

The Family Time

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By: *Pastor Cameron Bowen*



Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom [and] understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians [and] astrologers that [were] in all his realm.

Daniel 1:21 And Daniel continued [even] unto the first year of king Cyrus.

So why is the story of Daniel so important and thus made available to us?

There is much sterling truth in the adage, "Every man is the architect of his own fortune." While parents are responsible for the stamp of character, as well as for the education and training, of their sons and daughters, it is still true that our position and usefulness in the world depend, to a great degree, upon our own course of action. Daniel and his companions enjoyed the benefits of correct training and education in early life, but these advantages alone would not have made them what they were. The time came when they must act for themselves,--when their future depended upon their own course. Then they decided to be true to the lessons given them in childhood. The fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom, was the foundation of their greatness. *{YI, July 9, 1903 par. 6}*

The wisdom, however, is always dependent upon a few things. One of which is one's physical condition.

Right physical habits promote mental superiority. Intellectual power, physical stamina, and length of life depend upon immutable laws. Nature's God will not interfere to preserve men from the consequences of violating nature's requirements. He who strives for the mastery must be temperate in all things. Daniel's clearness of mind and firmness of purpose, his power in acquiring knowledge and in resisting temptation, were due in a great degree to the plainness of his diet, in connection with his life of prayer. *{YI, July 9, 1903 par. 5}*

Daniel and his friends made right choices. This must also be our choice. Regardless of the circumstances, we must purpose in our hearts to make the right choices.

Daniel's companions, also, resolutely purposed to choose the real, the true, and the useful, rather than the momentary indulgence of appetite and pride. They resolved that their God-given talents should not be perverted and enfeebled by selfish indulgence. They revered their own manhood. They kept their eyes steadfastly fixed on the good they wished to accomplish. They determined to do all in their power to place themselves in right relation to God; and the Lord was not unmindful of their persevering, earnest effort. *{YI, August 20, 1903 par. 2}*

For their faithful trust, their unflinching devotion, God rewarded them.

God always honors the right. The most promising youths from all the lands subdued by the great conqueror had been gathered at Babylon, yet amid them all, the Hebrew captives were without a rival. The erect form, the firm, elastic step, the fair countenance, the undimmed senses, the untainted breadth,--all these were **insignia of the nobility** with which nature honors those who are obedient to her laws. *{YI, July 9, 1903 par. 2}*



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What a powerful example!! This is why the history of these boys was recorded: That we might indeed have a template to follow.

The history of Daniel and his youthful companions has been recorded on the pages of the inspired word for the benefit of the youth of all succeeding ages. Through the record of their fidelity to the principles of temperance, God is speaking today to young men and young women, bidding them gather up the precious rays of light He has given on the subject of Christian temperance, and place themselves in right relation to the laws of health. *{YI, July 9, 1903 par. 7}*