

Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further
International Bible Lessons

Daniel 1:1-21

Sunday, January 7, 2018

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class so they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible class.

Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further

1. What resulted when the four young men put obedience to God first in their lives?

God blessed them. They demonstrated their wisdom.

God gave them favor with the palace master and guard.

God gave them wisdom to propose a test instead of defiantly confronting the King or disobeying the authorities over them. God gave them the good sense and opportunity to obey Him and wisely obey the human authorities over them.

Later, they would visibly obey God instead of the king; but that was after they had proven themselves wise advisors to the king.

God gave them wisdom beyond their years and beyond other young men. God gave Daniel some special gifts beyond what He gave others.

2. Can you name two prophets whose words might have encouraged Daniel as he and his friends were taken into exile?

Jeremiah (who prophesied in Jerusalem) and Ezekiel (who prophesied in Babylon) before the final destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 587 BC.

3. Can you think of one reason God might have wanted these four young men to serve in the king's court?

To advise of the king in ways that would bless God's people in exile and perhaps lead some Babylonians to faith in the true God.

4. Read the Romans 8:28. Did God keep this promise to Daniel and his three friends? Explain your answer.

One of the "all things" was being carried from home into exile. But they loved God enough to want to obey God wherever they were, and God had a purpose for their lives in the king's court; therefore, everything worked out for their good and will also work out for the good of all those who seek to do as they did.

5. What tests did Daniel and his three friends face?

1. Would they obey God and not defile themselves or would they disobey God?
2. How would they look after 10 days only eating vegetables and water?
3. How wise would they be after three years of training and three years of eating only vegetables and drinking only water in loyalty to God?

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