

Daniel: Deported, but Undefined (Daniel 1)

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Water of Life Bible Class

January 30, 2020

INTRODUCTION

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE NATION UNDER KINGS

Israel's Monarchy began	1051 BC		
Israel's Kingdom split	931 BC	The united monarchy lasted	120 years
Samaria fell to Assyria	722 BC	Samaria lasted	209 years
Judah fell to Babylon	586 BC	Judah lasted	345 years

THE LAST JUDEAN RULERS

King Josiah	(640-609 BC)
King Jehoahaz was taken prisoner in 609 BC by Egypt and died there	(609 BC)
King Jehoiakim died in Jerusalem after being taken to Babylon	(609-598 BC)
King Jehoiachin was taken to Babylon and died there	(598-597)
King Zedekiah (puppet king) was taken to Babylon and died there	(597-586)

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF THE FINAL YEARS OF JUDAH

Egyptian army marched through Israel to help Assyria against Babylon	609 BC
Judah's king Josiah died in battling Egypt at Megiddo	609 BC
Judah was subjected to Egypt (Babylon then was focused on the north)	609-605 BC
Jeremiah's prediction of the seventy-year deportation (Jer 25:11-12)	
Babylon invaded Judah, deporting hostages (including Daniel)	605 BC
Judah (under King Jehoiakim) paid annual tribute to Babylon	605-601 BC
Babylon had a costly and unsuccessful military campaign in Egypt	601 BC
Judah tried to form an alliance with Egypt (incurring Babylon's wrath)	601 BC
Babylon conquers Jerusalem, taking more hostages to Babylon	597 BC
Judah is again subject to Babylon	597-586 BC
Babylon destroys Jerusalem	586 BC

EXPOSITION

Babylon conquered Jerusalem and took temple vessels [and hostages]	(1:1-2)
See 2 Kings 24:1-2 and 2 Chronicles 36:5-7	

Why did God let this happen? Isaiah 24 and Jeremiah 34

2 Kings 21

Three-year re-education program for select [teenage] royal family members (1:3-7)

Options for the meaning of “eunuch:”

1. Emasculated ones: Isaiah 56:3
2. Emasculated officials in Gentile nations [incl. workers in a harem]
3. Non-emasculated officials: Genesis 37:36

The basis for deciding between 1-3: (1) Daniel 1:4 and (2) context

Learning the language and literature of the Chaldeans

The provision of rich food and wine

Renaming of the Four Judeans (D-H-M-A): Why the renaming?

<u>D</u> aniel	= “My judge is <u>G</u> od”	→ Belshazzar = “May <u>B</u> el protect his life”
<u>H</u> annaniah	= “ <u>Y</u> ah is gracious”	→ Shadrach = “Command of <u>A</u> ku [Sin]”
<u>M</u> ishael	= “who is He that is <u>G</u> od?”	→ Meschach = “who is what <u>A</u> ku [Sin] is?”
<u>A</u> zariah	= “ <u>Y</u> ah helps”	→ Abed Nego = “Servant of <u>N</u> ebo” [G for B]

Three-year apprenticeship for administrative roles [in Judah?]

Daniel determined not to defile himself; the chief of the eunuchs objected (1:8-10)

What is the problem with the food? What is not the problem with the food?

Who brought Daniel into favor? What is the implication of Daniel having favor?

What does the favorable view by the chief eunuch say about Daniel’s demeanor?

Daniel objected to _____, but not to _____

Analysis of the chief eunuch’s objection

Daniel requested a ten-day test of the steward of the chief eunuch (1:11-14)

D-H-M-A thrived, so the steward permanently allowed their special diet (1:15-16)

God blessed D-H-M-A, who were wiser than all the king’s magicians (1:17-21)

CONCLUSION