

Daniel 1:17 And for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams. (NASB)

1. Daniel's bold stand for truth was rewarded when the Melzar allowed the four to continue their diet.
2. God honors those who submit to His Word and allow Him to take care of the details.
3. **Note:** God gave the four the ability to rapidly advance in the various academic subjects in which they were taught.
4. He also imputes to Daniel the gift of prophet along with the rare ability to interpret dreams.
5. This "Faith-Rest Quartet" submitted to the Mosaic Dietary Code and honored the prohibition against participating, even by appearance, in cultic idolatry.
6. Their health was improved by the good diet and their standing before Chaldean officials was enhanced by the Plan of God, as can be seen at the end of the three-year training period:

Daniel 1:18 Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them [3 years; see v. 5], the commander of the officials [Ashpenaz] presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.

v. 19 The king talked with them and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, so they entered the king's personal service.

1. Because these young men passed the first test, they were able to consistently pass other tests.
2. The Book of Daniel is a chronicle demonstrating the power and dynamics of the Faith-Rest Drill, the objectivity of grace orientation to life, and the divine protection of those who maintain integrity under pressure.
3. God had provided them doctrine and they chose to store it in their souls which they all had the courage to apply under pressure:

PRINCIPLE: Once you honestly believe that God stands behind His Word, you will have the confidence to utilize it under pressure.

PRINCIPLE: Confidence in the Word of God produces courage toward life and circumstances.

PRINCIPLE: When you genuinely believe that doctrine is the most important thing in life is when you take control of your life.

- PRINCIPLE:** When you take control of your life is when you cease to be dictated to by clique leaders, peer pressures, and cosmic propaganda.
- PRINCIPLE:** Confidence in the Word plus the courage to take control of your own life produces the mental attitude of “no compromise.”
- PRINCIPLE:** Those who are unwilling to compromise their integrity are willing to die for what they believe.
- PRINCIPLE:** If you are willing to die for what you believe, then no external threat to your way of life can ever be successful.
- PRINCIPLE:** Those with (1) doctrine in their souls, (2) the courage to apply it to life, (3) the willingness to take control of their lives, and (4) the determination to never compromise integrity, can never be bought and they can never be defeated.
- PRINCIPLE:** The last argument of tyrants is to execute “enemies of the state.” When you remove their last argument, you win and they lose.
- PRINCIPLE:** Doctrine in the soul, plus loyalty to that doctrine under pressure produces a person of honor.
- PRINCIPLE:** The only person who can arrive at such a sophisticated system of problem solving is the one who has made Bible Doctrine his top priority in life.
- PRINCIPLE:** Invisible doctrine is more real to him than the visible reality he faces.
4. It was because of principles such as these in the soul of Daniel that enabled him to “make up his mind that he would not defile himself with the “king’s choice food” (Daniel 1:15).
 5. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah joined him in his decision to stand fast behind truth while the other 46 decided to take the easy way out.
 6. Note that our four heroes were inflexible with regard to the essentials of doctrine, but flexible with regard to the nonessentials of academic training.
 7. They gave 100% in the classroom and excelled in the knowledge of the formal subjects of the Chaldean curriculum.
 8. It was God’s intent to use the four young men to evangelize the leadership of the Chaldean government.
 9. In order to do so, they had to learn about the culture of Chaldea while at the same time maintain their loyalty to the God of Israel.

10. A nation can accommodate many religions but it can only support one culture.
11. When placed into an alien culture, it takes maximum doctrine to discern those aspects of the culture which may be observed and those which may not.
12. For the believer in the Church Age, the food, certain kinds of dress, the language, certain customs and trends, may be accepted in an alien culture without compromising doctrine.
13. However, all cultures are based on some system of religious thought and when its principles challenge the Word of God, they must be courteously disregarded.
14. Four young heroes— Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah — were able to accomplish this feat with such remarkable success, they were all promoted into the government of Chaldea.
15. The Meltzar’s attempt to pull them into the Chaldean religion and a lifestyle dependent upon the false gods of its pantheon was a complete failure,
16. However, his efforts in the field of academics was a big success.
17. God will use both results to promote, protect, and honor these four Faith-Rest Heroes throughout the Book of Daniel.
18. Their ability to withstand this original challenge to their loyalty to truth gave them the spiritual momentum to endure under much more intense testing later on and becomes the subject of the rest of the Book of Daniel.

