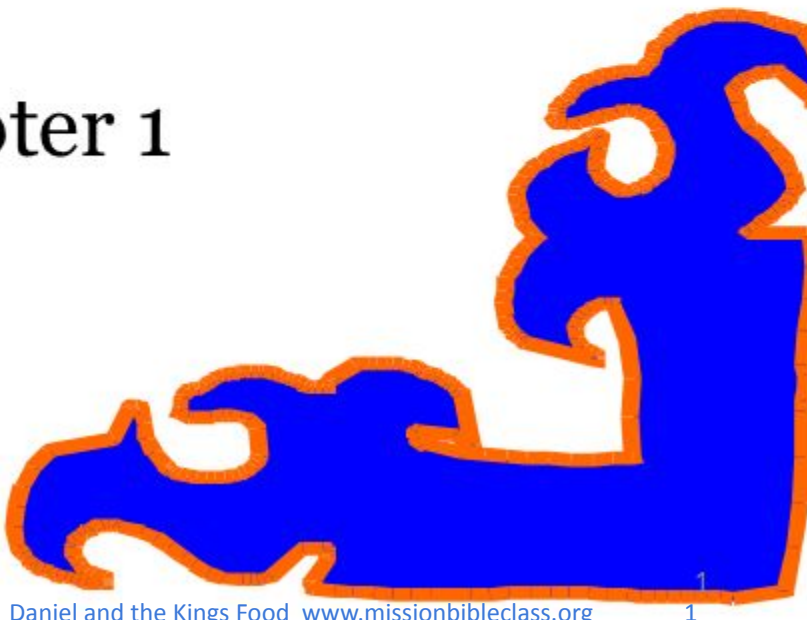





Daniel and the King's Food

Daniel chapter 1

















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1. Cover: Daniel and the King's Food (Daniel chapter 1)

2. God repeatedly warned His people that He would not protect them from their enemies if they did not obey Him. One of the enemies was King Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of the powerful country of Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to destroy the special city of Jerusalem and the beautiful temple of God. Because the kings and many people did not obey God, He let King Nebuchadnezzar win.

3. King Nebuchadnezzar came to Jerusalem three times. The first time, he took many people as prisoners, including many young people. The second time, he captured the King and army and took 10,000 people as prisoners. Finally, on the third capture, King Nebuchadnezzar broke down the temple and destroyed the city of Jerusalem. He took away almost all the rest of the people. They all had to move to the country of Babylon. Now, God's people could not live in their own country. Bad things happened because most people had chosen not to obey God.

4. But not all the people were bad. Four good young Jewish men, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were taken as prisoners during the first capture. They were good men who loved God, obeyed His laws, worshipped Him, and prayed. They were also careful to obey God's rules about foods they could and could not eat. Now they were prisoners! They had to leave their parents and live far away in Babylon.

5. While these men lived in Babylon, King Nebuchadnezzar chose all the smartest and healthiest young prisoners to be his special helpers. Daniel and his three friends were chosen. The king wanted the prisoners to learn to like Babylon and to help the king. They were taken to the palace and taught all the laws of Babylon.

Their names were changed to Babylonian names: Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They learned sciences, maths, and all about the stars. While the men were learning, the king put an official in charge of them. He told the official to give the young men the best food in Babylon.

6. There was one very big problem. Daniel and his friends knew that the king's food was food God did not allow. The food had probably even been used in the worship of idols. If they ate the food, they would disobey God's law. Daniel told the king's officials they would not eat the king's food.

The official liked Daniel and his friends. He noticed that they were good young men and always tried their best. He did not want to make them eat the king's food, but he feared the king would get mad at him. Daniel had a good idea. He told the official to perform a test. Daniel and his friends would only eat vegetables and drink water for ten days. At the end of ten days, the official could judge to see if they were as healthy as the other young men at the palace.

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7. Daniel and the other three men ate the vegetables and drank water for ten days. At the end of ten days, the official noticed that these four young men were healthier than all the other young men at the palace. From then on, he allowed them to eat the food God allowed. They did not have to eat the king's food.

8. At the end of the study time, the young men were brought before the king so he could test them with questions. The king decided that Daniel and his friends were the best of all the young men in the palace. They were wise and intelligent, ten times better than all the magicians and wise men in the entire kingdom.

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego became wise men of the king's court. They always loved God and tried to obey His laws. Even though they were prisoners, God blessed and cared for them.

It was not up to the royal courts of Babylon to decide what food could be eaten. Daniel knew that God's reign was above all earthly kingdoms. He is the king of the entire world; even our bodies belong to Him.



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