



Rock Point Church  
Bill Bush | 01.07.2024

**BIG IDEA | Don't be conformed; *BE TRANSFORMED.***

### **Daniel 1:1-7 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> "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." <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were four of the young men chosen, all from the tribe of Judah. <sup>7</sup> The chief of staff renamed them with these Babylonian names:

Daniel was called Belteshazzar.

Hananiah was called Shadrach.

Mishael was called Meshach.

Azariah was called Abednego.

### **Hebrew Names to Babylonian Names**

**Daniel: “God is my judge” became Belteshazzar: “Bel protects his life”**

**Hananiah: “Yahweh is gracious” became Shadrach: “The command of Aku”**

**Mishael: “Who is what God is?” became Meshach: “Who is what Aku is?”**

**Azariah: “Yahweh is my helper” became Abed-Nego: “Servant of Nebo”**

### **Daniel 1:8-21 (NLT)**

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods. <sup>9</sup> Now God had given the chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel. <sup>10</sup> But he responded, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has ordered that you eat this food and wine. If you become pale and thin compared to the other youths your age, I am afraid the king will have me beheaded.”

<sup>11</sup> Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. <sup>12</sup> “Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and

water,” Daniel said. <sup>13</sup> “At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king’s food. Then make your decision in light of what you see.” <sup>14</sup> The attendant agreed to Daniel’s suggestion and tested them for ten days.

<sup>15</sup> At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king. <sup>16</sup> So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others.

<sup>17</sup> God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.

<sup>18</sup> When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup> The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they entered the royal service. <sup>20</sup> Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom.

<sup>21</sup> Daniel remained in the royal service until the first year of the reign of King Cyrus.

## **TRIED TO CONFORM THEM WITH:**

**New HOMES**

**New KNOWLEDGE**

**New FOOD**

**New NAMES**

### **Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

### **2 Corinthians 10:5 (NASB)**

<sup>5</sup> We are destroying arguments and all arrogance raised against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ

## **Groups Questions**

1. What stood out to you about this week's sermon?
2. How do we declare that God is in control?
3. Read Daniel 2:14-17. When you are facing something challenging, do you seek community first? Who is your community? How does having community help you during a challenging time?
4. Read Daniel 2:25-30 & 2:47-49. How do you use your gifts? Where do you struggle using your gifts? What's stopping you from using your gifts?
5. Where can you let go of focusing on yourself and what you might lose and, instead, focus on God's kingdom?

6. How do we help each other to pursue God and encourage one another to Know, Grow, and Go?