

## MISSION BRAINWASH Daniel 1:3-7

Introduction: Nebuchadnezzar was a smart man; he was a man with a plan, a man on a mission. Of the hostages that he brought out of Israel, he chose some of the finest and best to serve in his court. By neutralizing the best and brightest, he hoped to avert rebellion. There were several areas that the King had to brainwash these Hebrews in: Patriotism, Dedication to Jehovah God, Morality, and Individuality.

Mission Brainwash focused on three areas of the captive's lives:

1. Their native language was to be replaced. National pride has a lot to do with the language you speak. Language welds people together; it identifies them.
2. Individuality and self-esteem were to be neutralized. By doing this, they became "dependent on the government for food, shelter, and clothing: the basic social needs of man." (Merryman 9)
3. Identification with Jehovah God had to be canceled out. Every effort would be made to take away the religion of the Hebrew children. It is sad to see that this and the things mentioned above are the very things that are happening in America today. To help in accomplishing his dastardly plan, he took away the Hebrew names of Daniel and his three friends and gave them the names of pagan gods.

If you want to destroy a people like the Jews, take away their identity, their language, their trust in Jehovah. Cause them to trust in government.

### I. Vs. 1, THE NOBLE ELITE

- A. Ashpenaz is given the duty of selecting suitable candidates to stand before the king, to be in his court. These were to be best of the best of Israel.
  1. The name of Ashpenaz is found in Aramaic texts and in Cuneiform records.
  2. Horn in his work identifies him as: "The chief of King Nebuchadnezzar's eunuchs Dan. 1:3."

- B. The evil king wanted to brainwash the hope of Israel. He wanted to neutralize them. The battle for the minds of our youth in America is going full steam ahead: homosexual sensitivity, loss of English as our national language, the push for assimilation into the One World order by way of the loss of states sovereignty and national sovereignty, and the loss of regional distinctives and local culture.
1. I am thankful that there are some young men and women like Daniel and his friends who have not drunk the Kool-aid and have not bowed the knee to worldliness and immorality.
  2. Young people be aware that Satan is after the best and the brightest, those with the most potential to serve Jehovah God and His Son Jesus Christ. Our youth are the future of this once great nation, and if the devil brainwashes them, then our land will have a hard time surviving.
- II. Vs. 4, THE ABLE AND QUALIFIED
- A. The king wanted young people with ability, stability and physical strength.
1. “No blemish”– These youths were to be physically whole, no scares, tattoos, etc. The word translated eunuch here has two meaning that depend on the use of the word. *Saris* is the Hebrew word and can mean, “court officer” or “castrate.” They were court officers (vs. 3). They were to be well groomed, handsome, neat, and clean.
  2. “Skillful in all wisdom...” They had to be quick studies with keen minds. He wanted Phi Theta Kappa’s so to speak. The devil wants to take the minds of our youth and fill them with nonsense and lies. The dumbing down of education is showing up in all phases of society.
  3. “Ability in them to stand in the king’s court.” They had to have charm, poise, and the ability to meet and greet. These young folks had to know who to bow to and who not to bow to. They were to be wise in protocol so as not to embarrass the king or

the nation of Babylon. We need youth who have sense enough to dress right and act right.

4. As we look at the last part of verse four, we see a storm brewing. The government wanted to indoctrinate the Hebrew children with the culture of the Chaldeans. They would be taught evolution, not creation; they would be taught that there are many gods to worship. They were to be taught astrology, astronomy, godless philosophy. They would be told that all they had known before was wrong, that mom and dad had lied to them. Dr. Jerry Vines speaking of our youth in America today says: "They walk into classrooms where all too often the professor's goal is to shake them from Christian faith, change the source of authority in their lives, remove them from the word of God, and get them to lean on the theories of men." (23)

### III. Vss. 5-7. THE CHALLENGES OF IDENTITY

- A. Vs. 5, the king wanted to change the appetites of the four Hebrew children. They had been raised with a taste for God and a taste for kosher food and drink. He wanted them to try things they had never tried before. This is what Satan does to young people; he tells them that getting drunk is fun and ok, that illicit sex is the norm, and that rebellion against authority is the cool thing to do. He wants them to taste the world.
  1. Lucifer wants to change the appetites of God's children. He wants to brainwash us. He wants us to develop a taste for the world and the things of the world: for the bar room, for the one night stand, for drugs and pornography.
  2. Note with me the last words of this verse: "That at the end thereof they might stand before the king." They were being prepared to stand before the wrong king. Which king are you preparing to stand before? What you read, your music, the movies you watch, and the magazines you browse are developing one of two appetites in you. An appetite

for Jehovah God or an appetite for the world and the devil.

B. Vss.6-7, The Lord wants you to identify with Him and to live according to the Bible. He wants you to be different from the world and its vices. He wants Romans 12:1-2 to be your verse. The devil wants just the opposite; he wants you to identify with the flesh and the things that will corrupt you.

1. The world will do all that it can to change you, to strip you of your Christian identity. There is a mad rush by the liberals of our day to remove the identity of our Judeo-Christian society and make us a heathen nation. There is a move to strike the name of God from our court rooms, schools and government. This is the same kind of pressure that Daniel and his friends faced.

2. The king's servant went so far as to change the names of these godly young men to heathen names. Jerry Vines says: "You can tell a lot about a society by the kind of names it gives its children. There was a time in this country when parents named children after Bible characters. Now they are named after rock musicians and movie stars."

(25)

HEBREW NAME Identifies them Jehovah	CHALDEAN NAMES Identifies with pagans
Daniel= God is Judge, fair, discerning	Belteshazzar= May Bell protect his life. Corresponds to Baal.
Hananiah= Jehovah is gracious and good.	Shadrach= Marduke of Akus the moon god.
Mishael=Who is what God is.	Meshach=who is what Aku is moon god
Azariah= Jehovah helps, aids	Abednego= Servant of Nebo, son of bel....

Will you fall for the Devil's lies and be brainwashed, or  
will you look to the crucified, buried and risen Savior for salvation?

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