

The chief official gave them new names:

|                        |                                   |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Daniel                 | > Belteshazzar                    |
| "God is my judge"      | "Bel protects his life"           |
| Hananiah               | > Shadrach                        |
| "The Lord is Gracious" | "Commanded of Aku" (the moon god) |
| Mishael                | > Meshach                         |
| "Who is what?"         | "Who is what, Aku is?"            |
| Azariah                | > Abednego                        |
| "The Lord is a helper" | "The Lord is a helper of Nemo"    |

Yahweh → Babylonian gods

Forced assimilation - Encouraging them to forget the God and traditions of their homeland and become conformed to the ways and gods of Babylon.

They said, "Yes!" -

New names!

Babylonian education

Service to the king




Choices...

How...  
What...  
Why...  
...we choose

Matter!

They determine your trajectory...  
Where you will end up... What you will become!



Choices...

How...  
What...  
Why...  
...we choose

Matter!

They impact others...  
For good/blessing... or bad!



Scriptural record




Adam / Eve?



Judas?



Joseph?



Samson 

Strongest man ever!


Judges 16:21 - Blinded by the Philistines

Judges 16:16-17 - Betrayed by Delilah

Judges 14:1-7 - "Goes down...  
...Looks good to me!"

Judges 13:24 - Blessed of God



Ruth 

Matthew 1:5 - In lineage of Jesus!


Ruth 1:4 - A Moabite woman...

Ruth 4:13 - Married Boaz

Ruth 2:2-3 - Gleaning in his fields

Ruth 1:22 - Bethlehem with Naomi

Ruth 1:16 - "Where you go, I will go!"



Daniel



Choices...

How...  
What...  
Why...  
...we choose  
Matter!

And...  
God takes note!



2 Chronicles 16:9

"For the eyes of the LORD search and  
fro across the whole earth in order to  
strengthen those whose hearts are fully  
committed to him..."

1 Samuel 2:30

"Those who honor me I will honor, but  
those who despise me will be disdained."

Drinking from the same cup...  
Eating from the same table...

**Covenantal Significance!**

- ✓ Friendship!
- ✓ Loyalty!
- ✓ Dependency!

Exodus 24:11 – Elders ate with God!

1 Samuel 20 –  
David at Saul's table...

"...the king sat down to eat in his customary place by the wall, opposite Jonathan, and Abner sat next to Saul, but David's place was empty. Saul said nothing that day, for he thought, 'Something must have happened to David to make him ceremonially unclean—surely he is unclean.' But the next day, the second day of the month, David's place was empty again. Then Saul said to his son, Jonathan, 'Why hasn't the son of Jesse come to the meal, either yesterday or today?'"

2 Samuel 9 –  
"And David said,  
'Is there still anyone left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness for Jonathan's sake?'"

So Mephibosheth ate at David's table,  
like one of the king's sons!"

Daniel said, "Yes!" -  
New name(s)!  
Babylonian education  
Service to the king

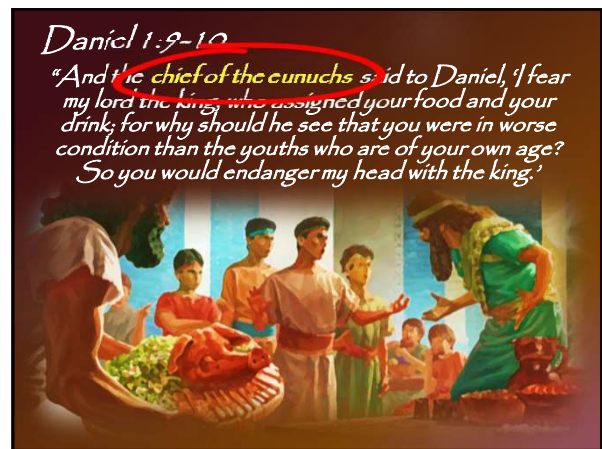
They said, "No!" -  
Covenantal Relationship!

Daniel 1:9-10  
"And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs..."

**Sovereign!** v2,9,17



Daniel 1:9-10  
"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.'"



*Daniel 1:11-15*

*"Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 'Test your servants for ten days...?'*

*Daniel 1:11-15*

*"...So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. 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."*

*Daniel 1:16-18*

*"As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom..."*

**Even in a pagan culture!**

*Christopher JH Wright*  
Anglican clergyman and an Old Testament scholar

**"Informed discernment!"**

*"...not to submit or conform to it, but to understand it so we can meaningfully communicate and relate the gospel to it..."*

*Acts 17 - Paul in Athens*

*"So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, spoke thus... '...even some of your own poets have said...'*

*Isaiah 44:6; 45:6 -*

*"I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me!"*

*Daniel 1:16-18*  
 "...and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 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.



*Daniel 1:16-18*  
 "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. 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. And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus."



*1 Samuel 3:1*  
 "Now the boy Samuel was ministering unto the LORD in the presence of Eli the priest..."

*1 Jeremiah 27:6; Jeremiah 43:10*  
 "Nebuchadnezzar My servant..."

*Daniel 3:17*  
 "...the God we serve..."



DANIEL 3:17-18  
 IF IT BE SO, OUR GOD WHOM WE SERVE IS ABLE TO DELIVER US FROM THE BURNING FIERY FURNACE, AND HE WILL DELIVER US OUT OF THINE HAND, O KING. BUT IF NOT, BE IT KNOWN UNTO

**?** *A question to consider...*  
 Can you think of any momentous events in Scripture (or our lives) that can be traced back to a "single decision?"



*A question to consider...*

*How can seemingly "small" decisions work together (or good or bad) in our life?*



*A question to consider...*

*What does this story from Daniel speak to us about how we can be "in the world" but "not OF it?"*



*A question to consider...*

*John 1:38*

*"Jesus asked,  
"What do you seek?""*

*Matthew 6:32-33*

*"...the gentiles run after all these things yet, your heavenly Father knows that you need them.  
But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

*Joshua 24:15*

*"Choose you this day!"*