

## "THE BOOK OF DANIEL" The Faith Of A Fifteen (12) Year Old (1:1-21)

### I. DANIEL'S FAITH AS A "FIFTEEN (12) YEAR OLD"

#### **A. IT WAS A BLEAK DAY IN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL...**

1. The beginning of Babylonian domination - **Dan 1:1-2**
  - a. In the third year of **Jehoiakim** (ca. 605 B.C.)
    - b. Jerusalem besieged by Nebuchadnezzar
    - c. Jehoiakim taken into captivity, and precious items taken from the temple
2. This was the first of three times that Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem (605, 597, 586 B.C.)

#### **B. DANIEL AND OTHERS SELECTED FOR SPECIAL TRAINING...**

1. Young men taken to serve Nebuchadnezzar - **Dan 1:3-7**
  - a. They were truly the "cream of the crop" among the captives
    - 1) Good looking with no blemish
    - 2) Gifted with wisdom, knowledge, and the ability to learn quickly
  - b. To serve in the king's palace, and be taught the language and literature of the Chaldeans (Babylonians)
    - 1) Given special provisions of the king's food and drink
    - 2) With three years of special training
  - c. Among those selected, four are named, and apparently renamed to honor Babylonian gods
    - 1) **Daniel** (God is my judge) - **Beltshazzar** (a servant of Bel)
    - 2) **Hananiah** (the Lord is gracious) - **Shadrach** (inspired by the sun god)
    - 3) **Mishael** (who is what God is?) - **Meshach** (who is what the moon god is?)
    - 4) **Azariah** (the Lord helps) - **Abed-Nego** (servant of Nebo)
2. How would these young men respond?
  - a. Would they submit to the temptations placed before them?
  - b. Would they give in, excusing themselves due to youth and inexperience?

-- How would you have reacted if you were in their place? How will you respond when it comes your turn to be tested?

**2 Timothy 3:12** "Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted," (ESV)