

1. Last week I continued the teaching of the Doctrine of GAP. Daniel had learned a great deal of doctrine and is now applying that doctrine while under great pressure.
2. This occasioned our study of the doctrine of God's Grace Apparatus for Perception.
3. We are ready to begin a study of verse nine but first let's review an expanded translation of Dan 1:1-8.

Dan 1:1 In the third year of Jehoiakim's reign as king of Judah Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon surrounded the city of Jerusalem and began to siege the city.

Dan 1:2 Jehoiakim king of Judah surrendered the city of Jerusalem; the sieging of the city ceased when Jehoiakim agreed to certain terms mandated by Nebuchadnezzar. As part of the settlement certain very valuable vessels used in the Temple liturgy were carried off to Babylonia where Nebuchadnezzar stored them in the house of his god. The death of Nebuchadnezzar's father Nabopolassar occurred during the siege which in part motivated Nebuchadnezzar to cut short his siege; his need to return to Babylon also resulted in Jehoiakim being left on the throne as his Regal agent.

Dan 1:3 In order to guarantee the loyalty of Jehoiakim, Nebuchadnezzar ordered Ashpenaz whose title was "Prince of The Eunuchs, to take as hostages some seventy young men from Jehoiakim's palace; they were to be of nobility, young men who had been raised in the palace. As was the custom of the day the boys were to be between the ages of 14 and 17.

Dan 1:4 All seventy were to be handsome, well built, intelligent and good students; they were to be well mannered and capable of standing in the presence of King's and Potentates; men who had a special aptitude for learning. They were one might say to be the cream of the crop." Young men who would one day serve Nebuchadnezzar as advisors, prophets, administrators; young men capable of learning the Chaldean language and becoming as Chaldean as Nebuchadnezzar himself.

Dan 1:5 The king decreed the boys would eat with him in the royal dining hall; he assigned them special rations and they were to drink the finest of wine from the king's cellars. They would be trained for three years said Nebuchadnezzar, and after that he would assign them special duties depending on their demonstrated abilities...

Dan 1:6 Among the seventy were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

Dan 1:7 Ashpenaz gave the four boys new names: to Daniel, Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

Dan 1:8 But Daniel from the Bible Doctrine stored in his right lobe decided he should not defile himself by eating at the palace dining hall; Daniel was certain that the food and libation had not been prepared in accordance with the dietary rules proscribed in the Mosaic Law therefore he asked Ashpenaz if he might be excused from attending.

4. Now let's return to the Book of Daniel chapter one verse nine.

KJV

Dan 1:9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

NIV

Dan 1:9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel,

1. Daniel has decided God wants him to follow the precepts of the Mosaic law regardless of the cost.
2. This is so often the case in time.
3. Following the protocol plan of God is especially difficult for young people.
4. Peer pressure makes it tough to do what is right.
5. There are always pressures which make application of doctrine difficult.
6. As a believer we must stick to the real issue and not get so involved with "what to do and not to do" that we forget the source of the power; James Carville said to George Herbert Bush "it's the economy stupid" but the Bible says to the believer "its doctrine stupid."
7. The answer to our problems in applying doctrine is simple but complex. We must consistently use the two power options.
8. Daniel from all indication was a master at taking in the Word even when under severe testing.
9. We have just read it is God who "caused Ashpenaz to show favor and sympathy to Daniel."
10. So it is with us; we must never doubt the power of God.
11. The word translated "tender" in the Hebrew is Rachamin an adjective meaning "an emotional response."
12. Chesed is the word for "love" as translated in the KJV and means grace or favor.
13. Ashpenaz was capable only of an emotional love response to the obviously good character traits of Daniel. He appreciated the object of his love. His favor toward Daniel was based on who and what Daniel was.

14. That he had no doctrine in his soul to appreciate truly the spiritual merits of Daniel I think would be a good assumption.

15. At this point the future greatness of Daniel is evident to Ashpenaz.

16. It is important to understand it is Jesus Christ who controls history and Daniel, as we will see later, has a persona destiny that will significantly effect history.

17. God like the B-26s at Normandy's Omaha Beach is always out there ahead of us softening up the enemy. The low flying B-26 Marauders delivered their ordinances right on target at Omaha making the landing far less costly.

18. Right now God is attacking in advance for you and for me just like He did for Daniel. There is nothing out there in front of us we cannot handle.

18.1 Be aware He knows exactly how close the bombs can fall; it may get a little scary at times but keep in mind He knows our frame.

KJV

Dan 1:10 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 endanger my head to the king.

NIV

Dan 1:10 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."

1. Ashpenaz like all unbelievers is "eat up" with human viewpoint.

2. This you would expect given what we have just learned about unbelieving mankind.

3. Ashpenaz was a man of power but like those in power today who are without doctrine they are full of fear.

4. Though Ashpenaz appreciated Daniel he could not acquiesce to his request.

5. The prince of the eunuchs knew of the fierceness of Nebuchadnezzar and he rightfully (given no doctrine) was afraid.

6. Very often leaders of the world do stupid things.

7. Their decisions are often motivated by fear.

8. Satan recall is very interested in the leaders of his world. He seldom pays attention to peons like you and me.

9. Think about Adolph Hitler and the eastern front "Operation Barbarossa." Why did Adolph decide to attack his ally, Communist Russia, when he certainly had his hands full with the Allied Powers.

9.1 Taking on 2000 miles of eastern front at a time when the Wehrmacht was already defending 3000 miles of Mediterranean coast and 6000 miles along the Atlantic was pure insanity or was it demon control.

10. The frightened Ashpenaz in effect told Daniel "if you boys eat and look like a 90 pound wonder and the other boys eat and look like Charles Atlas, my goose is cooked."

11. The cooking of his goose might have become literal. There is an historical account of Nebuchadnezzar having an enemy "cooked alive on a large skillet."

12. Don't forget the lions den and the fiery furnace were favorite Babylonian and Persian tools for dispensing capital punishment.

13. While Ashpenaz was running scared Daniel no doubt was recalling what he had read in Isaiah. "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" Isa 41:10.

14. Refusing to eat the food could have resulted in Daniel's death, nevertheless Daniel will pursue his request.

15. A believer with doctrine in his soul will not easily be discouraged. Recall the Scripture makes clear, if we are to please God we must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them who diligently seek Him.

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

16. Daniel develops a plan. He will first seek out a subordinate of Ashpenaz's.

End Lesson Taught 8-6-2000