

## New Hebron Missionary Baptist Church

newhebronlr.org

Pastor Rodney E. Smith, Sr. Bible Study

"...from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation..."

(2 Tim. 3:15)

## **Don't Lower Your Standards**

{Daniel 1:8}

v.1,2) 'In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. (\*) And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god."

- The first two verses in the writing of Daniel are introductory. They inform us about the circumstances that led to Daniel and his fellow Jews living in Babylon.
- Nebuchadnezzar "besieged…Jerusalem" Jerusalem is the capitol of Judah which is the southern kingdom. (two tribes Benjamin and Judah)
- Jerusalem is poetically called "Zion" in many of the Psalms. [Ps. 87:2,3]
- God has allowed Jerusalem to be captured by a wicked nation because the people have continued in sin. [Is. 39:5,6; Jer. 20:4]
- Jehoiakim was an evil king [2 Chron. 36:5] who did not respect God's word.

v.3,4) "And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; (\*) Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans."

- "children of Israel" Jews; "king's seed" royal blood; "of the princes" nobles in their family
- "no blemish, but well favoured" Nebuchadnezzar also wanted these young men to be handsome.
- "skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science" they were to be educated and intelligent.

- "teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans" they had to learn the "tongue" (language) of the Chaldeans. There was a mixture of three languages the Chaldeans used: Aramaic, Assyrian, and Accadian.
- Even this wicked nation understands that training is vital for adequate performance.
- v.5) "And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king."
  - This training was to take place for three years before they could be a servant of the king.

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- v.6,7) "Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: (\*)Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego."
  - Daniel Belteshazzar
  - Hananiah Shadrach:
  - Mishael Meshach
  - Azariah Abednego
- v.8) 'But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."
  - These young men were stripped of their name, they were carried away into a strange land, they were made to learn a difficult language and eat a strange diet; in short God tested their faithfulness. But the greater the test the greater the reward.
  - Daniel was not willing to violate God's eating restrictions [Lev. 11], but it is impressive that as a young man he was familiar with God's word. [Ps. 119:11]
  - Daniel's name is mentioned because he spoke out first and the other young men followed his lead. But if you want to stand for God sometimes you have to be willing to stand alone.

Notes:	