

Strategy of Indoctrination in Gentile Kingdoms

📖 Daniel 1:1-7

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Now that we've introduced the book and the historical background we want to get into the text. Verse 1 is written in Hebrew so it's primarily to the Jews. It was the third year of Jehoiakim and so the date was 606/5BC. In that year Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem. It was the first of what turned out to be three sieges and deportations because the kings of Judah would not submit to his yoke. In this first siege and deportation we read how God gave Jehoiakim, king of Judah into his hand under the fifth degree of divine discipline, along with some Temple vessels and what Nebuchadnezzar did with them at that time, as well as how he took some choice captives and how he set out to indoctrinate them into paganism in order to help him establish his kingdom of Babylon over the whole earth and how Daniel and his friends stood up against what would have contradicted the Law of Moses by very carefully and shrewdly suggesting that they be tested with a special diet and how God honored them by supernaturally blessing them though they were but youths at the time.

So in Dan 1:1 it was **the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim**. The liberals say, Daniel made a historical error when he wrote **third year** so obviously the Daniel of that time did not write this or else he would have said "fourth year," like Jeremiah. So hold your place here and turn to Jer 25. The liberal doesn't accept that Daniel wrote Daniel because it records so many prophecies with remarkable detail and accuracy that is simply impossible from a naturalistic worldview. So they are always nitpicking apart the Book of Daniel. Here is where they start, 1:1, **the third year**. And they point out that Jeremiah 25:1 says, "The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (that was the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon)." So the first year of Nebuchadnezzar then is here said to be the fourth year of Jehoiakim, but that would contradict Daniel who said it was the third year. So which one is correct? Daniel or Jeremiah? The answer is both are correct. Jeremiah was using the Jewish reckoning of regal years which considered the accession year to be the first year of a king and was to be counted. He did this because he was still in Jerusalem among the Jews in the land. Daniel was using the Babylonian reckoning of regal years which considered the first year of a king to be an accession year only and therefore not counted as a regal year. He did this because he was in Babylon among the Jews in dispersion. So the discrepancy is solved by

understanding that Daniel and Jeremiah were in different places and using the appropriate system of calculating regal years for the populations of Jews they lived among.

So in Dan 1 **In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah** would be either 606/5BC. In that year **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to** Jerusalem. Now technically Nebuchadnezzar was not yet **king**. He had not returned to Babylon to be crowned king but his father King Nabopolassar had already died and so Nebuchadnezzar was the king *de facto*. The crowning was only a formality and writings of the ancient near east commonly refer to such as kings regardless of the formal crowning. So **Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem**. He had been pursuing the Egyptians after defeating them at Carchemish but heard about his father's death and so his campaign was interrupted and as he made his way back he passed by **Jerusalem** and decided to **besiege it**. Why? In verse 2 you see that there were certain **vessels from the house of God**, that's the Jewish Temple, and more than a century before some Babylonian emissaries had visited Jerusalem and Hezekiah allowed them to view the gold and silver vessels in the Temple, something the prophet Isaiah said was a mistake and because of it he said one day these vessels will be taken. Well, Nebuchadnezzar had read the reports of the emissaries and because of money lust he wanted them and so he **besieged** Jerusalem. And verse 2 says **the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand**. We don't know if **Jehoiakim** mustered the Israeli Defense Forces and put up a fight but we do know that **Jehoiakim** was captured, shackled and prepared for deportation but for some reason was then released and left in command in Jerusalem. Probably **Nebuchadnezzar** reasoned that if he took some of the young captives from the royal house and nobles he could subjugate **Jehoiakim** and keep him in check. In any case, **Jehoiakim** was left behind as a vassal to **Nebuchadnezzar** who would have to pay annual tribute.

