

DANIEL:

Resolved Faith



Daniel 1

Resolved: (adjective)

**Firm in purpose or intent;
determined.**

Synonyms = firm, steadfast, single-minded, purposeful, decided, settled.

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Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.



Daniel 1:2 And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.



Q: What about in our day?

- Does it feel like God is losing?
- Does it seem like the darkness is winning?
- Sometimes it may seem like that...



Daniel 1:3-4 ³ 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— ⁴ 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 1:5 *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 1:6-7 ⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego



Belteshazzar



Shadrach



Meshach



Abednego



Daniel 1:8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.





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Q: Why would eating the King's food be a problem for Daniel?

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- Food/Wine was offered to Idols?

Yet the vegetables would also have been offered to Babylonian idols, so it can't be that...

Q: Why would eating the King's food be a problem for Daniel?

- Food/Wine was offered to Idols?
- Food/Wine was **unclean/forbidden?**

Perhaps. But even so, **there was no prohibition on drinking wine in the OT law.** Yet Daniel refused this as well?

Q: Why would eating the King's food be a problem for Daniel?

- Food/Wine was offered to Idols?
- Food/Wine was unclean/forbidden?
- Food/Wine was an opportunity to protest?

No! Daniel approaches this with extraordinary grace.

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- Food/Wine was unclean/forbidden?
- Food/Wine was an opportunity to protest?
- Food/Wine was **an inferior option?**

No. The 10-day test shows supernatural **results**. So, it wasn't about the veggies.

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- Food/Wine was offered to Idols?
- Food/Wine was unclean/forbidden?
- Food/Wine was an opportunity to protest?
- Food/Wine was inferior option?
- Food/Wine was a gateway to loyalty to Babylon & disloyalty to God.



I'm afraid of
the King

Daniel 1:9-10 ⁹ Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰ 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 1:11-14 ¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹² "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ 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." ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.



Daniel 1:15-16 ¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.



Daniel 1:17 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 1:18-20 ¹⁸ At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.



Daniel 1:21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

So what? – 3 Key Lessons...

1. God is sovereign – We belong to Him.
2. God is holy – We are to live for Him.
3. God is able – We can rest in Him.

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1. God is sovereign – We belong to Him.

- *v.2 – The Lord delivered...*
- *v.9 – God had caused...*

- *cf. Daniel 7:9-10 (Daniel's Vision)*
- *Cf. John 10:28-29*

So what? – 3 Key Lessons...

2. God is holy – We are to live for Him.

- *v.8 – Daniel resolved not to defile himself in this way.*
- *He chose to honour God and put him first.*
- *Cf. Mark 7:14-25*

So what? – 3 Key Lessons...

2. God is holy – We are to live for Him.

- *Helpful diagnostic questions...*
- ***ASK: To what degree have I settled down in the world with all it has to offer? Where do I draw the line?***
- ***ASK: What is it that takes me away from loyalty and love for God and into self-indulgence?***

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3. God is able – We can rest in Him.
 - *God sustained + equipped Daniel & friends (v.15, v.17, v.19-21)*

So what? – 3 Key Lessons...

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- *God sustained + equipped Daniel & friends (v.15, v.17, v.19-21)*
- *If we don't believe He is able then we won't find rest in Him*

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- *If we don't believe He is able then we won't find rest in Him*
 - *We will be tempted to hide away (holy huddle) & lose our purpose.*
 - *We will be tempted to become like the world (assimilate) & lose our gospel impact.*

Resolved Faith in Daniel ch.1

- 3 Key Lessons...

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2. God is holy – We are to live for Him.
3. God is able – We can rest in Him.