

## **Uncompromising Overview of Daniel 1-4**

Daniel was considered a leader among the exiles of Judah. He was extremely gifted and set apart by God. He witnessed God's judgment on Judah's idolatry when Jerusalem was destroyed, and more than ten thousand people were taken captive. Daniel was taken from his home and transported to Babylon where he was a part of a Babylonian re-education program of Judah's noble youth. In the king's house, Daniel was given a new name, taught the ways of Babylon, and clothed and fed by the king. However, Daniel still held fast to God and his commands. He remained faithful in a faithless world when many of his countrymen probably conformed to the ways of Babylon.

How were Daniel and his friends able to remain faithful in the face of so much temptation and what can we learn from them? We live in a modern-day Babylon that embraces many gods such as comfort, entertainment, achievement, beauty, and approval rather than the one true God. Like Daniel, we must wrestle with being in the world but not of it. How can we remain obedient to God in the face of so many temptations? To be a citizen of God's kingdom impacts our daily pursuits, so how can we seek to glorify God rather than seek our own glory? Daniel teaches us about following God in world that is often hostile to him.