Further in verse 2, the Lord also gave **some of the vessels of the house of God** in his hand, **and he brought them to the land of Shinar**. The **land of Shinar** is a biblical way of referring to **Babylon**. **Babylon** is modern Al-Hillah in Iraq. Babylon began as **Babel** in Gen 11 and the location of the erection of the tower of Babel which is noted as the first post-Flood city to endorse full-scale rebellion against God. The city Babylon was the capital of the kingdom of Babylon at this time. This is where Nebuchadnezzar brought **some of the vessels of the house of God** and **he brought them...to the house of his god** or "gods". The Hebrew is a plural "gods" and could refer to many gods or it could be a plural of majesty referring to the chief god of Nebuchadnezzar. The Babylonians were polytheists, worshipping many gods. The city of Babylon itself housed temples to more than 50 gods, some of which have been uncovered by archaeology. The plural could mean that the vessels were spread out among many of these temples. Or the plural could be a plural of majesty meaning that the vessels were placed in the temple of the chief god of the Babylonian pantheon, Marduk. My opinion is that this is a plural of majesty and what Nebuchadnezzar did was take vessels from YHWH's Temple and put them in Marduk's temple. What did this mean? Pentecost said, "...the fact that Nebuchadnezzar could plunder gold from the temple had not only political but religious significance. To Nebuchadnezzar it symbolized the superiority of the gods of Babylon to the God of Israel. They had the concept that everything that takes place on the earth is

only a mirror of a contest that's going on in the heavens. There was a contest between the gods, and when those who depend on a god are overcome by a people who depend upon another god, it was signified as superiority of the god of the victor over the god of the loser. So Nebuchadnezzar is quite confident that his god is greater than the God of Israel."¹

Verse 2 is revealing the worldview of Babylon and that really what is going on is a contest between two worldviews. What's a worldview? A worldview is a set of beliefs through which you view the world. It is a lens through which you interpret facts and evidence. Everyone has a worldview. No one is neutral. So what was the worldview of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians? They believed in the Continuity or Chain of Being. This ancient and modern doctrine maintains that all that exists is the universe and that in the universe there are gods and goddesses, there are men and animals, there are rocks and water. All that exists is part of the same existence and subject to the whim of the impersonal fate of the universe. This doctrine says that there is absolutely nothing outside of the universe, that all is one. Volumes have been written on this ancient and modern doctrine. Lovejoy out of Harvard wrote two volumes on the subject. Recently, John Oswalt shows that all pagan myths hold to the continuity of all being in the one existence. This was the Babylonian worldview. So when a set of facts came to the mind of Nebuchadnezzar he interpreted those facts in terms of that worldview. When he defeated Jerusalem, those facts were interpreted within his worldview and for him it meant that the chief god of the Babylonian pantheon, Marduk, had been warring with the God of Israel in heaven and defeated Him and that was the political and religious justification for his defeat of the people of Israel on earth. So what he is doing in verse 2 by taking some of the vessels from YHWH's Temple and putting them in Marduk's temple is honoring the god Marduk.

Now, we don't know where the Temple of Marduk was at that time but in 567BC it was built inside the famous Ishtar Gate, you know that beautiful blue gate you've seen with lions and dragons on it. Today there's a reconstruction of the gate at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin, Germany. It was that gate Nebuchadnezzar put the vessels to honor his god Marduk.

But, and this is big point, there's a sneaky word put in verse 2 that you can only see if you're a Hebrew. This section is written in Hebrew so it's written to encourage the Jews. And you wonder, how in the world could verse 2 encourage the Jews? They just got defeated by the Babylonians, the vessels were taken from the Temple of God, many of them were killed, their children taken captive. How could there be anything encouraging? But the Jew who's reading this text sees in verse 2 the word **Lord**. That's one of the names of God. When you see **L-O-R-D** in all caps it's the name YHWH. But it's not capitalized here. This is another name of God, *Adonai*. What does *Adonai* mean? *Adonai* means "God is Supreme Ruler." "The significance of using this name here is to say that, though outward signs did not seem to show it, God was the master of the situation..."² In that way we see that this is an encouragement to the Jew. Marduk was not superior to Adonai. Adonai was in complete control of the situation. This introduces us to the biblical worldview, the only true worldview. The Babylonian worldview said

all is one and the gods war in the heavens giving explanation for what happens here on earth. The Jewish worldview says all is two; the God of Israel is the one true God who stands outside the universe and He is sovereign over all that happens within the universe. There is no real contest between the God of Israel and pagan gods. Pagan gods are just imaginary thinking, projections of the pagan mind. But the God of Israel projected us from His mind. He made us, we didn't make Him. And the Jew who saw this name Adonai would be encouraged that while his outward circumstances looked dire, his God was in complete control of the situation.

