

## Daniel 1:1-7 – Daniel's Change of Address

Daniel started his life under the reign of Judah's kings. Next, Daniel was under the reign of Babylonian kings. Last, Daniel was under the reign of Medo-Persian kings. Despite all the change, Daniel remained faithful to God without compromise. Who wrote the book of Daniel? The simple answer is that Daniel did. The events of the book cover about 70 years, from about 605 B.C. to 535 B.C. During the exile, some may have wondered if God had abandoned his people and Jerusalem, the place where he chose his name to dwell on earth. The book of Daniel gives hope that while earthly kingdoms will rise and fall, God's kingdom will be built in the midst of them and his kingdom will never end.

### **Read Daniel 1:1-7.**

Eliakim was King Josiah's second son. He was installed as king of Judah by Pharaoh Neco of Egypt who renamed him Jehoiakim. See 2 Kings 23:34-37, 1 Chronicles 3:15. What else do we know about Jehoiakim? See 2 Kings 24:1-6. His name appears 22 times in the book of Jeremiah. It was Jehoiakim who burned Jeremiah's scroll. See Jeremiah 36. (1:1)

When did the events of verses 1-4 happen? Jeremiah 25 says that the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon was during the fourth year of Jehoiakim's reign. Daniel says that King Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem during the third year of Jehoiakim's reign. One way to reconcile this apparent difference is to attribute it to the difference between the Jewish and Babylonian calendars. (1:1)

Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon. What kind of person was Nebuchadnezzar? In Jeremiah 25:9, 27:6 and 43:10, God referred to Nebuchadnezzar as his servant. Does that mean that Nebuchadnezzar was a good king? (1:1)

Why was Nebuchadnezzar successful? (1:2)

What did Nebuchadnezzar and his army take from Jerusalem to Babylon? (1:2-4)

Was Daniel a descendant of King David? Some assume this is true from verse 3, but is that a safe assumption? (1:3)

According to verses 3-4, what were Daniel's qualifications? (1:3-4)

What training did Daniel and those like him receive? What was the goal of their training? (1:4-5)

From verse 6, we know that Daniel was from the tribe of Judah. His name means "God is my judge". What other three youths from the tribe of Judah were named along with Daniel? What did their names mean? (1:6)

What names were Daniel and his friends given? What did these names mean? What was the purpose of giving them new names? (1:7)

Should Daniel and his friends have been thankful for their education, training and lavish food?

What was the ultimate goal of Nebuchadnezzar in taking the top youth of Jerusalem to Babylon and training them?

How old was Daniel when he was taken to Babylon? We don't know exactly how old he was. All we can say is that he was young enough to be "molded" by a Babylonian education. But we shall see that he was old enough to have received an education in the law of Moses.

When you think about the book of Daniel, what comes to your mind first?