

## Who Was Daniel?

- Daniel was a captive Jew from Judah.
- Daniel was of the royal family and/or of the nobility in Judah.
- Daniel was young, strong, smart, good looking, well educated.
- Daniel was a leader among leaders and was well-suited to serve at the highest level.
- Daniel was poised and discerning. (He did not stir controversy when his overseer changed his name to reflect the pagan culture that was now his home.)
- Daniel was a person of strong character and courage. (Resolved not to defile himself with the king's food.)
- Daniel was humble, respectful and submissive. (He asked permission to not eat that food from the person in charge.)
- Daniel was blessed by God with favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs.
- Daniel was understanding. (He knew that the chief of the eunuchs and his steward faced a very challenging predicament. One which could mean life or death for them all.)
- Daniel was fair and practical. (He proposed a plan that reduced their risk.)
- Daniel was given by God with an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom (which was pagan).
- Daniel was given by God the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.
- Daniel and his three compatriots tested out ten times better than the rest before the king.
- Daniel had longevity. (He continued in his position about sixty-five years until the overthrow of the Babylonian Empire in 539 B.C.)
- Daniel was a man of righteousness before the Lord our God, cf. Ezekiel 14:12-20.
- Daniel was a prophet. (Jesus called Daniel a prophet in Matthew 24:15.)

### **Daniel: Faithful to God & Country for over 65 Years!**

- (Disclaimer: This country was a cruel, pagan nation that had conquered his homeland and hauled him 900 miles as a prisoner of war.)

## Daniel and government affairs ...

—Daniel's adversaries pored over his life looking for anything to accuse. **They found nothing in regard to government affairs. Daniel's compliance with Nebuchadnezzar's pagan government was impeccable.**

- (Daniel 6:4 NASB95) Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.

## Who were the Chaldeans in the Bible?

- The Chaldeans were people who lived in southern Babylonia which would be the southern part of Iraq today. Sometimes the term Chaldeans is used to refer to Babylonians in general, but normally it refers to a specific semi-nomadic tribe that lived in the southern part of Babylon. The land of the Chaldeans was the southern portion of Babylon or Mesopotamia. It was generally thought to be an area about 400 miles long and 100 miles wide alongside of the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers.
- The Chaldeans are mentioned multiple times in the Bible in both contexts. For example, Genesis 11:28 speaks of Abraham's father Terah, who was from "Ur of the Chaldeans," the specific tribe or people known as the Chaldeans. We know from verses such as Genesis 11:31, 15:7 that God called Abraham, a Chaldean, out of Ur of the Chaldeans so that Abraham would follow God to the land that God had promised to him and his descendants.
- The Chaldeans were an intelligent and sometimes aggressive, warlike people. During this time the word Chaldean became synonymous for Babylon, and we see many verses in Scripture where the word Chaldean was used to refer to Babylonians in general. At the height of the Babylonian Empire, the Chaldeans were an influential and highly educated group of people. Some historians believe that, after Persia conquered Babylon, the term Chaldean was used more often to refer to a social class of highly educated people than to a race of men.
- At the time of Daniel, Babylon was the intellectual center of western Asia, and the Chaldeans were renowned for their study and knowledge of astrology and astronomy. They kept detailed astronomical records for over 360 years, which can help us understand how the wise men from the East would have been able to recognize and follow the star that would lead them to the King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2).

**Search Results.** The words Chaldeans OR Babylon OR Babylonians are found 375 times in 312 verses in the English Standard Version of the Bible. The first reference is Genesis 11:28 and the last reference is in Revelation 18:21. The Chaldeans figure prominently in the biblically recorded history of our world, beginning with Abram who hailed from Ur of the Chaldeans.

