



STANDING FIRM IN A TOXIC ENVIRONMENT

(PART 1 of 3)

SEPTEMBER 11, 2023

DANIEL 1:8a NKJV – (8a) But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank;

God addresses Israel's continued disobedience by authorizing Babylonia (King Nebuchadnezzar) to seize Judah (Vs. 1). And the scripture says God allowed it (Vs. 2). God even gave them (Babylonia) their goods from the temple (Vs. 2). Then King Nebuchadnezzar told one of his servants to go recruit! (Vs. 3)

THE SCRIPTURES GIVES US FOUR WAYS THE WORLD WANTS TO TRANSFORM THE KINGDOM SOCIETY TO THE TOXIC ENVIRONMENT THEY HAVE CONFORMED THEMSELVES TO:

ERASING THEIR (Your) IDENTITY – (Vs. 7) - To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave **Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego**. Each name in Hebrew represents the name of God. The suffix "El" means "deity" or "god." An example of that would be Eloim. The suffix "ah" appears on the end of many Hebrew names and words and means "of God" or "from God." In other words, these men were described as "Men of God." Today, the world (Babylon), wants to change your identity by getting you to act like the world (Babylon), though you claim to be identified in Christ.

EDUCATION – (Vs. 4) - Young men in whom *there was* no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who *had* ability to serve in the king's palace, and **whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans**. The world wants you to learn their language, style or ways! Look at how some of our schools are teaching that there is a gender issue. They want to educate you to thinking something is wrong with how you were created. Then they want you to act it out. Why? To establish a new world order not ordained by God. Prayer is definitely being put out!

This alone describes two ways, and we will look at the other two next week and how Daniel stood structured.

SCRIPTURE READING: MATTHEW 5:44

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "Toxic people attach themselves like cinder blocks tied to your ankles, and then invite you for a swim in their poisoned waters."