VII. Summary and Applications

At this point, many may wonder how this study has anything to do with the celebration of our nation’s independence. The events we have studied occurred over the course of about 25 years: B.C. 607—to B.C. 580. The four young men we have noted— Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah—were in their late teens yet well-schooled in the systematic theology of the Old Testament. The situations they encountered in Babylon enabled them to withstand the religious system of the heathen citizens of the Chaldean Empire.

God provided the Jewish people with a number of prophets who alerted them to the potential dangers imposed by the heathen nations near them. These included Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, and others, yet the Israeli people continuously slid into the throes of reversionism. Their behaviors were overwhelmingly typical throughout their history as Priest Nations to God.

The same critique may also be assigned to those who lived during the times of the development of the New Testament and, following its conclusion around A.D. 95, for European client nations until the Pivot moved to the western hemisphere. The United States is the current Client Nation since its founding in 1776 and up to the present day.

This study in Daniel emphasizes how the four young heroes in Daniel are prophetic of what happens when the people of Jewish priest nations lose the thought, are eventually disbursed among heathen nations, yet among the diaspora are those who continue to stand fast with the absolute truths to which they continue to recall and deploy during their captivity. Such is the case with the teenage heroes we have noted in Daniel.

These four heroes' testimonies, whose unfailing reliance on and application of Bible doctrine kept God's Word alive and powerful in Nebuchadnezzar's Chaldean kingdom headquartered in Babylon on the Euphrates River. Our interest in this period was centered on the four young men mentioned above. The period of their involvement in the fall of Judah emphasizes how these four refused to allow Nebuchadnezzar and his administration to propagandize them into adopting the language, the religion, and the culture of the Chaldeans.

These four relentlessly stood fast in refusal to be propagandized into a heathen culture into which they were taken. The true patriots of Judah, the ones who relentlessly placed their allegiance into the hands of the God of Israel, is a testimony to us in the perilous days of Client Nation America.

The current administration has not yet taken literal hostages and enslaved them, but instead has chosen to indoctrinate the children of America by means of the federal schools at the earliest ages.

They do not place priority on senior high schools, but those whose souls are most malleable for propaganda and indoctrination. The curriculum being used is of such a form that, given enough time, will fully transform these innocent souls into automations to be manipulated by the Ministers of New Think. When parents seek of defend their children's souls, they are shouted down and some even arrested by law enforcement for their efforts to rescue their children's souls from these ambassadors of evil.

We may ponder that those in say, senior high school, might be a source to rescue the most vulnerable souls with their efforts to stand fast for truth. Maybe, but the federal schools have for so long possessed carte blanche—full discretionary power—to have already indoctrinated their souls into fellow propagandized automatons.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were star pupils of their parents' honorable instructions into the standards of the God of Israel. It is to these standards they recalled and resolved to obey while in captivity. This they consistently did and which ultimately won over the admiration of Nebuchadnezzar.

Therefore, these four young men were so convinced that the guidance of *Yahweh Elohim* from the doctrines of the Old Testament enabled them to stand fast against one of the most powerful potentates of the ancient world.

In order to emphasize the doctrinal application these four young men deployed in Babylon, we conclude our study of their exploits in the following references. These excerpts are from Gleason L. Archer, Jr.'s section on "Daniel," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, Frank E. Gaebelin, general editor, volume 7 (Grand Rapids: The Zondervan Publishing House, 1985):

Purpose. Despite decades of solemn warnings by Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, and many other faithful prophets, the people's flagrant apostasy and immorality, described in:

2 Chronicles 36:16 They continually mocked the messengers of God, despised His words and scoffed at His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, until there was no remedy.

