

A Strong Stand Requires Commitment

Confronting King and Culture

Daniel 1:1-21

Pastor Phil Winfield

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Timeline: August 605 BC - Babylon.

Four teenagers versus Babylon

1. They were **forced** to assimilate
 - a. They were given **rigorous** training (verse 3-4)
 - b. They were appointed a **regal** diet (verse 5)
 - c. They were assigned **religious** identities. (verses 6-7)
 - d. God gave Nebuchadnezzar the **right to rule**. (verses 1-2)
 - i. Guess what! God gives **position and power** to people that we would not chose.
2. They were **faced** with a test (verses 8-16)
 - a. They survived the testing by **inner conviction** (verse 8a)
 - i. **Convictions** are predetermined decisions concerning possible choices in life.
 - b. They passed the test through a **wise appeal** (verse 8b-16)
 - c. They excelled in the test by **Divine Favor** (verses 9-10; 15-16)
3. They were **found** to be Superior. (verse 17-21)
 - a. God gave them grace to **learn** (verse 17)
 - b. God gave them grace to **excel** (verse 18)
 - c. God gave them grace to **serve** (verse 19)

Take this with you:

We should not be asking how to get out of a **circumstance** but rather what can I get out of this **situation**?

So what is our attitude toward government to be? "Government is **good** but government is not **God**."