

Food Offered To Idols Part 2

"1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god. 3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; 4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. 5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. 6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: 7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego. 8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. 9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. 10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king. 11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. 13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. 14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. 15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. 16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse. 17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. 21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus." (Daniel 1:1-21 KJV)

Here as we can read in this story in *Daniel 1*, that God had handed over Jehoiakim the wicked king of Judah to Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon who carried him with the vessels of the house of God in Jerusalem to Babylon. With them they carried certain of the children of Judah, of the king's seed, and of the princes. Those were among the chosen people of God, from which Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon wanted to choose some of those choice children of Judah among them to train them and educate them to stand and to serve in the presence of the king of Babylon as we read here: *"3 And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the*

master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes; 4 Children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans." (Daniel 1:3-4 KJV) The mind of the King of Babylon was to honor those young men who were bright and brilliant and to give them free scholarship to study and to serve in getting good position in his kingdom. His thought was good but it was also used by Satan to defile those young men, by what will be given to them from the king's table from food and drinks, *"5 And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king."* (Daniel 1:5 KJV) The following are those who were chosen: *"6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:"* (Daniel 1:6 KJV) Daniel the first one among them and it seemed was the one who took the lead to distinguish himself in deciding not to defile himself with the food and the wine that was given to them from the king's table. *"8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."* (Daniel 1:8 KJV) Daniel was a young man who was brought as a captive to a foreign land governed by non-believers, and who were their enemies. He was away from his own people or relatives. But, he decided not to defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, or with the wine. **You see here it is really depend on yourself if you decided not to compromise and not to defile yourself, then you are able and you can stand and announce your stand. The circumstances around you how much it can pressurize you but it cannot silence you from standing up and declaring your refusal to all kinds of sins that were placed on you to do them.** The reason behind this refusal of Daniel to that food and drink was because he knew that the food would either contain unclean items that the Levitical law prohibited and categorized as unclean beast like the pork, camel and the rabbit, or it could be food sacrificed to idols or the wine served could be alcoholic in content.

Daniel and his friends were chosen much against their own will to be trained for three years and then to serve the king of Babylon. Although that was something good and many would like to be employed in such but not Daniel and his friends because in such were liable to be defiled. **Do not delight in such privileges and worldly prestigious things but delight in the Lord and in his plans for you; also think not in the worldly things but on the things above on high:** *"1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."* (Colossians 3:1-4 KJV)

The plan of the devil against them to suppress them was evident as we read here: *"7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego."* (Daniel 1:7 KJV) The meaning of Daniel is 'God is my judge', and they gave him the name Belteshazzar, which means 'who is pleased with and kept by the god bel', this was a demon the Babylonians worshipped, which was the god of Nebuchadnezzar as we can conclude from *Daniel 4:8, "But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my God, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,"* The meaning of Hananiah is 'God has mercy' or

‘strengthened by his God’, and they gave him the name Shadrach, which means ‘**the one strengthen by rach**’, and rach is the name of the sun god, and this same sun god the Catholic church took and incorporated inside the church as Christmas. The meaning of Mishael is ‘**Who is what God is**’, and they gave him the name Meshach; which means ‘**who is like ach**’, and ach means the Venus god, the god of the feminists. It might be a female name and Mishael was a boy and named him with a girl name. The meaning of Azariah is ‘**Jehovah has helped**’, they gave him the name Abednego, which means ‘**servant of Nebo**’, a name of another god of the Babylonians. So totally were different names that will take away God’s name from the court of king Nebuchadnezzar and linked their names to the names of their king and to their idols.

But inspite of all this, the Babylonians were not able to influence them and their commitment toward God. Daniel and his friends decided to keep away from all the enticing things on the king’s table. They knew it would defile them in every way. Daniel was aware that if he defiled himself with food from the king’s table, he would have to compromise on other matters too. * **Once you compromise about simple things like food here, then you will be forced to compromise more, for example to go into idol worship and into immorality. * My advice to you is to keep your commitment to God and keep your identity as a follower of God and a disciple of Jesus.**

Food offered to idols or food offered through wicked people with the wrong motive is to weaken our faith and find a way to penetrate our lives and force us to do wrong. Such kind of food is never a blessing from God. In many ungodly relationships, food is used to strengthen the bond and compel the person to do wrong. Therefore, we need to be aware of that. The first temptation of man by the devil was in the Garden of Eden and the temptation was using food as the medium. He tempted them to eat from the tree that God had forbidden man to eat from. **“17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2:17 KJV)** Even in the first temptation of Jesus, the devil again used food. He tempted Jesus to change the stone to bread. **“3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.” (Matthew 4:3 KJV)** Such kind of food that God forbids us to eat will not make us rich but it will enslave us and cause us to sin against God. Therefore, we need to be cautious and discerning and bold in refusing it standing on the Word of God as Jesus said, **“4 Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4 KJV)**

“8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.” (Daniel 1:8 KJV) Daniel determined in his heart to refuse such food. **You see here you need to determine in your heart not to eat such food or any food offered to idols.** When he was willing to obey God, his friends also stood for the truth with him and refused to eat the food from the King’s table. **You see here when you stand for the truth and set a good example, others will follow your good example and stand for the truth.**

When Daniel and his friends refused to compromise and do wrong God made a way for them that he and his friends were able escape the trap of the Devil. Daniel and his friends found favor in the eyes of Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah,

