



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## Obedient Daniel Used In Nation Building (Daniel 1:17)

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*Has God put you in place, perhaps in your current assignment, to serve His purpose? Have you noticed God's provision and leading during much of your life? Daniel was among the many Israelites who were trusting God in their extreme life restart.*

### INTRODUCTION

God warned a generation of Israelites that He would judge their unfaithfulness. The prophets Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah recorded this in the books by their name. **How would U.S.A. be judged today?**

### A NATION IS JUDGED

*Jeremiah 2:7 I brought you into a bountiful country, to eat its fruit and its goodness. But when you entered, you defiled My land and made My heritage an abomination. (NIV)*

Assyria invaded the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. and resettled many of the people. Babylon became the next world power and conquered Judah in 605 B.C. Among the people they resettled were children of nobility (Isaiah 39:6-7). The king ordered his chief of officials to select some for leadership training. **Are you taking advantage of all opportunities to grow and strive for greatness?**

### CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

*Daniel 1:4 ...youth in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and Nebuchadnezzar ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. (NASB)*

The youth already had talents of wisdom, intelligence, understanding, & discernment. The training required them to learn the country's culture and language. This social conditioning included dining on the rich food of the royal court, some coming from idol sacrifice. Hebrew names were changed, identifying pagan gods.

*Daniel "God is my judge," became Belteshazzar.*

*Hananiah "God has been gracious," became Shadrach.*

*Misbael "Who is what God is," became Meshach.*

*Azariah "God has helped." became Abednego.*

### DANIEL'S RESOLVE TO HONOR GOD

*Daniel 1:8 Daniel determined that he would not defile himself with the king's food or the wine he drank. So he asked permission from the chief official not to defile himself. God had granted Daniel favor and compassion from the chief official, yet he said to Daniel, "My lord the king assigned your food and drink. I'm afraid of what would happen if he saw your faces looking thinner than those of the other young men your age, you would endanger my life with the king." (HCSB)*

The king's meat and wine were dedicated to the pagan gods as it was prepared. Some are on the prohibited list given by Moses (Hebrews 11:24-26). Daniel appealed to Melzar, the overseer whom the chief official had assigned to the four young men. He agreed to test the choice of vegetables and water for ten days. They appeared better than the other youth and were allowed to maintain their diets during the training years.

**How have you prospered by holding one more of God's principles or commandments supreme?**

### END OF TRAINING – ORAL EXAM

*Daniel 1:19-20 The king interviewed them, and among all of them, none was found equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Misbael, and Azariah. So they began to serve in the king's court. In every matter of wisdom and understanding that the king consulted them about, he found them ten times better than all the divine-priests and mediums in his entire kingdom. (HCSB)*

God gave Daniel favor with the human leaders and filled the faithful students with wisdom (Daniel 1:17). The four exiled Hebrew youth were promoted to the highest administrative positions in the kingdom which had conquered Judah and Israel. **Can you recall a time when God gave you a burst of wisdom or great favor for a season?**

### A PRAYER

Almighty God: Thank You for revealing yet another example of Your working through one or a few faithful servants to provide for a multitude who love You. Please add me to those available for Your use during my season here. (2 Peter 1:3). I pray in the Name of Jesus. Amen!