



# In The World, But Not Of It

An Introduction to Daniel





What will the End times be like? **DOES THE BOOK OF DANIEL PROVIDE DETAILS OF THE END TIMES?** Does the book of Daniel promise faithful believers the same kind of prosperity and success on earth that Daniel and his friends enjoyed?

# BOOK OF **Daniel**

In a 4-session course, Rev Dr Gordon Wong will respond to these questions and bring us through the BOOK OF DANIEL with its important message for people living in the harsh realities of the ancient (and present) world. The book challenges us to remain faithful in the face of life's uncertainties and to believe in the certainty of God's eternal and loving control.

## Disclaimer:

This course will ***not*** provide or predict *details* of “The End Time”.

**SPEAKER:**  
**REVD DR GORDON WONG**

**13 & 14 OCTOBER;  
20 & 21 OCTOBER 2017**

**ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL**



# If it is not for *details* of The End of Time, **Why study Daniel today?**



## Two Reasons:

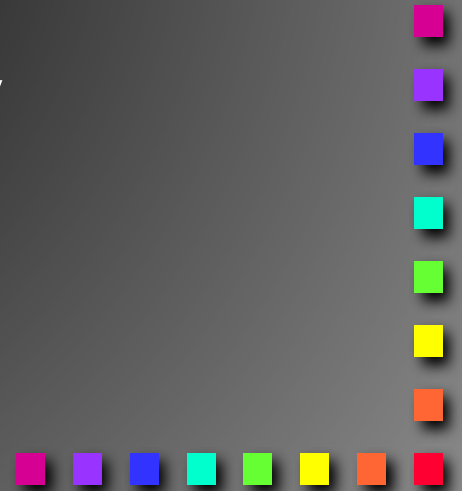
1. The world of **Daniel 1-6** is like our world today
2. The world of **Daniel 7-12** is also like our world today





# 4 Sessions ...

1. Intro, Daniel 1 & 2
2. Daniel 6 & 7
3. Daniel 10 & 11
4. Daniel 12 & Summary





# Some Reading suggestions

- Joyce G. Baldwin, Daniel
- John E. Goldingay, Daniel
- Donald E. Gowan, Daniel
- D.S. Russell, Daniel: An Active Volcano
- Seow Choon-Leong, Daniel
- Gordon Wong, Faithful to the End

## Good devotional paperbacks

- John Goldingay, Daniel and The Twelve Prophets For Everyone
- Chris Wright, Tested by Fire: Daniel 1-6
- Roy Clements, Practising Faith in a pagan world





**TOO HOLY?**  
**Marketplace Faithfulness**

---

**DANIEL 1**



# 1. The Context

## in Daniel 1



# Where is the action taking place?

## 1. The Context

- What is the setting or context of this book called Daniel? i.e. where is the action taking place?
- Read verses 1-2



## Daniel 1:1-2

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.



# Where is the action taking place?

## 1. The Context

- What is the setting or context of this book called Daniel? i.e. **where is the action taking place?**

**Verse 2: in Babylonia**  
**(= not life in Jerusalem)**  
**Life in EXILE**





# Life in Exile

## DANIEL

Uhh...what's the Exile?



**From this Temple**  
**(Where?)**  
**(Whose God?)**



## **Daniel 1**

**... to this temple**  
**(Where?)**  
**(Whose god?)**

### **1. The Context**

- What does it mean to be in Babylon, in EXILE?
- See verse 2 again

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.





# The Context of Daniel 1

## Life in EXILE

- Life in Babylon, not in Jerusalem
- Life in a place where our GOD is not worshipped by those in power
- Life in a place where people worship other gods

**Life in the World, not in Church**





# Life in Exile DANIEL 1

---

**Relevant for life in a  
secular and pluralistic  
society**





# Daniel 1

- The Context: Life in Exile
- **The Challenge**

**Read verses 4-7**  
**4 things happen**



## Daniel 1:4-7

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. ... The chief official gave them new names ...



