

Lesson 8: Faithful To God in Babylon

God rewards those who choose to follow His ways.
(BOOK OF DANIEL)



🌀 Study at a Glance: The 5 W's

KEY AREA	DETAILS AND SUMMARY
WHO (Author & Audience)	
WHAT (Core Message)	
WHEN (Timing)	
WHERE (Location)	
WHY (Rationale)	

Introduction: Many believers identify the struggles they face as followers of Jesus. But imagine losing your home, community, family members, your freedom and your name all at once.. This is what happened to four young men from Judah as they were taken captive by the Babylonian empire. The truth of the matter is, faith in Jesus will cost you something. In Matt 16: 24-26, Jesus himself said "take up your cross and follow me".

Key Terms Defined

TERM	ORIGINAL WORD in Greek	DEFINITION (Contextual)
Exiled	Exoria Exoristos Exorizo	
Pagan	Ethnikos Eidolatriis	
Dilemma	Dilemma- <i>di(two) and lemma (proposition)</i>	
Discernment	Diakrisis	
Defiled	Koinoo Miainó	

SECTION 1: Exiled to a Pagan society (*Read Daniel 1: 1-7*)

The Bible tells us that all that "whatsoever was written afore time, was written for our learning" (Rom 15:4) The historical accounts in the book of Daniel served at the time, as a foretelling of what was to come (prophecy). Today it serves as a historical record of what already took place and what is still to come (history & prophecy). What shall we gain from this book for our learning?

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** Daniel 1:2 tells us that it was the Lord that gave Judah over to captivity. What does this say about God's role in events, whether good or evil regarding his people?
2. Do you feel there is any significance in the Babylonian King taking the articles from the house of God and placing them in the temple of his god's?
3. What specific criteria did King Nebuchadnezzar demand for these captives and for what purpose?
4. **Application:** Does your first or last name have a meaning? Does it mean something special to you? How would you feel if you were forced to relocate to a new city and forced to change your identity?

SECTION 2: Faithfulness to God tested (*Read Daniel 1:8-16*)

Cause you gotta have FAITH! Not only faith, but the ability to stand on what you believe in the face of adversity, and not compromise. There is no doubt that everyone of us will be tested by man and by God but we must stand for righteousness and truth.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** What possible reasons would the King have for appointing a portion of the "King's meat" to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah?
2. Verse 8 states that Daniel "purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself". Explain what that means and what it says about Daniel?
3. **Application:** What have you turned down, rejected or ended if anything, to preserve yourself for service unto the Lord? Be honest, is that a difficult thing for you?

SECTION 3: God rewards faithfulness (*Read Daniel 1:17-21*)

Your faith will place you before great men who may flatter you and offer you treasures beyond your wildest imagination. It may be things that seem harmless and may very likely be beneficial to you. Usually, there is a lure or temptation to this type of experience. We must use discernment and wisdom so our gain doesn't offend our God.

Discussion Questions

1. **Text/Exegesis:** Daniel and his friends rejected the favor presented from the King of Babylon. They used humility and respect in dealing with the prince of the eunuchs. They exercised faith by trusting God to sustain them while they limited their food intake. They demonstrated unusual knowledge and wisdom before the king. **What is your biggest take away from this series of events in Daniel chapter 1?**

Conclusion: Let's read James 1:2-4 and 1 Peter 1:7-9