Now you put those two observations together; Nebuchadnezzar defeated Jerusalem but the Lord is Supreme Ruler over the situation and what do you conclude? God has done this. And we said last week, this is a disciplinary measure of God upon Israel. Under the Mosaic Covenant the nation Israel could lose enjoyment of blessing. But what could they never lose? Under the Abrahamic Covenant they could never lose ultimate fulfillment of the promises of God in the land. So God gave them over to Nebuchadnezzar as a disciplinary measure but the name of God used here, *Adonai*, would encourage the Jew who was having to face this terrible Nebuchadnezzar. Nebuchadnezzar may have seemed big. He ripped them away from their families, he's uprooted them from their homes, their land and their country and now they are living under his thumb. But who is bigger than Nebuchadnezzar? Adonai is bigger than Nebuchadnezzar. Now we always have to be reminded of this because Gentile rulers in our day like to shake a big stick at us little people and act like they are someone great and that they are controlling whatsoever comes to pass. But ultimately *Adonai* is sovereign over every Gentile ruler who ever lived and they can do nothing apart from Him. So you transfer that to our situation today and you realize things are not out of control in this country or in our world. God is in complete control of the current situation. So this is a very powerful truth lodged in vv 1-2 and it's the theme of the whole book. What's the theme? God is sovereign over all nations. What are you supposed to do with this truth? You are supposed to relax. You can't live the Christian life when you are uptight. You can only live it when you can relax. The sovereignty of God is a doctrine that is revealed so that you can relax. Gentile rulers may have power; they may have money but they are completely under the control of God. Isaiah says they are nothing more than a drop of water in a bucket. So they are very small. And our God is very big.

Now don't forget these vessels that Nebuchadnezzar took because they're going to come up later when his grandson Belshazzar comes to the throne and he's going to have a little party with them, which was going too far. But at this time he took some of the vessels, later he's going to take more, they were various gold and silver and bronze utensils, things like the table of the showbread, the menorah, the altar of incense and perhaps even the ark of the covenant. There are a lot of theories as to the location of the ark of the covenant. One of the better theories is that it was taken to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar never to be recovered. Another of the better theories is that Josiah had it hidden in a cave underneath the Temple Mount before Nebuchadnezzar came along. There are lots of caves under the Temple Mount. There are three Jews alive today who claimed to have seen the ark in one of these caves back in 1982. Take it for what it's worth. Jeremiah 3:16 says that when Messiah returns the ark

will not come to mind, nor will they remember it, nor will they miss it, nor will it be made again. So the ark is not significant. But later these vessels will come up so don't forget them.

Summarizing verses 1-2. In verse 1 Nebuchadnezzar came up against Jerusalem and besieged it, in verse 2 the Lord gave Jehoiakim into his hand, this is a disciplinary move of God, Nebuchadnezzar puts some of the vessels in the house of his god, signifying his interpretation of the facts as due to the superiority of his god to the God of Israel, yet the use of Adonai signifies that it's the God of Israel who is the Supreme Ruler and is the one who gave Jehoiakim into his hand, a very different state of affairs than Nebuchadnezzar imagines. But Daniel sees the true state of affairs.

Finally, we come to verse 3, the four heroes of the book. In this conflict of worldviews how will these four young men fare? Of all the exiles only Daniel and his three friends remained faithful to the biblical worldview. Verse 3, **Now the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials**, people debate over whether **Ashpenaz** is a name or a title, I'm just going to go with it's his name, he was **the chief of his officials**.³ He's given an order from **the king**. A word about the **king**; from what we can tell of Nebuchadnezzar he was very well educated, an outstanding military strategist, a statesman and a builder. You can tell from his procedure here he's very intelligent. He commands **Ashpenaz...to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles**. He apparently took them to keep Jehoiakim in check and to train them to help him rule the people of Israel. So he took **some of the sons of Israel including some of the royal family and of the nobles**. I take it this is describing two basic groups here. From the **sons of Israel** there were those **of the royal family and of the nobles**. Both were upper class people. **Ashpenaz's** job was to evaluate those of **the royal family** and those of the **nobles**.

