### Daniel

## Chapter 1

1It was during the 3rd year of the reign of JehoiAkim (the king of Judah) that NebuChadnezzar (the king of Babylon) came to JeruSalem and attacked it.  
  
2Then the Lord gave JehoiAkim into his hands, along with part of the things that were in the Temple of Jehovah, which thereafter he carried back to the land of Shinar and put into the treasury of the temple of his god.  
  
  
3Then after that, the king told his Chief Eunuch AshPenaz to go get some of the sons of IsraEl that were descended from royalty and nobility, and bring them to him as captives. 4They were to be young, perfectly formed, good looking, wise in all things, knowledgeable, intelligent, and bold enough to stand in the palace of the king. And [when they arrived], he told him to school the young men in the language and writing of the Chaldeans.  
  
5The king also arranged for them to eat at his table each day, to share in his banquet wine, and to be given special care for three years, after which they were to be brought before the king. 6Among these sons of Judah were DaniEl, HananiAh, AzariAh, and MishaEl. 7However, the chief eunuch renamed DaniEl to BelTeShazzar, HananiAh to ShadRach, MishaEl to MeShach, and AzariAh to AbedNego.  
  
8Now, DaniEl had decided in his heart that there was no way he’d pollute himself at the table of the king, nor would he drink any of his banquet wine. So, he petitioned the chief eunuch not to be forced to pollute himself, 9and God granted DaniEl the chief eunuch’s mercy and compassion.  
  
10However, the chief eunuch said to DaniEl:  
  
 ‘I’m afraid of my lord the king, and since he’s the one who’s selecting your food and the things that you are to drink, I don’t want him to see your faces looking sadder than the faces of the other boys that are your peers. For if that happens, the king’ll have my head!’  
  
11But DaniEl told MelZar (the man whom the chief eunuch had put in charge of DaniEl, HananiAh, MishaEl, and AzariAh) this:  
  
 12‘Then test your servants for ten days. Give us just the seeds of the fields to eat and just water to drink. 13Then compare us to the other boys that eat at the king’s table. Whichever looks better is what you should choose for your servants.’  
  
14So he did what they asked and tested them for ten days. 15Then at the end of the ten days, he examined them and noticed how they looked… And he found that they were stronger and in better shape than the other boys that were eating at the king’s table!  
  
16As a result, MelZar did away with their suppers and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them just seeds to eat. 17Then God gave them understanding and intelligence in all their studies, and He made them wiser. And it was then that DaniEl came to have an understanding of visions and dreams.  
  
18Well, the time finally arrived when they were to be brought before the king, so the chief eunuch took them to NebuChadnezzar. 19Then, after the king questioned them, he found that there were no others like these four boys, DaniEl, HananiAh, MishaEl, and AzariAh, and he allowed them to stand before him. 20In every matter of wisdom and knowledge (whatever the king asked them about), he found them ten-times greater than all the other dignitaries and sorcerers throughout his realm.  
  
21Well after that, DaniEl went on to live all the way into the 1st year of the reign of King Cyrus.