Mishael, and Azariah. God worked out miracles for them when they were willing to obey God, **“9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. 10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king. 11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, 12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. 13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants. 14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.” (Daniel 1:9-14 KJV)** God not only gave them favor that Melzar was willing to give them pulse to eat and water to drink, but God did miracle and as the following: **“15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.” (Daniel 1:15 KJV)** That under the pulse and water for ten days their faces appeared more handsome and fatter than all the children who did eat the portion of the king’s table. **God in the same way as we fully trust Him, will do miracles to us and He will change the heart of people and let them give a great favor to us and will be willing to change circumstances for our behalf and for our sakes: “16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.” (Daniel 1:16 KJV)**

Those young people were willing to discipline their mouths and stomachs; they were neither enticed by the food nor by its price. **In the same way you should be willing not to be enticed by food especially the one with expensive price.** Daniel and his friends as they were willing to stand for the truth, God rewarded them. **“17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.” (Daniel 1:17 KJV)** Daniel and his friends treasured the wisdom of God more than food and drink. **Wisdom is needed more than food, to organize our lives. Our stand against such temptations will fetch us the treasure of God’s wisdom and the knowledge that surpasses the benefits of any food or drink.** God gave Daniel the understanding in all visions and dreams. **In the same way God shall baptize us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and serve Him.**

“18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. 20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.” (Daniel 1:18-20 KJV) As we read about those four young men, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; who were living on simple food of vegetables and water; they were eating neither meat nor expensive meals. They were on water only and not on any other beverages like coffee, tea, juices or wines. But at the end of their training and studies, non was found like them, and were ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all the king’s realm. **You see here and understand that wisdom and knowledge and success does not depend on the food you eat, nor on the college you study, nor on that country you trained, but it depend on you of how you keep your commitment unto God and how you stand firm to honor him in living His Word and in doing His will.**

“21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.” (Daniel 1:21 KJV) God sustained Daniel and his friends in that place, which were strangers in; they stayed and continued there while the Babylonian was removed by the Median and Cyrus their king. **In the same way as we obey God and do His will God shall sustain us and bless us in the place that He brought us to when we delight in Him and willing to follow His steps and His guidance.**

We learn a lesson from Daniel. Satan may use people to give us food, gold, money, or other things. But later on, we need to put in our minds that we need to pay the price for our greed. Therefore, we need to discern the source we receive from, whether from God or from Satan. Daniel and his friends were pressurized by the power of the enemy. **In the same way, Satan may use certain circumstances of our lives and try to take advantage of us or play on our emotions and egos like what he did with Daniel and his friends.** The Babylonians even changed their names to make them lose their identity as true people of God. But they took the initiative to stand and their stand paved the way for others to be encouraged and stand to do the will of God. Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and the things that Satan had offered him and be in bondage. The decision of Daniel had helped his friends to continue in their pursuit of God without defiling themselves. What Daniel and his friends did honored God and showed their true faithfulness to Him. Therefore God had bestowed on them an extraordinary favor and sympathy so that they could keep their highest commitment to God. **As we too trust God and obey Him, we should not allow food to control us. We also need to help others to get delivered from the grasp of Satan and his traps. If we are weak in food matters, then we have much to lose and our talents and gifts will become ineffective in our service to God.**

My Dear and Beloved: Let us come now to the Lord. Let us be willing to throw away all our idols, wrong doings and the evil practices that are taking us away from God. Let us throw away all our compromises, flatteries and the fear of men. Let us move out and away from the previous life that we lived before. Let us be willing to stand firm for the truth and make a difference in the places that God had placed us. Let us be willing to trust God fully that as we stand for His cause and purpose, that He moves for us, grant us favor in the sight of peoples and authorities, do miracles and wonders for our behalf, give us good health, and grant us bright faces, wisdom and knowledge and establish us and make us settled in the places that He brought us to. Let us set good examples to others so they will be encouraged to do the very will of God and stand against the power of Satan and darkness.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins who was buried and rose from the dead on the third day to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for the story of Daniel and his friends; their good example and their good stand that challenged me to do the same and stand for you in this corrupted world that people their gods became food, fame, money, pleasures and evil powers. Lord thank you for the corrections and all the rebukes I received from you in this message.*

Confess and renounce now all your sins. Confess your love for food and drinks more than your love to God and His Word and commands. Renounce your love for money, your pride

and arrogance, and your love to this world. Renounce the food that you are eating offered to idols and the various religious feasts. Renounce your lies, your lust and your immoralities. Renounce your yoked with non believers and many worldly friends. Confess your compromises and flatteries and non willingness to stand with God. Confess and renounce your love of positions and prestige more than God. Confess your non willingness to serve God and non willingness to suffer for him. Lord forgive me, I repent of the following sins

Lord I commit myself to the teaching and to the principles that I received in this message from you. Lord I commit myself to stand for the truth and will refuse to take and receive this kind of food _____. Lord I commit myself to live the style of life that you wants me to live for you. Lord I trust you that you will give me good health, wisdom and knowledge and the spiritual gifts that I need to serve you as I stand firm on your Word.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who committed their lives to you and are willing to go along the teaching that we received in this message. Lord continue to restore them and their families and children back to you. Lord I pray for them as they obeyed you and stood for your cause, give them favor from those over them and give them knowledge and wisdom and the spiritual gifts that they need to serve you with. Lord, in addition, give them settlement in the places that you had ordained for them to settle and provide all their needs and use them to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church, and help us to continue to teach your Word without compromising and to implement your Word in the life of our families, children, disciples, members and workers. Lord grant us favor from the authorities and the kings of the places that we are living. Lord refill us with the Holt Spirit and give us the needed spiritual gifts that we need in our life and ministry unto you. Lord lead us to go and evangelize, and make new disciples and train new workers to go and plant more Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the Whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Food offered to idols Part 2. Daniel 1:1-21. Colossians 3:1-4. Genesis 2:17. Matthew 4:3-4.

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