The evaluation criteria are very strict, only the very best will pass muster, the crème de la crème. Let's look at these criteria in verse 4. There are seven qualifications in all. The first three qualifications are physical, the second three are mental and the last one is personality. The first three are physical; they must be youths with no defect and good-looking. The first one, **youths** refers to their physical age, they are to be young men between the ages of 14-17. Daniel and his friends were not more than ~15 years old but what you're about to see are some young men who are tremendously mature believers for their age. That is my expectation of my family and our church today. It's not the expectation of most, they expect they're going to go out there and sow their wild oats which will set them up for a ruined life. But I have higher standards than that and so did the godly parents in Israel at the time. They were serious about training and they didn't even have a word for adolescence. They didn't believe in it. When you turned 13 you took your bar or bat mitzvah, and you were a man or a woman, albeit a young man or woman, but it was expected that you would act like a man or a woman and if you didn't you'd come under the authority of the law just like any other man or woman, there was no juvenile court. You came under the full court of law. As far as we can tell from the story, Daniel and his friends had been well-trained by their parents, they spent hours training them in Bible doctrine and they were spiritually mature by the age of 13.

Now some of you young people, put yourself in their shoes. Nebuchadnezzar just came to your town and ripped you away from your parents, you've been marched 800 miles to a foreign country, how are you going to handle that? Where are you right now in your spiritual maturity? That is a difficult situation to face psychologically, there's no mommy and daddy. But the godly Jewish parents trained their children for this. They knew military invasion and exile was coming because Isaiah prophesied it, Zephaniah prophesied it and Habakkuk prophesied it. They knew and they talked about it with their children. And if you are a godly Christian parent you need to train your children, you need to aim for your children being spiritually mature by the age of 12 or 13, because if you don't the handwriting is on the wall; this country is not guaranteed another day, maybe our country is going to be militarily invaded and your kids are going to be ripped away from you. What are you going to do then? You can't do anything then. You are going to have your hands tied behind your back. So you train now and if it doesn't happen, great, your kids are spiritually mature, and if it does happen then that's great too because no matter what happens they respond like Daniel and his friends and become heroes of the faith. Early spiritual maturity is what you are training for.

The first criteria they had to meet was they had to be **youths**, 14-17 yrs old. The second criteria **in whom was no defect**, that means no physical blemish, no handicaps, they can't be all scarred up because verse 5, they're going to serve in the king's court and the king didn't want scarred up people in his court. But absence of scars isn't sufficient though so a third criteria **who were good-looking**. Ladies, they had to be young men who had attractive physical appearance and the reason is because the end of verse 5, they're going to "enter into the king's personal service" and they'll be coming into the king's court and the king doesn't want ugly people in his court, he wants attractive people in his court.

So those are the three physical criteria, now let's look at the three mental criteria. **showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom**, actually the Hebrew means having an aptitude to learn, they have to be geared toward learning. Second mental criteria, **endowed with understanding**. This refers to theoretical knowledge, it's more than a knowledge of facts. First, you have to know facts; geographical facts, political facts, astronomical facts, mathematical facts, and so forth, and then you have to be able to put them together in theory, that's theoretical knowledge. And the third mental criteria, **discerning knowledge** refers to applicational knowledge, it's knowledge of how to make theoretical knowledge practical, put it to work in practical experience. So the three mental criteria are geared toward learning, theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge.

And lastly, the personality criteria **who had the ability for serving in the king's court**, that is they have personality, they can't be dry people, they have to have personality that will dress up the king's court, make it an enjoyable, like-able place to be, respectful young men who have personality. So those are the seven criteria and they are high standards for 15 year olds. Imagine 15 year olds with that kind of smarts and not only smarts but good looking physically as well as enjoyable personalities.

Now we're not told how **Asphenaz** would discover these things, obviously the physical appearance could be judged by a simple physical exam, but the mental we suppose would require some kind of testing, something like an SAT and their personality would require personal interaction.

This was done and then at the end of verse 4 Nebuchadnezzar **ordered** Asphenaz **to teach** those selected **the literature and language of the Chaldeans**. Two branches, **the literature of the Chaldeans** and the **language of the Chaldeans**. The **Chaldeans** is a reference to the scholarly class of Babylonians, the wise sages of Babylon. The language of the sages was old Akkadian. I mentioned Aramaic was their language, this is not Aramaic. The Jews already knew Aramaic. It was the *lingua franca* of the day, the language of commerce. But the language they were going to learn was old Akkadian. Why? Because the Babylonians had developed out of the old Akkadian and Sumerian cultures and so their libraries were full of literature written in old Akkadian. It was by this time a scholarly language. And this is the language that was the vessel that carried their worldview. Languages are the vehicles of ideas and so if you want to get as close to the ideas as you can then you have to learn the language. Nebuchadnezzar wants them to learn the Akkadian language so they can study their worldview in the original languages.

