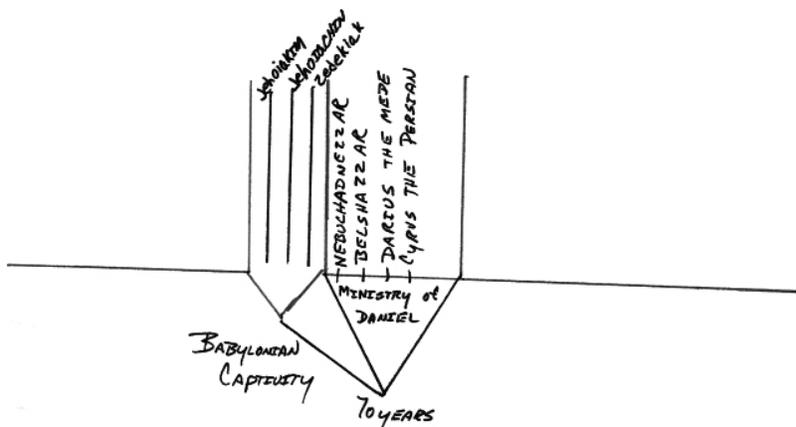


### Lesson 3 Daniel's Training: Chapter One

#### STUDY GUIDE

1. Before studying this lesson, spend a little time reviewing what we have covered. Draw in your notebook a rough chart (without referring to your notes) of the "times of the Gentiles" as it relates to the past and future history of the Jews. Spend a few minutes reviewing the plan of the book of Daniel.
2. We have seen that chapter one is a unit with its own theme. Our objective in this lesson is to get the main purpose of this chapter and to deal with some of the details. Read through the four paragraphs of this chapter and summarize the content of each paragraph: in a phrase or sentence.
3. Read 1:1-7 again carefully and notice that two societies or civilizations are brought together. What are the two? In which one were Daniel and his friends trained? As you read verses 1-7, jot down the specific points at which those civilizations would be different. For example in vs. 2 the "house of God" is mentioned over against the "the house of his god". See if you can find five or six points
4. Now read vs. 8:16. How did Daniel respond to this new civilization? Why did Daniel not want to eat the king's food? What indication of tact or consideration do you see on Daniel's part? Is Daniel's problem like any problem faced by Christians today? What is the problem today?
5. We might think of this (vs. 1-16) as the first large step in God's plan for Daniel. How would you summarize this first step? Do you see the two parts of it? What application does this have for a Christian today? What is the next step as given in vs. 17? What did God give them all in common? What did God give especially for Daniel? Why?
6. The last step in this part of God's plan for Daniel is seen in vs. 18-20. What is the final step?
7. How would you summarize this first section of Daniel? What is God doing? From our background study, why do you think God wanted Daniel in this other civilizations?



ROUE of THE GENTILES

## NOTES

**The captivity of the choice Jews by Babylon:** We see in the first paragraph the development of the lament of the Hebrews in the overthrowing of Jehoiakim and the taking of the vessels from the temple. To add to the sorrow, the Sons of the royal family and the nobles were taken from their families to work in the court of Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. The young men were to be retrained to Chaldean tradition and were even given new names, This further affects the overthrow of the Hebrews in that their future leaders and rulers have been removed from Jerusalem and their training altered.

**Daniel's request for acceptable food:** In the second paragraph (8-13) Daniel did not want to change from the laws from which he was taught, so he asked permission not to eat the rich foods that were given to him. God moved the officials to grant his request. The test was also begun for ten days to see who would be stronger on which type of food.

**The fitness yielded by obedience:** The test was concluded (14-16) with Daniel and his friends being allowed to continue eating as they had requested due to their being healthier than those eating the king's choice food.

**God's gift to His children:** Daniel and his friends found favor in the eyes of God (17-21) so that they drew praise from Nebuchadnezzar, for God had blessed them and made them wiser and stronger by a margin of ten times greater than the magicians and conjurers in all the realm of Babylon. It is also noted that Daniel understood all kinds of visions and dreams. The paragraph was concluded by saying that Daniel continued to the first year of Cyrus possibly indicating the time which Daniel began writing these things.

We note that we have a blending of two cultures with the Hebrews and the Chaldeans, with Daniel and his friends having been raised in the Hebrew culture, but now being exposed and trained to the traditions of the Chaldeans. In verses 1-7, we note several differences:

1. the difference of religion....verse 2 — “house of God” vs. “house of his god”
2. the difference of language....verse 4
3. the difference of literature...verse 4 (History, customs, etc. )
4. the Chaldeans ate different types of foods....verse 5
5. their names were changed from Hebrew names to Chaldean names.....verse 7

We can see in verse 8 that Daniel did not respond well to this new civilization because it departed from the ways of God. The Hebrews had been taught there were certain foods that they were not to eat and Daniel did not wish to be defiled in this manner, so Daniel sought permission not to eat the king's rich foods. We see tact in Daniel's position by not rebelling against those in authority, but confronting them with the problem. A situation such as this, could arise in the lives of Christians today — such as working on Sunday or in other areas of personal conviction. A lesson can be learned from Daniel's handling of the situation.

God opened the door for a witness to His glory through Daniel by his obedience to the law, and his accomplishments in God through Him. This is something that we must follow even today, for if we live by the demands of the world we will gain the fruits thereof, but if we live by the teachings of God, we will inherit the fruits that He has prepared for us. Daniel and his friends grew, for “God gave them knowledge, and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom,” verse 17, and to Daniel He gave the understanding of visions and dreams, because he would have need of these things.

We can see in verses 18-20 that God's plan is emerging for the placing of Daniel and his friends in positions of authority as advisors to the kings. God is going to be glorified in the present situation with God's message being proclaimed to the Gentiles during the captivity. God placed Daniel in a position to be a personal witness to the Gentile rulers.