

## Daniel 1:8-16 – The Holiness.

### I. 8: Daniel purposed in his heart.

There's always a test to go through, a decision to be made and character to be revealed. The ancient Hebrew word **defile** carries the thought of *polluting* or *staining*.

In the dietary Law in Leviticus 11, God defined which animals, birds and insects to eat or not to eat. So the food in Babylon most likely was unclean. It was probably sacrificed to idols too. Third, it implied fully accepting the Babylon's cultural system.

**Leviticus 11:44-47** - *'For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 'For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. 'This is the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, 'to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.'*"

"Daniel did not object to the name given to him, because he knew whom he was - you could call him what you liked. Daniel did not object to the Babylonian education, because he knew what he believed. Daniel did object to the food from the king's table, because it to eat it was direct disobedience to God's word."

The odds are 100% against Daniel:-

- The *food itself* was no doubt very attractive, and was a much better alternative than eating a vegetarian diet and water for three years.
- Separation from family and home, made it was easy to compromise.
- It was easy to *think that God had let them down* by allowing them to be carried away into Babylon. Why should they risk their necks for a God who let them down?

### II. 9-16: The results of Daniel's decision.

- i. 9-13: God gives Daniel favor and goodwill with the authorities.

Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs and they agreed on a vegetarian diet test; if it failed they were going to eat the king's delicacies.

- ii. 14-16: Daniel and his companions healthier.

There was no *biological* reason why a vegetarian diet should make them appear **better and fatter**. Perhaps their diet would have made them appear the *same* as the other Jewish young men who ate the king's food, but not **better and fatter**.

In this, Daniel illustrates how to conquer a difficult trial and glorify God before others in the midst of testing; this is the character of a prophet.

**1 Timothy 3:1-6** - *This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?); not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil.*

- a. Holiness.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** - *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** - *Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.*

**1 Peter 1:13-16** - *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

**1 John 2:16-17** - *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

"Be ready for a bad name; be willing to be called a bigot; be prepared for the loss of friendships; be prepared for anything so long as you can stand fast by Him who bought you with His precious blood." Charles H. Spurgeon.

b. Courage.

- Refusing the food could've disqualified them indefinitely.
- There was a real threat of punishment, which was death for them and their bosses.

**Joshua 1:7** - *"Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.*

**Joshua 23:6** - *"Therefore be very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left,*

c. Gentle.

"There is something so reasonable about Daniel's approach. He could have gone on a hunger strike; he could have started throwing over banquet tables. Instead he made a polite request, made it to the right person and said, "Put us to the test."

**Matthew 10:16** - *"Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.*

**James 3:17** - *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*