... brought about the total destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, a destruction that God had warned His people about ever since the time of Moses (cf. Deuteronomy 28:64; 29:28). The covenant people had at last been expelled from the Promised Land and their Holy City and were condemned to captivity and enslavement in a foreign land.

From the viewpoint of a human observer, the religion of the Hebrews had been completely discarded. Their God, *Yahweh*, had shown himself inferior in power to the mighty gods of Assyria and Babylon; for He seemed unable to deliver His people from the worshipers of Ásshur, Bel, and Nébō. When they leveled *Yahweh's* temple to the ground and burned its ruins, the Babylonian troops served notice to all the world that their gods were mightier than *Yahweh*, no matter what titles the Hebrews gave them. Ethical monotheism was exposed to universal scorn as an empty fraud. Therefore, it was essential at this time in Israel's history for God to display His power in such a way as to prove that He was the one true God (in contrast to the false gods of the heathen) and the sovereign LORD of history.

So He showed His power by a series of miracles that vindicated biblical monotheism over against its detractors and convinced the supreme rulers of Babylon and Persia that *Yahweh* was the greatest power both on earth and in heaven. As God found it necessary in the days of Moses to display His redemptive power in the Ten Plagues and the crossing of the Red Sea in order to deliver Israel from idolatry and spiritual cowardice, so He acted during the disgrace and humiliation of the Babylonian exile. Indeed, it was essential for Him to prove by his miraculous acts that He had allowed his people to go into captivity in 587 B.C., not through weakness, but to maintain His integrity as a holy God, who carries out His covenant promises both for good and for ill according to the response of His people. So the whole narrative in Daniel relates a series of contests between false gods of human invention and the one true sovereign LORD and Creator of heaven and earth.²

Theological Values.³ **1. The principal theological emphasis in Daniel** is the absolute sovereignty of *Yahweh*, the God of Israel. At a time when it seemed to all the world that His cause was lost and that the gods of the heathen had triumphed, causing His temple to be burned to the ground, it pleased the LORD strikingly and unmistakably to display His omnipotence. The theme running through the whole book is that the fortunes of kings and the affairs of men are subject to God's decrees, and that He is able to accomplish His will despite the most determined opposition of the mightiest potentates on earth.

2. A second theological emphasis in Daniel is the mighty power of prayer. Neither Daniel nor his three companions held back from asking the LORD to deliver them from life-threatening dangers and impossible dilemmas. In chapter 2, Daniel did not hesitate to declare to Árioch, the king's commander, that he would correctly recall Nebuchadnezzar's dream and interpret its meaning. In chapter 3, Shádrach, Méshach, and Abéd-nego did not shrink back from the prospect of a swift and horrible death in the terrible furnace, for they were certain that their God was able to save them from perishing in its heat. Their total commitment to sacrifice their lives for the Lord's cause (3:18) furnishes the firmest basis for effectual prayer.

² Gleason L. Archer, Jr., "Daniel," in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, gen. ed. Frank E. Gaebelein (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985), 7:3–4.

³ The following four "emphases" are by Archer on pages 8 and 9 in his commentary, *Daniel*.



3. A Third theological emphasis of Daniel is the long-range purview of God's program of redemption. His marvelous plan of the ages is set forth on a scale almost as grandiose as that of Isaiah. Both works display the irresistible providence of almighty God's sovereign purpose to redeem His people through His divine-human Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ. While Isaiah sets forth most clearly the substitutionary Atonement as God's means of salvation, Daniel predicts the precise year of Christ's appearance and the beginning of His ministry in A.D. 27 (cf. Daniel 9:25–26). But even beyond this point, Daniel was given the revelation of the eschatological Seventieth Week (Daniel 9:26b–27), which we still eagerly look forward to, expecting the rapture of the church and the second coming of the Lord, with His triumph over the rebellious powers of earth at Armageddon (Daniel 11:36–12:12).

