

## *Do Not Defile Yourself*

*“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. Then the king ordered ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king’s palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king’s table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king’s service. Among these were some from Judah: Daniel, hananiah, mishael and azariah. The chief official gave new names: to Daniel, the name belteshazzar; to hananiah, shadrach; to mishael, meshach; and to azariah, Abednego.*

*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 caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.” Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, hananiah, mishael and Azariah, “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young servants in accordance with what you see.” So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days. At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and give them vegetables instead.*

*To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, hananiah, mishael and azariah; so they entered the king’s service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.” (Daniel 1:1-21)*

God had handed over Judah and their King to the Babylonian because they had disobeyed the Lord and did not follow His commands. Therefore God gave them over to their enemies. As a consequence of that we found that the King of Babylonia ordered to bring in some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobles. We know that each one who had given his life to Jesus and he is following His Word and steps in His life he is a royal priest for God as the Word of God tells us, **“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the**

**praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2: 9)** Such kind of people who have given their lives to God, whom the Lord had given them strength, good health, talents, aptitude to learn and quick to understand; such kind of people they are the target of satan to pull them out from their services to God and use them for his evil purposes. The tactics that satan used with Daniel, hananiah, mishael and azariah and it might be used against you are the following:-

- 1) **Isoladian:** Satan would try to isolate you and take you out from the family of God, so you will be a victim to him, and this what the word of God warns us, **“be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” (1 Peter 5:8-9)**
- 2) **Satan makes you busy with his plan:** Satan will make you busy with a side way channels, like learning new language, unnecessary activities, or learning some knowledge about things that you don't need in your daily walk with God.
- 3) **Bribes you with beautiful things:** Satan may use people to give you food, gold, money or other things. But later on, put in your mind that you need to pay the prize. Therefore you need to discern from where you are receiving whether from God or from Satan.

Daniel and his friends they were pressurized by the power of the enemy. In the same way satan may use the unfavourable circumstances around you like being in need of money or being in a foreign land and try to get advantage of you and that what he did to Daniel and his friends. He even changed their names to make them lose their identities as true people of God.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and the things that satan would give to entice them and put them in bondage. The decision of Daniel had helped his friends to keep on in following God and not to defile themselves. What Daniel and his friends did honored God and showed their true faithfulness to Him. Therefore God had bestowed on them an extra ordinary favour and sympathy so they can keep their highest commitment to God. Therefore as a reward **“To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.” (Daniel 1:17)** In the same way God will reward you for your faithfulness to Him and He will bestow on you more and greater talents and gifts as long as you obey Him.

**My Dear and Beloved:** The Lord Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross for your sins. Therefore honor Him in your life. Don't say I cannot. It is in your hand and power to keep yourself pure and non polluted by this world and the schemes of satan who wants to take you out from God's people and pull you away from God. Be aware, be alert and make your commitment to God to keep yourself clean as you would pray.

**My prayer:** *Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord I put in my heart not to defile myself. Help me to stand firm. Grant me favour and sympathy from others so*

*I can follow you and do your will. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*