

Daniel in Babylon



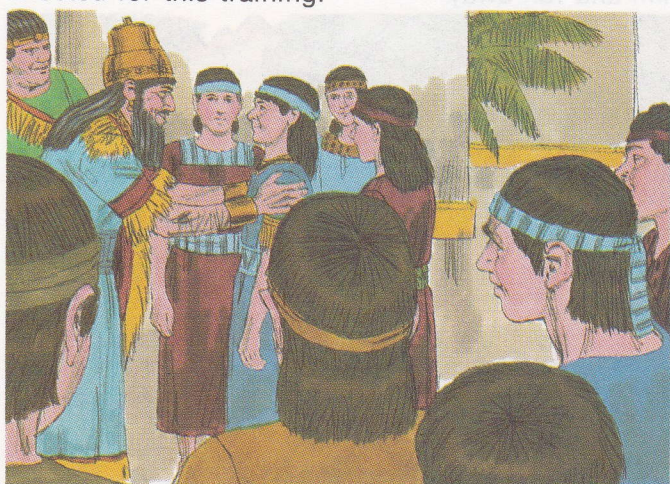
1 Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon first attacked Jerusalem during Jehoiakim's reign. He took many Israelites back to Babylon as prisoners. One of these prisoners was a young man named Daniel.



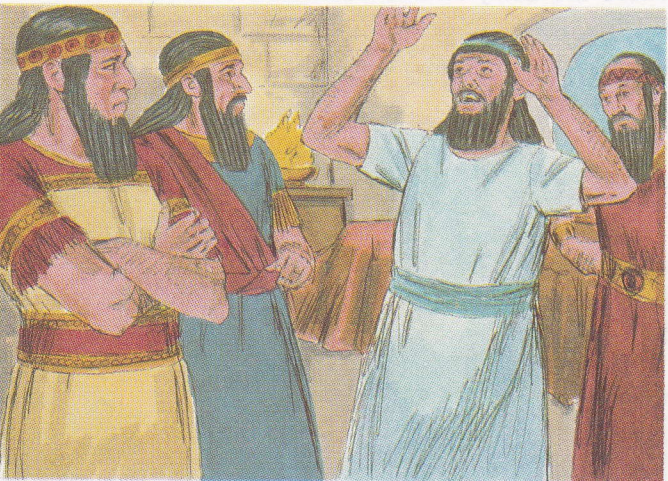
2 King Nebuchadnezzar ordered that the finest young Israelites be trained to serve in the royal court. Daniel and his three friends were among those selected for this training.



3 Daniel and his friends didn't eat the king's food. They ate only vegetables and drank only water. But they became stronger and wiser than the others.



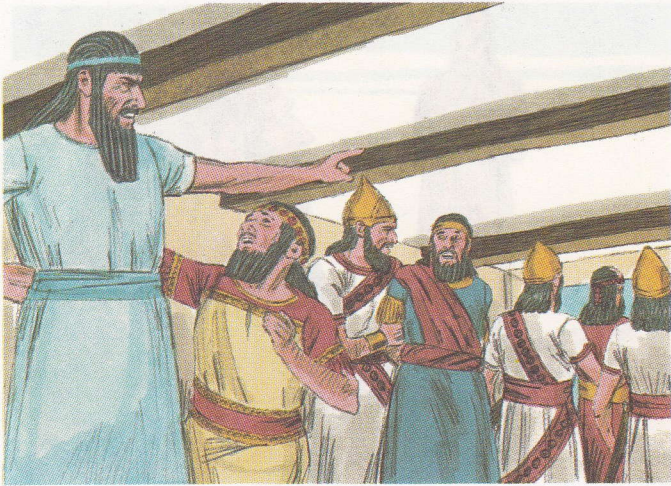
4 At the end of the three-year training period, the king was more impressed with Daniel and his friends than with all of the others. So he made these four young men members of the royal court.



5 One night King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. It worried him greatly, so he called for his fortune tellers and magicians. They said, "Tell us your dream and we will interpret it for you."



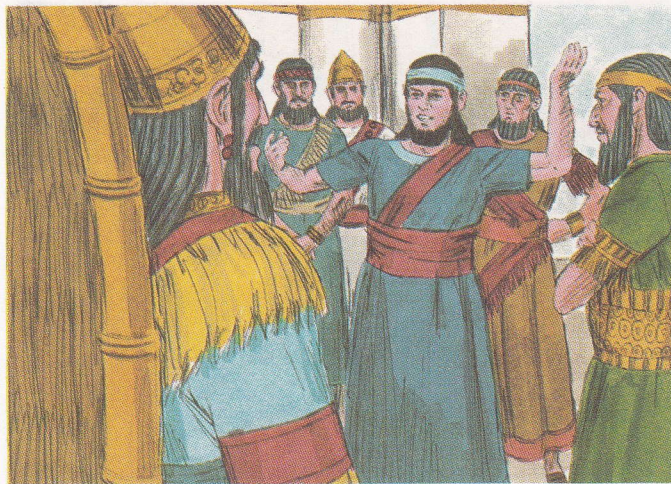
6 But the king said, "No, I want you to tell me the dream as well as its meaning. If you can, you will get a reward; but if you can't, I'll have you torn to pieces."



7 “But that’s impossible,” they said. “Only the gods could do such a thing!” The king was furious and ordered his men to kill all the royal advisers. Even Daniel and his friends were arrested.



8 Daniel asked for time so that he could interpret the dream. He urged his friends to pray that God would make known the mystery. That night God revealed the mystery to Daniel in a vision.



9 Daniel said to the king, “None of the wise men of Babylon could tell you what you dreamed, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has made known what will happen in the future.”



10 Daniel said, “You dreamed of a giant statue made of gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay. A rock hit its feet, and it broke into pieces and blew away. But the rock grew into a mountain.”



11 Then he said, “The statue is your kingdom and four kingdoms that will come after yours. The rock that destroys them is the kingdom which God will build. It will last forever.”



12 The king bowed low and said, “Your God is the greatest of gods, for he made you able to explain this mystery.” He rewarded Daniel by making him the head of all the royal advisers.