1. God Controls Circumstances No Matter What! -1-2
   In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

2. God Calls Believers to Live in Dark Places. -3-6
   • They Were Chosen for a Special Task. -3-4
     Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites… qualified to serve in the king’s palace.

   • They Were Challenged to Integrate Truth into a New Culture. -4b-7
     He was to teach them…

   ✓ Learn to Think Differently. Mental Concepts
     …the language and literature of the Babylonians.

   ✓ Deal with Peer Pressure. Social Customs
     The king assigned them… to be trained for three years…

   ✓ Hold to their Godly Heritage. Religious Convictions
     The chief official gave them new names…

3. God Causes Favor and Blessing to Follow. -8-16
   Now God had caused the official to show favor…

   • The Resolve Daniel Made to Keep Himself Pure. -8
     But Daniel resolved not to defile himself…

   • The Reliance Daniel Placed Upon the Lord. -11-14
     Daniel then said to the guard…Please test your servants for ten days…

   • The Reward God Gave of Good Health. -15-16
     At the end of the ten days they looked healthier…than any of the young men…

4. God Commends Both Wisdom and Honor on Those Who Honor Him. -17-21
   To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding…

   • He Elevated Them to the Top of their Class. -17-20
     …he found none equal…he found them ten times better…

   • He Extended Daniel’s Ministry until the End. -21
     And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

   ✓ It Begins With the Resolve…

     ✓ To Take A Stand and Honor God
     ✓ To Integrate God’s Truth throughout your Life.