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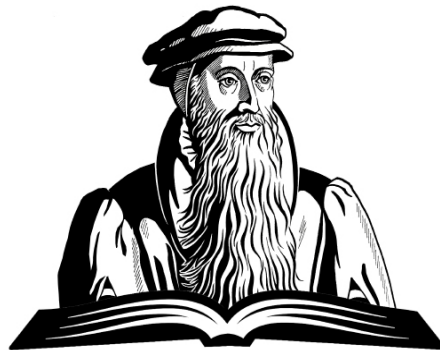
**BIBLE FOR
6TH GRADE STUDENTS**

Old Testament

Lesson 85

Daniel and His Three Friends

Lecture Presenter: Dr. Daniel Sweetman



The John Knox Institute
of Higher Education

Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

John Knox Institute of Higher Education

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Module

BIBLE FOR 6TH GRADE STUDENTS

Old Testament

113 LESSONS

(Additional lessons forthcoming)

77 Lessons presented by Mr. Daniel Van Brugge

36 Lessons presented by Dr. Daniel Sweetman

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|--|---|
| 01. The Bible: The Word of God | 26. Joseph and His Brethren |
| 02. Creation: The Work of an Almighty God | 27. Jacob Comes to Joseph |
| 03. Man: A Special Place in God's Creation | 28. God Heard Their Cry |
| 04. A Gracious Promise | 29. Moses and the Burning Bush |
| 05. Cain and Abel | 30. Let My People God |
| 06. Only Noah Found Grace | 31. Deliverance |
| 07. The Coming Judgment –A Way of Escape | 32. God's Patience with a Complaining People |
| 08. The Noahic Covenant | 33. Keeping the Law: Not to Merit /Thankfulness |
| 09. The Tower of Babel | 34. The Lord Dwells Among His People |
| 10. Abram: Called by God | 35. A Priest for the People |
| 11. Abram Intercedes for Lot | 36. Moses Intercedes for a Rebellious People |
| 12. Melchizadek | 37. Worshiping God Rightly |
| 13. Righteous by Faith | 38. Walk Not According to the World |
| 14. Two Sons | 39. Hearts of Ingratitude |
| 15. Lessons from Lot's Life | 40. Aaron's Rod Blossoming |
| 16. Faithless Abraham – Faithful God | 41. The Serpent of Brass Lifted Up |
| 17. Abraham Tested – God's Provision | 42. Phinehas Turning Away God's Wrath |
| 18. Isaac and Rebekah | 43. Cities of Refuge |
| 19. Jacob: A Better Desire than Esau | 44. A New Generation |
| 20. Jacob the Deceiver | 45. Moses' Last Days |
| 21. God Preserves Jacob | 46. Joshua—God's Promise Fulfilled |
| 22. Jacob Returns to Beth-el | 47. A Promise to Rahab |
| 23. Joseph Loved – Joseph Hated | 48. The Rise of Judges |
| 24. An Eye upon God | 49. Gideon—God with Him |
| 25. Joseph Raised Out of Prison | 50. Samson |

51. Ruth the Moabitess
52. Samuel Judges Israel
53. Israel's First King
54. The Kingdom Established
55. David Anointed the Next King
56. David Hunted by Saul
57. The Last Days of Saul
58. David, the Next King
59. Fetching the Ark
60. Thou Art the Man
61. David's Return to Jerusalem
62. Seven Sons of Saul Killed
63. Genealogies of Israel
64. David Appointed King
65. David's Kingdom Established
66. David Prepares for the Temple
67. David's Departing Instructions
68. Solomon Becomes King
69. Solomon Builds the House of God
70. The Kingdom is Rent
71. A Wicked Divided Kingdom
72. Ahab's Reign and Death
73. Elisha Begins his Work
74. Elisha's Voice is Heard
75. A Succession of Kings
76. Ahaz and Hezekiah
77. The Captivity of Judah
78. Introduction to the Prophets
79. Isaiah's Vision & Song
80. Isaiah Prophecies about Christ
81. The Prophet Jeremiah Called and Sent
82. Jeremiah Opposed and Comforted
83. Ezekiel, the Captive Prophet
84. Ezekiel's Comforting Visions
- 85. Daniel and His Three Friends**
86. Nebuchadnezzar's Forgotten Dream
87. Three Friends in the Fiery Furnace
88. Nebuchadnezzar's Madness
89. The Writing on the Wall
90. Daniel in the Lion's Den
91. Daniel's Visions and Dreams
92. Ezra—Return from Captivity
93. Ezra—Rebuilding the Temple
94. Ezra—The Scribe
95. Nehemiah—Rebuilding the Walls
96. Nehemiah—The Task Completed
97. Esther the Queen
98. Esther—Haman's Plot
99. Esther—The Jews Saved
100. Hosea—The Minor Prophets
101. Joel and the Day of the LORD
102. Amos the Fearless Herdsman
103. Obadiah Prophecies Edom's Fall
104. Jonah's Flight
105. Jonah's Mission
106. Micah Preaches Judgment & Mercy
107. Nahum—A Message for Nineveh
108. Habakkuk's Questions, God's Replies
109. Zephaniah—Threatenings & Promises
110. Haggai Urges Building the Temple
111. Zechariah—The Night Visions
112. Zechariah Prophecies of Christ
113. Malachi—Last Old Testament Prophet

