



# 20/20 Vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Preparing Your Children and Yourself for the Next Generation

## A Study of Daniel 1-6

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## Two Cultures in Conflict

Daniel, Chapter 1

Message # 1

# M E S S A G E N O T E S

## Some "Things Up for Grabs" in the Near Future

What do we need to do today to be ready for the world tomorrow?

The choices that we make today will determine what happens in the Next Generation!

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 gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god. Daniel 1:1,2 NKJV

### Historical Background

Time:

Spiritual Condition of Israel:

God makes good on His \_\_\_\_\_ (Deuteronomy 28-30)

## The New Environment for God's People:

### The Babylonian Strategy to Capture the Next Generation

3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, 4 young men in whom *there was* no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who *had* ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans. Daniel 1:3,4 NKJV

5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of *that time* they might serve before the king. 6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. 7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel *the name* Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. 10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who *are* your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king." (vv. 5-10)

12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, *so* deal with your servants." (vv. 12,13)

15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies. 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. (vv. 15-17)

18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers who *were* in all his realm. (vv. 18-20)

21 Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus. (v.21)

### A Summary of the Babylonian Strategy:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ like Babylonians
2. \_\_\_\_\_ like Babylonians

Their names:

Daniel – Hebrew: \_\_\_\_\_

Belteshazzar: \_\_\_\_\_

Hananiah – Hebrew: \_\_\_\_\_

Shadrach: \_\_\_\_\_

Mishael – Hebrew: \_\_\_\_\_

Meshach: \_\_\_\_\_

Azariah – Hebrew: \_\_\_\_\_

Abed-Nego: \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ like Babylonians

## God's Strategy for Capturing the Next Generation

1. God uses \_\_\_\_\_, first, to teach their children who He is.
2. God uses the \_\_\_\_\_ whose parents have prepared them to \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God grants His favor and \_\_\_\_\_ to kids who know and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

### Life Applications from Daniel 1

1. The future of our world will be determined by \_\_\_\_\_ the next generation.
2. The condition and strength of our children (our family, our church, etc.) in the future depends on the condition and strength that \_\_\_\_\_.

***8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Daniel 1:8 NKJV***

3. We are NOT \_\_\_\_\_ of our pagan culture.
4. We need to focus on \_\_\_\_\_ our kids over \_\_\_\_\_ them.
5. There's no preparing kids unless \_\_\_\_\_ as adults.