

## “Cultural Clash and Compromise” Daniel 1:3-21

### Re-education of Daniel and friends in Babylon (3-7)

- Only bright heartthrobs get a 3 year course in Chaldean studies, which means an M.A. in Systematic Superstition that highlights astrology / zodiac, extispicy, deciphering omens, divining, etc.
- Re-naming = sign of new ownership, destiny. Recall changes of Joseph, Abram, Jacob, Esther, Peter, etc.). Wait till Mom hears!

### Resolve of Daniel and friends against defilement (8-16)

- Compromise turns to conflict over the school meal plan. The Law was clear on unclean foods: Lv. 11, Dt. 12:23-25, Ez. 4:9-14, plus idol-offering issue: 5:3,4, I Cor. 8-10, Acts 15:20, Rev. 2:14,20.
- Vegan diet w/o wine is temporary--kosher prep available in 10:3. Creative alternative shows Daniel's early ability to navigate through tight spots that repeatedly take a miraculous turn to put him on top.

### Rise of Daniel and friends in the realm of Babylon (17-21)

- God helped them in their studies, and they graduate summa cum laude, blowing away Nebuchadnezzar when presented to him after 3 yrs. In 20-21 it's also related how superior their service was in his realm and notes the length of Daniel's long service.
- Already we see a trend here--Who truly is being re-educated? God's sovereignty (*God gave* 1:3, 9, 17) is still being expressed.



What can we learn from how Daniel flexed yet biblically held firm when push came to shove?

Before going off to school or taking a new job on, what should I determine beforehand?

What probably enabled Daniel and friends to resist backsliding in Babylon?