4. Lastly, underlying the entire scenario in Daniel is the indomitable grace of God. Even though Abraham's descendants would fall into apostasy and betray their trust, it was the Lord's unchangeable purpose to fulfill His promise to Abraham that he would "surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him" (Genesis 18:18). God was determined that a remnant of true believers would remain faithful and present His saving truth to the Gentiles. Despite periods of rebellion and moral declension during the times of the judges, the united monarchy, and the divided monarchy, a core of followers would remain true and keep alive the testimony of a holy people. Even after the sternest warnings of the prophets had been disregarded and severe judgment of near total destruction had overtaken the nation in 587 B.C., the LORD was merciful and gracious to His people during their exile. Isaiah, Micah, and Ezekiel foresaw the return of the remnant at the end of their chastisement; but it was Daniel, living with the exiled nation through its captivity, who witnessed their release under Cyrus, to set up the second commonwealth back in the Promised Land. God never abandoned His people to the full consequences of their sin, but in loving-kindness He subjected them to an ordeal that purged them of idolatry. Then, hearing their cry of repentance, He allowed them to return to their homeland, thus setting the stage for the coming of the Messiah.

The Book of Daniel thus sets forth the pattern of God's preserving grace that characterizes the New Testament as well, that "God's gifts and His call are irrevocable" (Romans 11:29). And even though in the New Testament age Israel as a nation has experienced hardening of the heart, yet after the full number of Gentile believers (the larger "Israel" of the church age) has been redeemed:

Romans 11:26 ... all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob."

This study is based on Daniel's historical report on the fifth cycle of discipline experienced by Israel at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar. His early emphasis relates how Bible doctrine was the secret to their survival during their captivity in Babylon. Daniel's precise recall and application of doctrine plus his courage to provide Nebuchadnezzar with detailed information of future events were essential in the ultimate deliverance from the Chaldean Empire.

During my 37-plus years as pastor of this church, many young people have attended our Prep School and Bible classes. Many of them have grown in grace and from their inventory of biblical ideas have completed their education, married, had children, and have become a part of the Pivot that presently is desperately needed to deliver this client nation from the clutches of Lucifer's strategy to destroy our freedoms and Constitutional protections.

Within this group of winners, let us pray that among them are at least four who have accumulated an inventory of biblical absolutes which they may deploy in the chaos presently unleashed upon the nation. We have not been attacked by a predator nation, but by fellow citizens of the United States who have unleashed rebellion led by Lucifer's Dark Side armies of fallen angels.

Yet, we have for ourselves a unique condition. We have the immutable power of the Word of God, His decrees, and His perfect plan to lead us through this Luciferian onslaught. All believers, young and old, must Suppress fear! Apply doctrine! Stay the course! Keep the faith!

Parents and grandparents—the Old Guard—will eventually die off. The teenagers and young adults, must, be able to stand fast in opposition to the rebellion currently assaulting this client nation by its political establishment.

In our nation's current Zeitgeist—like no other time since the War for Independence – has so much depended on the youth of this nation. What is desperately needed are young men and women—teenagers and young adults!—of the same class of heroes as were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, who are prepared to deploy their inventory of biblical absolutes into the current morass and stand fast behind the immutable Word of God.

The four young heroes' confidence and courage in the Book of Daniel demonstrate the power that resides in the souls of those who fully understand and are willing to recall and deploy God's immutable truth into the hostile environment of Lucifer's *cosmos diabolicus*.

Teenagers delivered Israel from its fifth cycle of discipline. Pray that there are enough of them today with enough doctrine in their souls and the courage to apply it to deliver client nation America in this sad day of its discontent.

Father, this client nation is in the throes of a Luciferian strategy to overthrow the country. Our enemies' strategy is to form a global government. Those over whom they wish to rule must kowtow or die. Our prayer is that you will intervene through your grace. Before You, we have no option but to stay the course. In doing so, we must apply the examples provided by Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. While we celebrate the Declaration and the Constitution, may these documents prevail and may Your doctrine in the souls of mature believers deliver us through this cosmic chaos. By Your grace, may *alétheia* prevail.

We lift our prayer in the name of the One Who rides point in the Invisible War, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

(End J422.02. End of study.)

