

OUR GOD REIGNS

-DANIEL 1-

*God had them
right where he
wanted them!*



*God has us
right where he
wants us!*

- (Daniel 1:1 ESV) In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.
- 1. **Daniel's king was defeated and deported.**
- (Daniel 1:2 ESV) **And the Lord gave** Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.
- 2. **The holy vessels of Daniel's God Most High were brought into the house of Nebuchadnezzar's god.**
- (Daniel 1:3-4 ESV) Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, 4 youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.
- 3. **Daniel was recruited to learn the ways of the pagan culture that now ruled over them.**
- (Daniel 1:5-6 ESV) The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. 6 Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah.
- 4. **Daniel was fully embedded in the cultural and the educational systems of this pagan culture.**
- (Daniel 1:7-8 ESV) And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. 8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.
- 5. **Daniel was renamed and in the process of being reprogrammed right down to the food they ate.**
- (Daniel 1:9-10 ESV) **And God gave** Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, 10 and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your

drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king.”

6. God gave his favor to Daniel.

- (Daniel 1:11–13 ESV) Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 “Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. 13 Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king’s food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see.”

7. Daniel acted on and within the sovereign favor given to him by God.

- (Daniel 1:14–20 ESV) So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. 15 At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king’s food. 16 So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. 17 As for these four youths, **God gave them** learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. 20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and

enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

8. God through the favor he gave Daniel caused Daniel and the other three youths to excel above all the others.

- (Daniel 1:21 ESV) And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

9. God through the divine favor he gave Daniel established him in this pagan government and society for over sixty years.

1:21 And Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus, that is, from 605 to 539. ... As at that time of severe political and cultural upheaval, so now: the Lord is in control and will in due course vindicate those who are loyal to him because he must vindicate his own name . [Baldwin, J. G. (1978). *Daniel: An Introduction and Commentary* (Vol. 23, pp. 93–94). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.]

Two Human Categories of Attempting to Understand the Divine, Sovereign, Providential Rule of Almighty God ...

- **Determinism** ... the doctrine that all events, including human action, are ultimately determined by causes external to the will. Some philosophers have taken determinism to imply that individual human beings have no free will and cannot be held morally responsible for their actions.
- **Fatalism** ... the belief that all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable; a submissive outlook, resulting from a fatalistic attitude.

Our God reigns!

Do we live like we believe that?

Do we live like God has us right where he wants us?