# The CHALLENGE of Daniel 1

## Life in Exile: Coping with Changes

- Babylonian culture & language (verse 4)
- Babylonian royal food (verse 5)
- Babylonian names (verse 7)
- Babylonian employment (verse 19)

How will Daniel and friends respond?



# The CHALLENGE of Daniel 1

## Life in Exile: Coping with Changes

- Babylonian culture & language (verse 4)
- Babylonian royal food (verse 5)
- Babylonian names (verse 7)
- Babylonian employment (verse 19)

Daniel rejects the food. But why?



# Additional Notes

**Why did Daniel think the king's meat and wine would “defile” him?**





# Bible Quiz!

**Without looking at your Bible,  
who can say the names of  
Daniel's 3 friends?**



# Babylonian Names

## Daniel 1:7

**“The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.”**





# The CHALLENGE of Daniel 1

- Life in Exile: Coping with Changes
  - Babylonian culture & language (verse 4)
  - Babylonian royal food (verse 5)
  - Babylonian names (verse 7)
  - Babylonian employment (5,19)
- **Daniel rejects Babylonian food (verse 8) but accepts Babylonian culture, education, names & employment**



# **The CHALLENGE of Daniel 1**

## **Life in Exile: Coping with Changes**

- Babylonian culture & language (verse 4)
- Babylonian royal food (verse 5)
- Babylonian names (verse 7)
- Babylonian employment (verses 5, 19)

**What to Accept?**

**What to Reject?**



# Daniel 1

- **The Context: Life in Exile**
- **The Challenge**

**Life in Exile: coping with culture**

**A question of Faithfulness (not Food)**

**What to Accept?**

**What to Reject?**



# Daniel 1

Life in Exile: coping with culture  
**A question of Faithfulness (not Food)**

What “faithfulness” involves

**Avoid “defilement” / Evil (verse 8)**

• determine what to accept / reject





# Bible Quiz!

---

**Can you guess which English words represent the same Hebrew word?**



# Which words are the same in the Hebrew Bible??



- 7: The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel , the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.
- 8: 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.



# Which words are the same in the Hebrew Bible??



- 7: The chief official **gave** them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.
- 8: 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.



~f, Y"

What Babylon determines

What Daniel determines

- **Verse 7:** The chief official **gave** (**determined**, set in place) them new names; to Daniel he **gave** (**determined**) the name Belteshazzar ....
- **Verse 8:** Daniel “**determined**” in his heart not to defile himself ...

What will we be determined by?

What will we determine to be?



# Daniel 1

Life in Exile: coping with culture  
**A question of Faithfulness (not Food)**

What “faithfulness” involves

**Avoid “defilement” / Evil (verse 8)**

• determine what to accept / reject



# **Faithful Christian Living**

- [?] Allows some Assimilation and Acceptance of a pluralistic society's conventions**
- [?] Determines to be Distinctive as salt and light in the world**

**IN the World  
but Not OF it**



# Daniel 1

## Life in Exile: coping with culture

Avoid “Defilement” / Evil (verse 8)

### **Advance Excellence**

- in Work (verse 20)

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.



# Daniel 1

Life in Exile: coping with culture

Avoid “Defilement” / Evil (verse 8)

**Advance Excellence**

•in Work (verse 20)

**Colossians 3:23** Whatever you do, do it ... for the Lord.

**Matthew 5:16** Let your light shine ... that others may see and glorify your heavenly Father.



# Daniel 1

Life in Exile: coping with culture

Avoid “Defilement” / Evil (verse 8)

Advance Excellence (verse 20)

Being Faithful in Exile





Any Questions or  
Comments?





# Modern Challenges & Examples

- ♦ Christian Egg Farmers Union?
- ♦ Christians in Business, Law, Medicine?
- ♦ Homemakers for Christ?

**Colossians 3:23** Whatever you do, do it ... for the Lord.

**Matthew 5:16** Let your light shine ... that others may see and glorify your heavenly Father.



# Sample Application Question

- What would a lifestyle of excellence mean for
- students / children in non-Christian homes?
  - a boss / a secretary / office cleaner ?
  - homemakers, lawyers, business people, teachers, doctors, etc.?
  - someone married to a non-Christian?



