



SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Week of July 27, 2025

Daniel 1:1-8

[1] In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. [2] 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. [3] 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, [4] 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. [5] 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. [6] Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. [7] 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. [8] 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.

1. In your experience, what is, or has been the greatest challenge to your faith? Can you think of any reason why you might abandon your faith in God altogether? What if you were taken into exile into a hostile foreign land and removed from your family, friends, and church...would your faith remain?
2. How does your belief in God's sovereignty help you through times of trial and tribulation? What is it about God's nature that keeps you from falling into despair when faced with the question, "if God is indeed sovereign, in control of all things, why would he allow evil, suffering and pain in my life"?
3. What do you think God desires from us when we suffer? How does Jesus' suffering on the cross for our sins put our own suffering into perspective?
4. Rather than killing them, why do you think Nebuchadnezzar brought the young people from the royal family back to Babylon to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans? Why might this subtle strategy be more effective than brute force?
5. It shouldn't surprise us that Satan continues to use this same subtle strategy against the church. In today's culture, how does Satan try to isolate, entice, and confuse Christian youth to "change masters"?
6. In our passage this week, Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the temptations of the Babylonian king. How can Christian parents help our children develop this same resolve? What sacrifices must parents make to protect their children from the alluring enticements of the world?
7. What is God doing in your life right now to cause you to look up?