Lesson 85

Daniel and His Three Friends

The Book of Daniel, chapter 1

Memory Verse

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank.”—Daniel 1:8

Captives of King Nebuchadnezzar

After conquering the city of Jerusalem, King Nebuchadnezzar had no doubts. Just as Bel, the great god of Babylon, had proved to be stronger than the gods of the other nations, he had conquered, so he had also proved to be stronger than the LORD, God of Israel. The faith of the people of God led away into captivity must have been severely tried. Daniel 1:2 explains the true cause however: “And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand.”

Shortly after the death of the God-fearing King Josiah, Nebuchadnezzar defeated the king of Egypt, and also stopped at Jerusalem. He forced King Jehoiakim to submit to his rule, plundered the Temple, and also took with him the best and brightest young men of the royal family and other prominent families as hostages. Among these were Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

At Nebuchadnezzar’s Court

Daniel and his three friends were probably not yet twenty years old when they found themselves far away from family, friends, and church, in a magnificent but completely heathen royal court. Even their Jewish names, which referred to the Lord their God, were taken away from them, and new names given them which referred to Chaldean idols. Nebuchadnezzar’s purpose was to groom the captive young men for important positions at the court. For this reason, they were enrolled in the royal college for three years of training in all the “learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.” The best foods and wines of the royal palace were set before them.

Continuing Faithful to the Lord

This is when Daniel and his three friends knew they had to make a stand, and when we first notice that Daniel and his three friends loved and feared the Lord. They did not want to defile themselves by eating meat from animals which God had pronounced unclean, or food and wine which had been offered up to idols. Bravely, Daniel and his friends turned to Ashpenaz, the prince of the eunuchs, and asked if they could be excused from eating the king’s food. Ashpenaz had been observing the boys. The way they carried themselves stirred up his respect and

favour. This request he could not allow however. If the health of the boys was harmed in any way, he would be held responsible.

Daniel then wisely asked Melzar the steward if for a ten day trial period they would be allowed to eat only pulse and drink only water. This was allowed, and after ten days of eating a diet of vegetables, grains and water, Ashpenaz and Melzar saw that the four young men were “fairer and fatter in flesh” than all the other young princes! God clearly blessed the brave stand which the four young men had made, and continued to bless them during their three years at the royal college, giving them “knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom.” In fact, at the end of the three years of training, when the king himself examined the graduates, he found Daniel and his three friends “ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm” (Daniel 1:30).

The Lord clearly showed Daniel and his three friends that also here at the heathen court, so far from their home and from God’s house, he could protect and prosper them. You may wonder if God can help you in the situation you are in today. Daniel and his three friends discovered that although God sometimes led them through difficult and dangerous ways, yet he never forsook them. Also today, you will find it to be true: “Them that honour me, I will honour” (I Samuel 2:30).

Review Questions

1. What two things did King Nebuchadnezzar take back with him to Babylon?

2. From which tribe of Israel were Daniel and his three friends?

3. Give the Hebrew and Chaldean names of each of the four young captives.

Hebrew name

Chaldean name

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

4. Why were Daniel and his friends given new names? (circle one)

- a. The people of Babylon couldn’t pronounce their Jewish names.
- b. The king of Babylon wanted them to forget the Lord their God
- c. Daniel and his friends were ashamed of their Jewish names.

5. Nebuchadnezzar wanted to turn the young captives into good Chaldeans so that they might “stand before the king.” What does this mean?

6. Instead of eating the king’s _____ and drinking _____, Daniel asked if he and his friends could eat _____ and drink _____.

7. The prince of the eunuchs said:
- a. “How unthankful of you.”
 - b. “I fear my lord the king.”
 - c. “Eat and drink what you like.”

8. What did the king notice about Daniel and his friends after three years at college?

Discussion Questions

1. In what two ways did the Lord bless Daniel and his friends in this chapter? What can we learn from this today?

2. Find and copy from 1 Corinthians 10:20, 21, 31

But I say, that the things which the _____, they sacrifice to _____, and not to _____: and I would not that ye should have _____ with _____.

Ye cannot _____ the _____ of the _____, and the cup of _____: ye cannot be _____ of the Lord’s _____, and of the _____ of devils. Whether therefore ye _____, or _____, or whatsoever ye do, do _____ to the _____ of _____.

3. What is the point which Paul is making here about food and eating?
