

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. **Daniel 1:3–4 (NIV)**

The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. **Daniel 1:5 (NIV)**

Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego. **Daniel 1:6–7 (NIV)**

CULTURE THOUGHTS

1. WE ARE ALL _____ IN A FOREIGN CULTURE

Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. **1 Peter 2:11 (NIV)**

2. THE WORLD/CULTURE WE LIVE IN IS _____ TOWARD THE GOD WE SERVE

3. THE WORLD/CULTURE IS THE _____ OF GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION & CHRIST'S DEATH

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. **1 Peter 2:12 (NIV)**

4. WE ARE IN THE BUSINESS OF CULTURAL _____

WHEN FAITH AND CULTURE COLLIDE

1. DECIDE _____ WHERE YOU WILL TAKE A STAND

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine... **Daniel 1:8a (NIV)**

2. ALWAYS BE _____ WHEN CONFRONTING A HOSTILE CULTURE

...and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Daniel 1:8b (NIV)

...but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." **Daniel 1:10 (NIV)**

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. **Daniel 1:11–14 (NIV)**

3. EXPECT GOD TO _____ YOUR EFFORTS

Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, **Daniel 1:9 (NIV)**

At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. **Daniel 1:15 (NIV)**

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

Daniel 1:17 (NIV)

...But now the Lord declares: "Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained." **1 Samuel 2:30 (NIV)**

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Daniel 1:20 (NIV)

And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus. **Daniel 1:21 (NIV)**