



The Daniel Dilemma

Grace and Truth

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¹ During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² The Lord gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. So Nebuchadnezzar took them back to the land of Babylonia and placed them in the treasure-house of his god. ³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, his chief of staff, to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives.

⁴ "Select only strong, healthy, and good-looking young men," he said. "Make sure they are well versed in every branch of learning, are gifted with knowledge and good judgment, and are suited to serve in the royal palace. Train these young men in the language and literature of Babylon."⁵ The king assigned them a daily ration of food and wine from his own kitchens. They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service. **Daniel 1:1-5 NLT**

1. Finding balance between faith and culture

- When culture shifts, we must know who we are
- When culture shifts, we must reaffirm our convictions
- Culture creates confrontations with our faith

2. The importance of grace and truth

- Without truth, we are corrupt
- Without grace we are condemned
- Without truth, we become worldly
- Without grace, we become judgmental
- Truth without grace is mean
- Grace without truth is meaningless
- Truth and grace is medicine

⁸ God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. **Ephesians 2:8-9 NLT**

Next Steps:

- Commit to seek God's wisdom as I balance grace and truth
- Have confidence and rest in my identity as a child of God
- Confess that lack of (grace / truth) in my life and commit to be a grace-filled truth teller
- Read Daniel 1 this week
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