age?*

*The king would then have my head because of you."* (NIV)

# A Respectful Request

**Daniel 1:11** *Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, 12*

*"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.*

*13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."*

*14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. (NIV)*

## What Happened?

*1:15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food.*

*16 So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.*

*17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. (NIV)*

# Comprehensive Final Exam

**Daniel 1:18** *At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar.*

**19** *The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah;*

*so they entered the king's service.*

**20** *In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom. (NIV)*

# Take Away

It pleases God when we are willing to take a stand & be different in order to better reflect His glory.

**2 Corinthians 7:1** *...let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.*

**Hebrews 12:1** *...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (NIV)*



## Taking a Stand

**Ephesians 5:8-10** *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.*

**Philippians 2:15** *so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe*

