

THE WISEST MAN IN BABYLON

Text: Daniel 1:17

INTRO: Actually, at the time we are reading about, Daniel wasn't quite a man – he was actually about 17 years old. He had been taken into captivity in 606, when he was about 14 years old. Let's look at Daniel, his knowledge, his wisdom & his relationship with God.

READ DANIEL, CHAPTER 1

I. THE SOURCES OF HIS WISDOM.

A. He was already gifted in wisdom & knowledge before he was brought to the Babylonian king, vs. 4.

Deut 6:6-9, "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

B. The king sent Daniel & his companions to school to learn the language, culture & literature of the Chaldeans, vs. 5

C. Some of what Daniel later knew could come only from God, vs. 17.

1. What he learned from his parents was from God, by law.
2. What he learned in school was from God by providence.
3. Later, he also was chosen by God to receive special divine revelations.

II. THE EXTENT OF DANIEL'S KNOWLEDGE & WISDOM.

A. He had impressed the master of the eunuchs even before he was selected for special training, vs. 4.

B. After his Chaldean training his knowledge & skill was unequalled, vs. 19-20.

III. REFLECTIONS OF DANIEL'S WISDOM.

- A. He was courteous, vs. 8-12.
- B. He was humble, 2:25-30.
- C. He took advantage of his educational opportunities.
The book of Daniel from 2:4 thru 7:28 is written in the Chaldean language (Aramaic). The rest of the book was in the same Hebrew as the rest of the O.T.
- D. He purposed not to defile himself in the sight of God with unkosher foods & stypifying drinks.

Lev 11:46-47, This is the law of the animals and the birds & every living creature that moves in the waters, & of every creature that creeps on the earth, to distinguish between the unclean & the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.

Prov 20:1, Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

Prov 23:31-32, Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper.

- E. He was a man of prayer, 2:18; 6:10; 9:3...
- F. He served as advisor to all the kings throughout the 70 years of Babylonian rule.
- G. He served as advisor to Persian rulers after the fall of Babylon.
- H. He was about 86 years old when he was thrown into the den of lions. He could face down lions in his 80's because he had learned to face down temptation in his teens.

CONCLUSION: God's final words to Daniel were, "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days" (Dan. 12:13).