

RUSSELL SANDERS

3-14-2021

DANIEL THE MAN – LESSON 3

HIS EXAMINATION

We saw yesterday in Daniel 1:3 how Daniel and his three friends took a stand for God against the “King’s table” of food and wine which would have defiled them according to the written laws of God. They ate only “pulse” for ten days, drank only water, and came out looking better than all the other young men. They were then allowed to maintain their water and vegetarian regimen throughout their three years of training in the Chaldeans arts and language and Babylonian knowledge.

God honored their commitment and obedience as (v. 17) says ***“God gave them (all four) knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom (understanding). And Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”***

At the end of the three years, all of the company of trainees (and there were many) were brought to Nebuchadnezzar for examination. As the King communed with each of them, he found none who could compare in excellence to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (v. 19). In all matters of wisdom and understanding (v. 20) ***“he found them ten times better than all the (Chaldean) magicians and astrologers that were in all his (entire) realm.”***

This launched them into favored positions in the Babylonian empire. Daniel, especially gifted by God, continued in favor throughout the entire seventy-year exile (605-606 B.C. to 536 B.C.), including through the overthrow of Babylon to the Persian rule of Cyrus.

Tomorrow we shall see how Daniel’s wisdom stacked up against the “wise men” of Chaldea and all of the King’s advisors.