Daniel 1 4:12-19 | Resolved to Living Faithfully

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.

³Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility.

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.

⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 enchanters in his whole kingdom. ²¹ And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

QUESTIONS

1. Share how God exhibited His sovereignty throughout Daniel 1? In what ways, does this help you to trust God in a deeper and fuller way?

2. Explain how Daniel's approach to the problem demonstrated wisdom, humility and grace. What can we learn about dealing with the problems that we face?

3. Despite his young age, Daniel lived with a strong conviction because he knew the purpose of his life. Compare yourself to Daniel, how are you preparing not just to survive through life, but thrive as an influence?

4. In all that Daniel and his friends experienced, what is your greatest encouragement in this chapter?