

Lesson XI.

THE BENEFITS OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE—TEMPERANCE LESSON

September 9, 1917

Daniel 1 : 8-20. Study Daniel, ch. 1. *Scripture Memory Verses, Eph. 6 : 1, 2.

Golden Text—Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.—Daniel 1 : 8 (Rev. Ver.).

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8 But Dan'iel 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 Dan'iel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Dan'iel, 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 Dan'iel to Mel'zar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Dan'iel, Hanani'ah, Mi'shael, and Azari'ah,

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 Mel'zar 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 Dan'iel 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 Dan'iel, Hanani'ah, Mi'shael, and Azari'ah : 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.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Amongst the captives in Babylon were four boys,—Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. These boys were bright and good looking, and the King of Babylon decided to have them taught and trained along with other boys of his kingdom, so that he might choose from amongst them officers for high positions in his court. The king commanded

that they should have the very richest food and wine, such as were used by the king himself. The king changed their studies, their food and their dress, and even their names. But they could not forget their old homes. There they had lived a simple, happy life. Their mothers had taught them to pray to the true God and they obeyed his laws, and

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