As for the **Chaldean literature** basically what Nebuchadnezzar wants them to become is thoroughly indoctrinated in the Babylonian worldview. If these men are going to serve in his kingdom they're going to have to be good little Babylonian boys, not good little Jewish boys, they have to forget their Jewish worldview and adopt the Babylonian worldview. I described earlier as the concept that Babylon was now on top of Israel because Babylon's chief god Marduk defeated Israel's God YHWH. So Nebuchadnezzar is trying to solidify his kingdom over the Jews. The literature they are going to be reading in Akkadian script is designed to change their worldview. That way they'll be good little Babylonian subjects and they can explain this to Nebuchadnezzar's Jewish subjects.

It's the same thing they do in the university to Christian kids. They're trying to undo what you parents have done, trying to erase your belief system and inject theirs. I heard a professor say this first-hand in a legal deposition that was taken at Texas Tech. It's very effective because kids at that age are looking to change the world, their minds are malleable, they suddenly think their parents haven't got a clue and their professors seem to know so much that they must be right and my parents must be idiots. It's all a façade kids, they're satanic manipulators who are trying to indoctrinate you into the pagan worldview, which is the same ancient worldview Daniel and his friends were being indoctrinated. It was the worldview of ancient Egypt, ancient Assyria, ancient Babylon, ancient Greece, ancient Rome, they all believed the same basic thing; there is one level of existence, one universe and within that there are gods and goddesses; in our modern day it's called evolution but it's a variation on the same theme, the gods are sex and time, that is all that is required to continue upward development. It's an ancient pagan lie; a rejection of the biblical worldview. And most Christian kids fall for it because they don't understand what's going on, they don't have a good handle on the biblical worldview and

their parents are too busy pleasing themselves and so the kids don't understand the structural pieces of their worldview and how powerful they are, so they start sucking up paganism and then one day they come home from college and mommy and daddy say, what happened to my dear little Johnny? I took him to Sunday School, the Bible says train a child in the way he should go and he won't depart from it, what happened? Well honey, you're dear little Johnny never really understood the structure of Christianity because you were too busy telling little Johnny, now be a good little boy, just say no and all the other slop rather than teaching him the biblical worldview, a way of thinking, and the structure of paganism so little Johnny can detect it when the professor is ramming, cramming and jamming it down his throat!

Now look in verse 5 at how nice Nebuchadnezzar is, this is a look at paganism 101, it looks good. **The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank.** Isn't Nebuchadnezzar's a great guy? He's going to pay their whole way, give them a full scholarship, give them the best **food**, give them his own **choice wine**, which was lavish **food** and **wine**. Don't tell me he wasn't using this to warm these kids up to paganism. That's exactly what he's doing. This is the name of the game. Paganism can look good, it does look good, let's be honest, but let's not be naïve, it's also crafty!

And he appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service. Three years of **education**, but the Hebrew says **should be "made great" after three years**. They've got three years to be made great. So you better believe these young men had to have an aptitude to learn, they're going to undergo an intense education. Three years to learn the Akkadian language without Rosetta Stone and combing the great libraries to finish their research papers on Babylonian culture. Thorough indoctrination so that after three years they are **made great**. The question is great what? Great Babylonians, loyal to the crown of Nebuchadnezzar.

Now you do see that Nebuchadnezzar is smart don't you? You see that this man is planning something big don't you? What's he planning? To make all the Jews over in the promised land loyal to the crown. And what better tool to use than the best and the brightest men of the Jewish nation, the next leadership. Indoctrinate them and turn them loose to their own people and they can influence them all to adopt Babylonian culture and be loyal to the crown. This man is very smart.

