



Key References:

Daniel 1:5 (NLT)

⁵ The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service.

Daniel 1:8 (NLT)

⁸ But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods.

Daniel 1:17 (NLT)

¹⁷ God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:19–20 (NLT)

¹⁹ The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. ²⁰ Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.

Acts 17:32–34 (ESV)

³² Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, "We will hear you again about this." ³³ So Paul went out from their midst. ³⁴ But some men joined him and believed,

1 – ASSIMILATION

If you took some from 605 BC and brought them to the modern day what do you think that they would find to be the most extraordinary thing?

Read Daniel 1:1-5. **Can you summarize what is happening here as Daniel's story begins?**

Why did Nebuchadnezzar invite these captives into the palace and provide them with his own wine & food? What do you think his strategy was with these royal men? Why did the king want to assimilate the Jews into Babylonian culture?

Nathan said the king hoped that these men would start thinking "*where I am now is better than where I was*" and "*that they were not in captivity at all.*" **What does this story highlight about what we need to be weary of as we live in the world? Why is the Christian faith assimilating into culture a bad thing?**

2 – DANIEL RESOLVED

Read Daniel 1:8-16. **Are we respected and have affection from the world when we abstain from its practices? Why did Daniel have such favor? How can we obtain it?**

In the ESV in v8 it says that Daniel "resolved" to abstain. **Nathan talked about the difference between *a resolution* and *resolving in your heart* over something, but what's the difference?**

How can we remain resolved to God's ways when the culture around us is so loud, provocative, and tempting?

3 – FAVOUR

Read Daniel 1:17-20. **How does this story show that God will support those who abstain from culture over their own choices?**

Nebuchadnezzar hoped to assimilate these men but instead he was attracted to something they had. **How can God give us influence in the world even when our views are so different to it? Where have you seen God give you favour with the outside world.**