

**FOR THE BROTHERS:
A STUDY IN THE EPISTLES OF JAMES, JOHN, JUDE
AMEN BIBLE STUDY 2016-2017**

**The Man and His Friends Daniel 1:1-21
April 13, 2017**

Introduction: The danger of being super-spiritual.

I. Friends come from proximity.

cf. Proverbs 27:10

- :1-2 A. Nebuchadnezzar's plunder.
In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.² 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.
- :3-4 B. Nebuchadnezzar's people.
³ 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.
- :5-7 C. Nebuchadnezzar's program.
⁵ 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. ⁷ 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.

II. Good friends come from adversity.

cf. Proverbs 13:20; I Corinthians 15:33

- :8-10 A. But Daniel.
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. ⁹ 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."
- :11-16 B. And his friends.
¹¹ 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." ¹⁴ 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.

III. Best friends come from diversity.

- :17a, 18-20 A. What they all had.
¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, ... 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.

:17b, 21

B. What Daniel had.

...and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. ... ²¹ And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Conclusion: The danger of being super-practical.

:2, 9, 17

A. God/Jesus is the hero of this chapter.

3:25, 7:14

B. God/Jesus is the hero of this book.

9:25-27

C. God/Jesus is the hero of our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some things that God says we need that “super-spiritual” people say they do not need (Colossians 2:20-23; 1 Timothy 4:3-5)?
2. Who was your best friend when you were a child, and how did you get to be friends? Do you think Daniel and his friends got to be friends in the same way or a different one (Daniel 1:17)?
3. Did most of your friends in high school or college share your faith and your values or not? Why do you think that was? Do you think Daniel got to be friends with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego because they shared the same values, or do you think they shared the same values because they got to be friends (Daniel 1:8-16)?

Going Deeper

1. Are your friends you admire most today more like you or unlike you, and why do you think that is? How was Daniel like these other 3 friends, and how was he unlike them (Daniel 1:17-21)?
2. After reading and studying Daniel 1, are you more struck by what God has done for you or by what you should do for God? Do you think every Christian should have the same answer to that question or not, and why?