# Daniel 1

☐ The Context: Life in Exile

☐ The Concern: a question of **Faithfulness**

☐ The Challenge

- Christian life in a non-Christian world
- Christian respect in a multi-religious, pluralistic society

**Advance Excellence // Avoid Evil**



# Daniel 1

- ☐ The Context: Life in Exile
- ☐ The Concern: a question of **Faithfulness**
- ☐ The Challenge: advance excellence // avoid evil

**Take courage: God is with us.  
We are not alone!**





# Daniel 1

- **The Context: Life in Exile**
- **The Challenge: a question of Faithfulness**
  - advance excellence // avoid evil
- **The Conviction**





# Bible Quiz!

**What words in verses 2, 9 & 19 are  
the same Hebrew word?**





## Same Hebrew word in 3 verses?

**V2:** And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God.

**V9:** Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.

**V19:** To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.





## Same Hebrew word in 3 verses?

**V2:** And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God.

**V9:** Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel.

**V19:** To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning.

!t;'n"





# Daniel 1

!TeYlv

- The Context: Life in Exile
- The Challenge: a life of Faithfulness
- The Conviction: GOD is in Control
  - Verse 2: God “gave” Judah into the hands of Babylon
  - Verse 9: God “gave” to Daniel kindness and compassion
  - Verse 17: God “gave” knowledge and understanding of *all* kinds of literature

!t;'n"



# Daniel 1

- **The Context: Life in Exile**
- **The Challenge: a life of Faithfulness**
- **The Conviction: GOD is in Control**

**The way the chapter ends: verse 21**

**“And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.” (539 BC)**

**Daniel survives the Exile!**



**If Daniel was still alive in the  
1<sup>st</sup> year of Cyrus (539 BC) ...  
How old was he when he was forced  
into Babylonian Exile?**

**(Verse 1 Nebchadnezzar invaded  
Babylon around 597 BC)**





# Life in Exile ...

- ❑ ... a place where the ruling powers and majority do not worship your God
- ❑ ... a place where you have been forced to go, leaving behind any dreams of life in your homeland that you might have had



# The Book of Daniel


- **The Context: Life in Exile**
- **The Challenge: Faithfulness in Exile**
- **The Conviction: GOD in Control**

**TRUST in God**

&

**Advance Excellence // Avoid Evil**





# **Don't be Too Holy for life in Babylon? DANIEL 1**

---

**Relevant for believers in a  
secular and pluralistic  
society**



# Distinctive to God's Glory

## ☐ Jesus in Matthew 5:16

- Let your light so shine before all people that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.





# Faithful Christian Living

- ☐ Allows some Assimilation and Acceptance of a pluralistic society's conventions
- ☐ Determines to be Distinctive as salt and light in the world

**IN the World  
but Not OF it**



# Why study Daniel today?

Two Reasons:

**Remaining Faithful** when ...

I. Living in the world of **Daniel 1-6**

= a world where the God you love is not worshipped by the majority of people in power

- our work places?
- our country?
- our homes?






# What Can I Do? (Paul Balloche)

What can I do to thank You,  
What can I do but give my life to You  
Hallelujah, hallelujah

What can I do to praise You?  
**Everyday make everything I do** a hallelujah  
A hallelujah, hallelujah







Any Questions or  
Comments?





# Additional Notes

---

[?] Hopefully no one will ask ...

[?] but, just in case ....



# Additional Notes

**Why did Daniel think the king's meat and wine would “defile” him?**



# Why reject Babylonian food?

- **A question of food?**
  - Vegetarianism and teetotalism?
  - Food offered to idols?
  - Food not properly prepared?
  - Food prohibited by Moses?





# Why reject Babylonian food?

- A question of food?
- **A question of favour?**
  - Solidarity with deprived exiles?
  - Rejecting a pagan king's favour?





