

DANIEL IN BABYLON

Lesson II.

Daniel 1: 8-21 (May be used as a Temperance Lesson)
Memory Verses, 17-20

July 9, 1899

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 Neb'uchadnezzar.

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.

21 And Dan'iel continued even unto the first year of king Cy'rus.

THE LESSON RETOLD



Far away in Babylon lived a great heathen king called Nebuchadnezzar.

Once he fought against God's people, the Jews, and took many of them away to his country as prisoners.

Then he said to one of his chief servants, "Choose some of the strong, bright, handsome, well-brought-up, clever boys among these Jews. I will have my wise priests teach them so that they may know our language and our worship and by-and-by become wise priests themselves."

The boys were to have a nice place to live and were to have the same food to eat as the king himself.

But there was one boy in that school who made up his mind that he would not eat king's meat, because, though it tasted so nice, he knew that it had been given to the idols first, and that to eat it was just the same as praying to idols.