

That Which Defiles
Or
A young man...*Only eating veggies!*
Daniel 1

Into the Lesson:

The 300 plus years of the history of Israel/Judah from Soloman to Daniel has been something of a roller coaster for the "Chosen Ones of God". Spend some time in this cross section to get a sense of how we got here and note the times you read, "he did evil in the eyes of the Lord"

I Kings 11:1-4&43-Soloman-
I Kings 12:1-4-Rehoboam & Jeroboam-
I Kings 14:21-22-Rehoboam-
I Kings 15:9-15-Asa-
I Kings 15:25-26-Nadab-
I Kings 16:21-25-Onri-
II Kings 11:17-20-Jehoash (Joash)-
II Kings 14:1-4-Amaziah-
II Kings 15:1-5-Azariah-
II Kings 16:1-4-Ahaz-
II Kings 22:1-2-Josiah-
II Kings 23:34-37-Jehoiakim-

Although the above list is only a portion of the history of the split kingdoms of Israel and Judah, what seems to be the general trajectory of these people?

Side note: How do you suppose a man given Godly wisdom could possibly think 700 wives and 300 concubines a good idea?

Into the Word:

From Sam's sermon and after rereading Daniel 1 comment on what we know about these four young men (vv.3-4 & 8).

From what we read above, how do you account for the apparent disconnect between Daniel and his crew and the environment they grew up in?
How significant is the phrase from verse 8, "resolved not to defile himself"?

Consider the two options Sam gave for why Daniel chose to make his stand on the food issue.

Option 1: food defiled by being sacrificed to idols.

Option 2: Daniel "defiled" by dining with the king.

What does the response of Ashpenaz to Daniel's request seem to say of his regard for this young man?

How do we see Daniel's, "dependence on the One True God", evidenced in this encounter?

Continue reading (vv.17-20) to see how this played with the "four young men".

Into Life:

How can the concept of, "interpreting our culture through the lens of dependence on the One True God", have an impact in our community?

How does Romans 12 provide an additional "lens" through which we can influence a culture that is in opposition to the things of God?

What would Romans 12:18 look like to the...

Planned Parenthood and the pro-choice crowd-

Environmental extremism-

The LGBTQ community-

The "Woke" folk-

How could *praying* Romans 12 provide a springboard for getting our heart, mind and eyes back on the Sovereign God?

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.
- Daniel 1:8-9