# Why reject Babylonian food?

- A question of food?
- A question of favours?
- **A question of faithfulness?**
  - Nazirite vows (Numbers 6:1-4)?
  - Link to later 2nd cent. BC food issue? (2 Macc 6:7-9,18)

**Life in Exile: Coping with Change**  
**A question of Faithfulness (not Food)**





# Modern Questions to Ponder

**[?]** Can Christians be involved in Politics?

- Church & State separation?

**[?]** Should we reject aid from non-Christians?

- Totalisator Board?

- Religious charities?

**What to Accept?**

**What to Reject?**



# Additional Note

---

**The historical problem of Daniel 1:1 and 2 Kings 24:12-14. Who was king of Judah when Babylon conquered Jerusalem?**





## Some historical “problems”

- ❑ **Daniel 1:1-2** “In the 3rd year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came ... carried off articles from the temple of God ... to Babylon”  
2 conflicting verses?
- ❑ **2 Kings 24:10-14** describes the same event as during the reign of Jehoiakim’s son, Jehoiachin
- ❑ **Jeremiah 25:1** says Jehoiakim’s 4th year was only the 1st year of Nebuchadnezzar reign. (**2 Kings 24:12** says the siege occurred in the 8th year of Nebuchadnezzar!)

Is this uncertainty significant?



# Significance?

**[?] Historical uncertainty:** was it Jehoiakim or Jehoiachin? Nebuchadnezzar's 1<sup>st</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> year?

**[?] Pastoral significance:** Daniel and friends are now trapped in exile! This is most significant for understanding the message, regardless of the exact identity of the king.



# Who was Daniel?

## **[?]** Was he a prophet?

- No mention of this in the book.
- Listed under Writings in Hebrew Bible
- Jesus in Matt 24:15 calls him “prophet”; also at Qumran and by Josephus

## **[?]** What is a “prophet”?

- In general: “someone inspired by God” cf. King David as “prophet” in Acts 2:30



# *Too Human?*



- Daniel 2



# *Daniel 2 in summary*



- How Nebuchadnezzar responds to his dream (1-13)

**A Reaction unreasonable**

- How Daniel responds to Nebuchadnezzar's demands (14-23)


**A Relationship with God**

- The Interpretation of the Dream (24-49)

**A Reality that Endures**




*Daniel 2:1-13*  
*How Nebuchadnezzar Responds*

- A Reaction unreasonable 
  - Nebuchadnezzar and his dream (1-3)
  - An understandable but unreasonable demand (5-9)

**Don't Practise this!**




*Daniel 2:14-23*  
*How Daniel Responds*

- A Reaction unreasonable
- A Relationship with God 
- Daniel's response
  - He asks for more time (16)
  - He asks friends for help (17-18)
  - He himself prays to God (19)



*Daniel 2:14-23*  
*How Daniel Responds*

- A Reaction unreasonable
- A Relationship with God 
  - Daniel and his God
  - A personal but not private relationship (17-19)
  - Two extremes to avoid:
    - too holy to work (Daniel 1)
    - too human to pray (Daniel 2)

Verse 11: “What the kings asks is too difficult.  
No one can reveal it to the king except the gods,  
and they do not live among men.”



# *Too Human to Pray?*

**Verse 11: “What the kings asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men.”**

“I may not be too holy minded to believe in a God who works in the realm of human endeavour. But am I too human minded to believe in a God who can work *outside* the bounds of human possibilities?”




## *Verses 27-28*

Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, **but there is a God in heaven** who reveals mysteries.



