

DANIEL AND HIS COMPANIONS— TEMPERANCE LESSON

September 10, 1911

Daniel 1 : 8-20. Read Daniel, ch. 1—Memory Verses, 8, 9.

Golden Text—It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth.—Romans 14 : 21.



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

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, commanded his officers to choose four boys from among the Jewish captives. None should be chosen but such as were strong and beautiful ; for he wanted them to be taught the language and the wisdom of his country, so that when they grew older they might become useful in his kingdom.

So the officers chose four very fine boys, whose names were Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. They lived in Nebuchadnezzar's beautiful palace with other boys who were being trained for the king's service,

and had rich clothes to wear ; and each day there was sent to them food from the king's own table and brimming cups of wine.

Daniel knew that the wine was not good for them, nor the rich food ; and besides, some of the meats and things that were given to them, the children of Israel had been commanded by God not to eat. He made up his mind not to eat the food or drink the wine. He therefore asked the king's officer, who had charge of himself and the other three boys, that they should not be made to do so. The officer was very fond of Daniel, and