

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: January 10, 2021

Series: "God Rules and Overrules"

Text: Daniel 1:1-21

THE HISTORICAL SETTING (vss. 1, 2)

The drums of war were beating in the Middle East. Egypt & Babylon, the two superpowers of the late 7th century B.C., were competing for control of that part of the world. It was only a matter of time before these two powers would clash in a decisive battle. That battle came in early summer of 605 B.C. when the Babylonian army, under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar, the crown prince, attacked the Egyptian army at Carchemish on the upper Euphrates River. Nebuchadnezzar almost annihilated the Egyptian army during the conflict, signaling the rise of Babylonia as the new world power. As a result of this victory, the land to the south; namely, all Syria and Palestine to the border of Egypt, now lay exposed to the new conqueror. All he had to do was assert control, which he began doing immediately, moving as far south as Jerusalem, where he forced the submission of Jehoiakim and other kings of the area.

SOME OBSERVATIONS:

1. After years of covenant _____.
2. After years of _____.
3. _____ can be _____.
 - A. A _____ for pagan gods?
 - B. A _____ for the LORD!

FACING A DIFFICULT TEST (vss. 3-7)

1. Their selection process
 - A. The _____ test
 - B. The _____ test
 - C. The _____ test

2. Their training program

The king was not interested in putting good Jews to work; he wanted the Jews to be Babylonians! Notice the changes they experienced: 1) New knowledge (vss. 3-4); ... 2) New diets (vs. 5); ... 3) New names (vss. 6-7).

A. The _____ to conform to Babylon's pagan culture was _____ for Daniel and his friends.

B. These 4 Jewish youths were faced with a dilemma. They could've tried to _____ their way around obedience to God.

3. Their principled decision (vs. 8a)

"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine."

SOME LASTING PRINCIPLES:

1. Compromise is never _____ by our circumstances. It begins when we allow circumstances to justify our choices.

2. Inner _____ can overcome any outer pressure to compromise! What guides you; Conviction or Circumstances?

- A poem, written in 1887 by Horatio Richard Palmer to his son when he was about to go out into the world.

- Cadet prayer, United States Military Academy at West Point
"Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half truth when the whole can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy."

3. The message of our culture is that if you want to get ahead, you're going to have to break a few rules to do it. I believe we are hungry in our world today for a few men and women who will stand up and say, "As Daniel was, so will I be."