*Daniel 2:14-23*  
*How Daniel Responds*

- A Reaction unreasonable
- **A Relationship with God** 
  - Daniel and his God
  - A personal but not private relationship (17-19)
  - Two extremes to avoid:
    - too holy to work (Daniel 1)
    - too human to pray (Daniel 2)

**Practise Personal PRAYER**



## *Three clear sections in Daniel 2*

- How Nebuchadnezzar responds to his dream (1-13)

**A Reaction unreasonable**

- How Daniel responds to Nebuchadnezzar's demands (14-23)

**A Relationship with God**

- 
- **The Interpretation of the Dream** (24-49)

**A Reality that Endures**





# THE DREAM

Daniel 2:31-35

**1. GOLD**

**2. SILVER**

**3. BRONZE**

**4a. IRON**



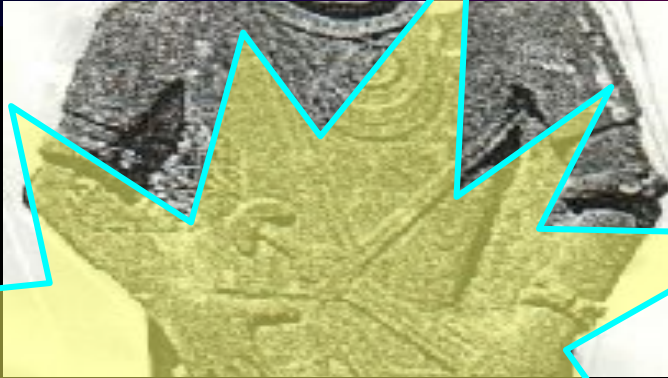
**4b. IRON & CERAMIC**





# THE DREAM

## Daniel 2:31-35



**Rock  
smashes  
statue  
(verse 34)**



# *Interpreting the Statue*

## Two clear points

### **1. The head of gold = Nebuchadnezzar**

Verse 38 “You are that head of gold.”

### **2. The rock = the eternal kingdom of God**

Verses 44-45 In the times of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure for ever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands."



# *Interpreting the Statue*



## Two disputed points

1. One or four kingdoms?
2. If 4, which four?



# *Interpreting the Statue*

- One kingdom & succeeding kings?
  - Babylon: Nebuchadnezzar is clearly identified as the head of the statue (38)
- Four successive kingdoms?
  - Which 4?

Verse 39 “After you, another kingdom / king will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom / king, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth...”



# *Interpreting the Statue Four Kingdoms?*

- Babylonian
- Persian
- Greek
- Roman

- Babylonian
- Median
- Persian
- Greek





# *Interpreting the Statue*

- One kingdom?
  - Babylon: Nebuchadnezzar is identified as the head of the statue (38)
- Four kingdoms?
  - Which 4?
- All kingdoms✓
  - all human empires fall before the kingdom of heaven: all 4 parts crumble as one whole statue (35)





# INTERPRETATION

Daniel 2:36-45

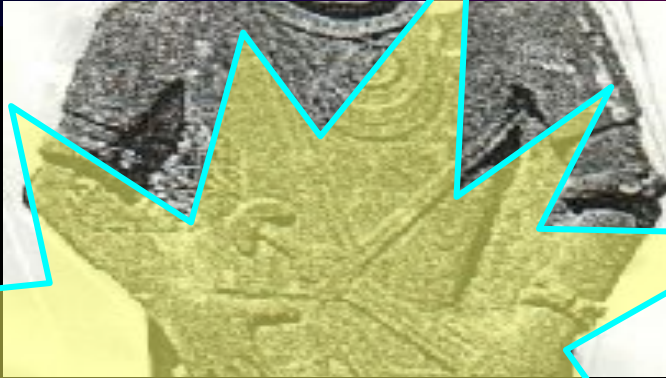
**Nebuchadnezzar**

**All  
Human  
Powers  
and  
Kingdoms**



# INTERPRETATION


Daniel 2:36-45



**God's  
kingdom  
replaces  
all human  
empires  
(verses  
44-45)**



## *Daniel 2*

- A Reaction unreasonable
- A Relationship with God
- **A Reality that endures** 
  - The dream and its interpretation (31-45)
  - **Not a timetable but a theology of history**
    - The kingdoms of this world
    - God's kingdom and its coming



