

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

Daniel 1

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Daniel is one of the most beloved of all the Biblical characters. The stories of he and his three friends, Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael, better known by their Babylonian names, Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego are told in churches and homes around the world. The story of Daniel in the lion's den, the three "Hebrew children" in the fiery furnace, and coming out alive. Daniel is part of the Hebrew Bible called the "Ketuvim" or the "Writings" while Daniel himself is a prophet and attested to as such by the Lord Jesus himself. In Daniel we see a true man of God, making the most of a situation that is less than desirable, and serving and honoring his God. Daniel was taken captive as a young man and he records his last prophesy during the days of the Persian kings, after the first return of the exiles from Babylon and the Mesopotamian Valley region.

Chapter one opens with the siege of Jerusalem and the taking of the captives of which Daniel and others were taken as the elite and brightest of the people of the nation of Judah. It was the pattern of the Babylonians to do so. Daniel was taken as a young man and made a eunuch. This mean he

was castrated as a man, so that he would be more docile and reproduction and sexual activity would not be part of their lives and a concern to their captors. Daniel was obviously the spokesman for the group of four who are noted together. Daniel asked for a diet of "kosher foods" like those prescribed in the sacred Torah. After some hesitation, the chief in charge of all the eunuchs granted Daniel a test of ten days to see if the plan would work and at the end of ten days, Daniel and his friends were the fairest, sharpest and best of all the captives from all over the world who had been brought to Babylon. Daniel had "purposed in his heart" he was going to honor God, even in hard circumstances, and he did. It is especially important to note that in v.9 it says, "**Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.**" God saw Daniel's heart and honored Daniel and his friend's commitment to walk in purity.

Prayer and Action Steps

Dear Lord, please help me to purpose in my heart to walk in purity before you all my days. Amen

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
