

I. Born In Adversity (1-3)

- A. Their homeland was invaded and destroyed (1) - *“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.”*
- B. Their religion was outlawed (2) - *“And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.”*
- D. Their freedom was removed (3) - *“Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility.”*

II. Balanced With Humility (4-7)

- A. They were physically blessed but not conceited (4a) - *“Youths without blemish, of good appearance ...”*
- B. They were intellectually advanced but not humanistic (4b) - *“...and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning...”*
- C. They were socially skilled but not elitists (4c) - *“...competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.”*
- D. They were personally favored but not self-seeking (5-7) - *“The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king.”*

III. Bound By Integrity (8-16)

How Daniel Prioritized Integrity:

- A. He determined that integrity is a priority (8a) - *“Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank.”*
- B. He pursued a course of action that allowed for integrity (8b) - *“Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.”*
- C. He trusted God when his commitment was challenged (9-10) - **The eunuch stated that Daniel's decision was unwise & dangerous**
- D. He watched as God amazingly blessed his decisions (11-16) - **Daniel allowed for a plan that kept his integrity & honored God**

IV. Blessed For Fidelity (17-21)

- A. There was heavenly recognition for their faithfulness (17) - *“As for these four youths, God gave them...”* **God greatly blessed!**
- B. There were earthly benefits for their faithfulness (18-21) - **The king** *“found them ten times better than all...”*