

## Be Resolved...

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Sunday, April 21, 2024 ▪ Ryan Wildauer

...because our God is \_\_\_\_\_ in control.

...because we \_\_\_\_\_ remain faithful.

...because \_\_\_\_\_ exists in God's favor.

### ***Daniel 1:1-21***

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<sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. <sup>3</sup> Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, <sup>4</sup> youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. <sup>5</sup> The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. <sup>6</sup> Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. <sup>7</sup> And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. <sup>9</sup> And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, <sup>10</sup> 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."

<sup>11</sup> Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.

<sup>13</sup> Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see." <sup>14</sup> So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

<sup>17</sup> As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus. (ESV)

### ***Personal Reflection or Group Discussion Questions***

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**Open:** Have you ever moved to a new place where things were significantly different from what you were used to? What were some of those differences? How did you react?

**Read & Discuss:** Daniel 1:1-21

1. If you had been in Daniel's place, how might you have felt at each of the following points in this story—Verses 3-4? Verse 8? Verse 15? Verse 20? Has there ever been a time when you had to refuse to go along with something that you felt was wrong? Share about your experience.
2. What tactics did the king's advisors use in their attempt to bring Daniel and his friends into Babylonian culture? What are some ways you feel pressure to take on the values and pursuits of our culture? How do you typically respond to such pressures?
3. Since the narrative doesn't say, it's difficult to know with certainty exactly why Daniel refused to eat the king's food or wine. But, how should Christians today determine which activities we should engage in and which we should abstain from? Are there some activities for which you find it difficult to conclude whether or not you should engage in those things? (If so, discuss it together as a group.)
4. What can we learn from Daniel's example in verses 8-16 about how we might avoid compromising our values while still showing respect to those around us? How might we continue to act in loving ways even if our refusal to compromise on our values is not appreciated?
5. Three times (vv. 2, 9, 17) in this passage we're told that "the Lord gave" something. What can we conclude about God from each of these instances? How should these truths about God encourage us as we go through life in a world where our values are often challenged?
6. As you reflect on this chapter, what aspects of Daniel's character or conduct challenge or encourage you? How could you cultivate these same qualities in your own life?

**Pray:** Ask God to give us courage and wisdom when we feel pressure to compromise. Pray that God would give us faith in His ability to provide for us and to give us what is best at all times.