*Any  
questions?*







*Daniel 2*  
*God's Eternal Kingdom*

**All kingdoms on earth will pass**  
**God's Kingdom alone will last**

Perspectives on Life

- PRIDE
- PRIORITIES
- PAIN





## *DANIEL 2: Many earthly kings, One Eternal Kingdom*

- A Reaction unreasonable
- A Relationship with God
- A Reality that endures

**Don't Practise this!**

**Practise Personal  
PRAYER**

**Put PRIDE, PRIORITIES & PAIN  
in Perspective**



# *Faithful Living in Babylon / Exile?*

- Dan 1: Wisely determine what to accept/reject
  - Avoid Evil / Advance Excellence
- Dan 1: Find strength from the conviction of God's sovereignty
- Dan 2: Be Prepared for unreasonable pressures
- Dan 2: Have a Personal relationship with God
  - Pray alone / Pray with others
- Dan 2: Keep wise Perspectives on pride, priorities and pain





# *Questions for Personal or Group reflection*



## *For personal / group reflection*



- How can we develop our personal relationship with God? When Daniel was in trouble, he prayed. Do we? How can we help each other to pray?
- What are some of the human “kingdoms” or accomplishments that we may be in danger of placing too much confidence in?
- We need money for our families to survive in this world. How can we work for money and earthly success without being blinded by the pursuit?





I've found a friend, O such a friend!  
He loved me ere I knew Him  
He drew me with the cords of love  
And thus He bound me to Him.  
And round my heart still closely twine  
Those ties which nought can sever  
For I am His and He is mine  
Forever and forever.





I've found a friend, O such a Friend!  
He bled, He died to save me  
And not alone the gift of life,  
But His own self He gave me.  
Naught that I have my own I call,  
I hold it for the Giver  
My heart, my strength, my life, my all  
Are His and His forever.





I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!  
So kind and true and tender  
So wise a counselor and guide,  
So mighty a defender.  
From Him who loves me now so well,  
What power my soul can sever?  
Shall life or death or earth or hell?  
No! I am His forever.



# He Knows My Name

Tommy Walker

1996



I have a Maker  
He formed my heart  
Before even time began  
my life was in His hand.

He knows my name  
He knows my every thought  
He sees each tear that falls  
And hears me when I call.



I have a Father  
He calls me His own  
He'll never leave me  
No matter where I go.

He knows my name  
He knows my every thought  
He sees each tear that falls  
And hears me when I call.



*Any  
questions?*







## *Daniel 2*

### *Modern Questions to Ponder*

- How does God speak to people today?
  - through dreams and visions (Dan 2,4)
  - in times of prayer (Dan 2, 9)
  - from meditation on Scripture (Dan 9)
- Can God speak to those who do not believe in Him?
  - through human events and examples (Dan 1-6)
- Should Christians be involved in political leadership?





## *Additional Notes*

- Hopefully no one will ask ...
- but, just in case ....



# *Interpreting the Statue Four Kingdoms?*

- Babylonian
- Persian
- Greek
- Roman

**YES ...**

- 4 successive empires in actual history
- Jesus/Church as the Rock when Rome fell

**BUT...**

- Persia not “inferior” (39)
- 5:30 says Median king followed Babylon



# *Interpreting the Statue Four Kingdoms?*

- Babylonian
- Persian
- Greek
- Roman

- Babylonian
- Median
- Persian
- Greek

**• Persia (not Media)  
succeeded Babylon in  
actual history**

**• 5:30 says Median king  
follows Babylonian  
• Media was “inferior” (39)  
• iron/ceramic mixture (43)  
fits Greek split**



## *Additional Note:*



- The chronological problem between Daniel 1:5,18 and Daniel 2:1,48.



# *Historical Problems*

- Daniel 2:1 sets the story in the 2nd year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. Daniel & friends are already part of the group of court wise men (2:13). At the end of the chapter, Daniel is given a place in the royal court as a “ruler” and his 3 friends are promoted (48-49).
  - Dan 1:5,18-19 says that Daniel & friends trained for 3 years before being presented to Nebuchadnezzar.

Is this uncertainty significant?