Daniel 1:6 “Among these were some from Judah: Daniel – (name meaning ‘God is my judge’, Hananiah, (the Lord has been gracious), Mishael, (The one who comes from God), and Azariah (The Lord is my helper).

The chief official gave them Babylonian names: to Daniel, Belteshazzar (the secret of their God Bel), to Hananiah, Shadrach (“the inspiration of the sun god”, To Mishael, Meshach (he who belongs to the goddess Sheshach.) and to Azariah, Abednego (servant of Nebo - the morning star). Although the young people were given names of pagan gods of Babylon they continued to live up to their Hebrew names.

I. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURPOSE

  A. "DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART..." - Dan 1:8

     1. A young boy in a strange land, Daniel was immediately faced with a challenge to violate God's law by eating the king's

     2. Despite his youth and the obvious pressures to conform, Daniel

        "Purposed in his heart" to uphold the law of God, no matter cost

     3. Because of his willingness to put God first, God granted

        Daniel favor in the sight of others - Dan 1:9

        a. How God did this is not explained, but it happened in the case of Joseph also - cf. Gen 39:1-4; 21-23

II. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRINCIPLE

  A. HE REFUSED TO COMPROMISE HIS CONVICTIONS...

     1. As a young man, by refusing to eat the king's meat or drink wine - Dan 1:8

     2. As an old man, by refusing the gifts of Belshazzar – Dan 5:13-17

     3. Under the threat of persecution, by refusing to obey the of Darius - Dan 6:10

III. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PURITY

  A. HIS OPPONENTS COULD NOT FIND ANY FAULT...

     1. He was faultless when it came to management of his business affairs - Dan 6:1-4

     2. This would help to explain his rise to positions of great responsibility and power

     3. Of course, his purity in business affairs was related to...

        a. His overall purpose to please God first

        b. And the fact that as a man of principle he could be trusted

IV. DANIEL WAS A MAN OF PRAYER

  A. A GLIMPSE OF HIS "PRAYER LIFE"... - Dan 6:10

     1. He knelt in prayer, a demonstration of his humility

     2. He prayed three times daily, a demonstration of his continual

        Dependence upon God

     3. He gave thanks in the midst of persecution, a demonstration of gratitude and the fact that he had not lost sight of God's

        Blessings

     4. His prayers were a "custom since early days", demonstrating persistence and faithfulness in his service to God

     -- Is it not likely that his "custom" to pray so diligently helped him to remain a man of purpose, principle and purity, despite his rise to power and preeminence over the empire?