



# DANIEL RESOLVED IN HIS HEART

Daniel Chapter 1



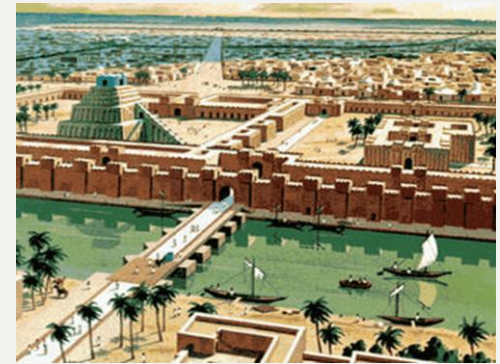
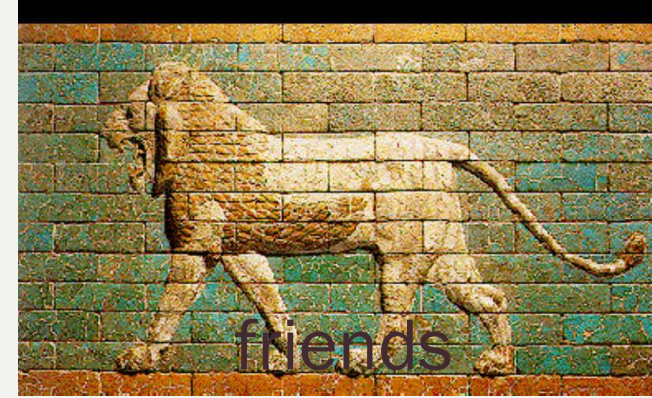
# The Book of Daniel

- Daniel (meaning *God is my judge*) is one of the major prophets in the Old Testament
- This was the beginning of the **Times of Gentiles** (Luke 21:2; Rom. 11:25) as Judea was about to be destroyed along with its temple. (more than one invasion from Babylon)
- From that time onward until there is a king (Jesus Christ) in Jerusalem, we are all living in the Times of the Gentiles (i.e. we are in the same age with Daniel, many similarities)
- The theme of this book therefore is to teach us what this age will be like (prophecies) and how to live in this age of Gentiles (an unbelieving world). We can learn much from it.

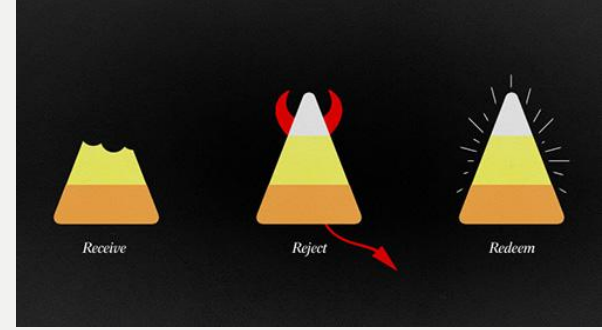


# The “Good” kind of Slavery?

- This new ungodly world has given Daniel and his many things to **lock** them in the system...
- This new world gave them new knowledge (v.4)
- This new world gave them a new diet (v.5)
- This new world gave them new positions (v.5)
- This new world gave them new names (v.7)
- This world wants to buy our loyalty—to lock us in with conformity, and to be slaves to the system (all 3 in 1 John 2:16)
- (Rom. 12:1-2) we are warned not to conform to this world, but to transform by the renewal of the mind.



# Receive, Reject, & Redeem



- However, not all things in the **world** are evil, and we do not need to **reject** all things in the world (ill: bitter people)
- Notice there are some things that Daniel did not fight against (i.e. new knowledge, new name)
- We need to ask God for wisdom to decide what should we ***receive, reject, or redeem*** of the things the world has offered us (this is why Do's and Don't won't work anyway)
- How should we decide? Notice there are other things that Daniel stood firm against—mainly his new diet

# Resolved in His Heart (1:8)

- “Defile” means stain or pollute, like soiling a dress, very difficult to come off.
- We don’t know if it is because the food was a part of idol worship, was contrary to the mosaic law, or just too luxurious for them. For whatever reason Daniel knew it would change them—to conform to the Babylonian world.
- This is the first step, we must by faith resolve to follow God and reject what will actually change us to be more like the world.
- “Purpose in his heart” or “Resolved”—steadfastly with his heart, as in “put down” his heart. He was determined not to defile himself with the kings food.





- Second, he just asked sincerely (v.8-9)
- The worst would be just a “no”, strangely how often we do not ask a simple question. This is an exercise of faith. (Prov. 3:3-6, be sincere and leave the rest to God)
- Third, he wisely found a third option (v.10-13)
- Instead of **digging in** (often our first choice) or **compromising** (never a good choice), the solution can often be a win-win for both sides. (Daniel empathized with the steward)
- (Rom. 12:18) This is not always possible, but have you tried hard? Have you tried hard to understand the other person’s concerns? (Phil. 2:3)





- Notice: all three of these steps require faith and wisdom from God, and a lot of thinking. (which sadly many people are not willing to do)
- Thinking is hard enough, think outside your original mindset is even harder...since it requires a new mindset (Rom. 12:2)
- Sadly, everything goes (left) or traditional conformity (right) are so much easier, since they neither require faith in God, empathy to others, understanding, or thinking wisely.

# Resolve to Grow in Wisdom



- It is not an easy thing to glorify God in the Times of Gentiles—but totally doable in God (Matt. 19:26)
- Are you conforming (world) or transforming (Jesus)?
- Have you figured out what to receive, reject, or redeem in this world? **Where** will you resolve not to conform to the world?
- Are you afraid to **ask**? Why not just ask?
- Do you often **dig in** or **compromise**? Do you have faith in God and are you willing to do the hard work of thinking of a third option?
- Conclusion: are you willing to **grow** in the wisdom of the Lord?