Verse 6, and here at last we get introduced to us the four men, **Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.** These four were chosen out of the original larger group. There may have been a hundred others, we don't know, we think probably there were young men from other nations too and Nebuchadnezzar was implementing this policy in every nation he conquered. But from **Judah** four stood out. And these are their Hebrew names, they are lovely names, they pay tribute to the God of Israel. Chart 4 in your handouts has these names. **Daniel** means "God is my judge" or "God is judge" depending on the Hebrew spelling. **Hananiah** means "The LORD is gracious." **Mishael** means "Who is what God is?" and **Azariah** means

"The LORD has helped." All godly names. All reflect the biblical worldview. These boys evidently had parents who honored the LORD, they gave their children names that honored the LORD.

But look what the commander of the new school does on the first day of school in verse 7, **Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them.** Why is he doing this? Once again, it's to do away with their identity as Jewish and give them a new identity as Babylonian. These have to be good little Babylonian boys at the end of three years. So the first thing we do is change their names from Hebrew names that honor the Hebrew God to Babylonian names that honor the Babylonian gods. Daniel's name was changed to **Belteshazzar** which means "protect his life" addressing the god Bel or "Belti, protect the king," some of these are questionable meanings, but they all relate to the Babylonian gods. Hananiah's name was changed to **Shadrach** which means "Command of Aku" perhaps a corruption of Marduk. Mishael's name was changed to **Meshach** which means "Who is what Aku is?" another reference to Marduk. And Azariah's name was changed to **Abednego** meaning "Servant of Nego" which is a damaged form of Nebo, the god Nebuchadnezzar was named after.

So in conclusion, in 1:1 Nebuchadnezzar came up against Jerusalem and besieged it, in 1:2 the Lord gave Jehoiakim into his hand, this is a disciplinary move of God, Nebuchadnezzar puts some of the vessels in the house of his god, signifying his interpretation of the facts as due to the superiority of his god Marduk to the God of Israel, yet the use of Adonai signifies that it's the God of Israel who is in control of the situation, a very different state of affairs than Nebuchadnezzar imagines, but Daniel sees the true state of affairs. In 1:3 Ashpenaz is ordered to evaluate the captives for training. In 1:4 here are seven categories, the first three are physical, young in physical age, about 15, no defect, no physical defect, and good looking, attractive young men; the next three are mental, capacity to learn, theoretical knowledge in every area of life and applicational knowledge; the last one is personality so that they could serve in the king's court. They were to be instructed in the literature and language of the Chaldeans. The language was old Akkadian, it was a scholarly language and the literature was all the great Chaldean literature that expressed the Babylonian worldview. In 1:5 paganism is smart, it gives a full ride, pays the way, best food, best wine and the goal was so that by the end they were all good little Babylonians, loyal to the crown. As a first step 1:6 and 7 say that their names were changed from their beautiful Hebrew names that honored the Hebrew God to ugly Babylonian names that honored the Babylonian gods. That is how paganism works.

In conclusion, what can we learn? First, Gentile rulers are arrogant. They shake a big stick at little people and think they are so great and do mean things. Second, God is infinitely greater. He is in perfect control of the situation. Third, education in their terms and literature is the tool that pagan Gentiles use to indoctrinate God's people so that they throw away the biblical worldview and begin to build the kingdom of man. The only question is where are you today? Where are you in your worldview? Do you have a biblical worldview? Are you thoroughly conversant with the structure of biblical thought? Or are you somewhere in the middle? Some biblical and some pagan worldview mixed together. This is the way most Christians want to play the game. They

are traitors and fools. Remember, all the other Jews beside Daniel and his four friends bought into the ploys of paganism. All of them capitulated to paganism. It was these four guys alone who stood their ground. What are you doing with your life? And if you are a parent or a kid, what are you doing to train for the future? How are you going to resist these crafty, subtle, tempting schemes of the devil and remain loyal to the God of the Bible when you are being pulled and tugged by our culture to compromise on every Christian doctrine?

¹ J. Dwight Pentecost, *Lectures on Daniel*, Dallas Theological Seminary.

² Leon Wood, p 30.

³ The word **officials** is "eunuchs," **chief of his eunuchs**, the reason it's translated **officials** is because the word (*saris*) can refer to true eunuch's, castrates, as well as non-true eunuch's like Potiphar in Egypt who had a wife. Most people think he was not a true eunuch but nobody really knows, in any case he was the **chief of Nebuchadnezzar's officials**.