

# Daniel Attends Babylon State University- 1

## Read Daniel 1:1-7

### Introduction

- Daniel is taken from his home, culture, and church and moved to Babylon.
- Babylon is a world power & a very secular city and culture.
- Here he would experience all types of religions, philosophies, & teachings.
- Daniel is placed into Babylon State University for three years.
- As we consider the university in America it is the greatest power in the western world due to its influence on all aspects of culture.
- Daniel comes to a completely secular society & college.
  - What is happening today as believers go to college?*
    - 60%-70% stop attending church while at college.
    - 52-63% of freshman who enter college as a believer will after four years reject their faith.

*What should a believer do in a secular society & university?*

### I. Babylon State's Three Year Degree Program (Dan. 1:1-7)

1. The school took applications and accepted the leaders.
  - Those that did well in school, had good GPA, tested well on SAT & ACT.
  - No blemish but well favored- no physical or moral stain, emphasize a good physical appearance & reputation.
2. A three year all encompassing degree in history, philosophy, math, humanities, science, teaching, business, etc.
  - What was the purpose of this degree?*
    - To look, think, act, and talk like a Babylonian.
3. Included was a three year meal plan intending to make the young men look like Babylonians.

-Nourishing- feeding to make large-- Kings meat & wine.

4. They received a new school I.D. Not a simple email address but a complete name change. (*See at Bottom*)

-*Why were their names changed?*

-To show Babylonian authority & their subjection to

-To change them into Babylonians

-They were children of Judah, the royal tribe, and from the house of David.

-Each of their names had something of God in them:

1. Daniel- God is my judge to Belteshazzar- keeper of the hidden treasures of Bel.

2. Hananiah- The grace of the Lord to Shadrach- the inspiration of the sun.

3. Mishael- He that is the strong God to Meshach- of the goddess Shack.

4. Azariah- The Lord is a help to Abednego- the servant of the shining fire.

-Any reference to the true God was removed and false gods were referenced.

## **II. Daniel's Three Year Plan (Dan. 1:8-16)**

1. They would try to change Daniel into a Babylonian "but Daniel purposed" *Where?* In his heart- This is the secret!

-Formed a designed resolution. He thought about it, weighed it out, compared to scripture, and asked God.

-He established boundaries & convictions based upon God's Word. The decision was already made.

2. Some people would bend to the flattery of being chosen & eating kings meat. Daniel would break before he was bent!

3. *What was wrong with him eating the king's meat & wine?*

-*"Defile"* is the keyword. The meat would be sinful for Daniel to eat.

-Swine's flesh, offered to an idol. Israel was a peculiar people & were distinguished by their meats (Leviticus 11).

-He was avoiding the temptation to indulge in pleasures.

**Ps. 141:4, Prov. 23:3**

-God gave him favor with the prince b/c he purposed in heart.

-Asked for a 10 day trial test on vegetables & water.

4. A believer should stand out as peculiar in a secular college.

-There will be many temptations while in a secular school to dabble or experiment with world things.

*-What are some of the temptations/ issues you may face?*

*-What can you do to face these?*

5. Daniel possessed a living faith. He did not live on borrowed faith.

-Knew what he believed, why he believed it, & where to find it in God's Word to back it up.

6. The Results on the Graduates of BSU (vs. 17-21).

-They applied themselves diligently, were not lazy, and honored God- God honored their effort-10 times better.

-Believers should be leading the way- **Prov. 1:7**

## **Application**

*-What do you have purposed in your heart?*

*-What convictions do you have that you would break on before you would bend?*

*-Where are you dabbling & need to get back on track at?*