

When Daniel Put God First

February 20, 2021

AUDIO

Putting God first can be difficult. **What can we learn from Daniel** that will help us put God first in our lives today?

Daniel was a young man when he was taken into captivity to Babylon, the capital of the greatest empire the world had ever seen. King Nebuchadnezzar always took the best and brightest young men as captives from the many nations he conquered.

He would then teach them the Babylonian science and religion, knowing that they would significantly contribute to the expansion of his kingdom.

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Ten thousand young people were taken along with Daniel and from them, the best of the best were sent to the palace. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were some of these.

Their first test was with food. In fact, since the time of Eden, God's people have been tested with food. Food has been a representation of either devotion to God or rejection of His word. But in their case, putting God first could have cost them all the privileges afforded them—or worse, they could lose their lives. However, these young men decided to put God first, no matter what happened. They couldn't be forced or bribed to do otherwise.

Faithfulness with their diets not only gave them superior physical strength but, most importantly, greater mental and spiritual discernment. So, it was not by chance that they became the top students in the Babylonian "university"!

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Images related to text and animation.

AUDIO

Later, Daniel would be put in charge of all other scientists, while his three friends would eventually become the top leaders of Babylon's capital city. All this because they decided to put God first.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were willing to be burnt alive rather than compromise. They said:

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"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us,,,,. But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

As an older man, Daniel would rather be thrown into a den of lions than stop praying first thing in the morning. But God came through again and Daniel lived to praise him and become the prime minister of Babylon.

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Images related to text and animation.

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Daniel put God first. His example compels us to do the same. As the deacons collect the tithe and Promise, we are challenged to put God first.

Text animation.