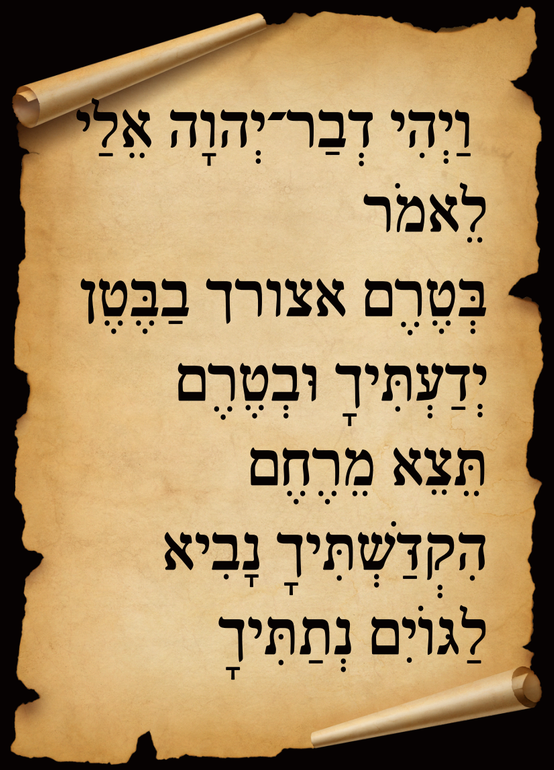
Daniel: Chapter One

Jeremiah 1:1-8

THE WORDS OF JEREMIAH THE SON OF HILKIAH, OF THE PRIESTS WHO WERE IN ANATHOTH IN THE LAND OF BENJAMIN, TO WHOM THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME IN THE DAYS OF JOSIAH THE SON OF AMON, KING OF JUDAH, IN THE THIRTEENTH YEAR OF HIS REIGN. IT CAME ALSO IN THE DAYS OF JEHOIAKIM THE SON OF JOSIAH, KING OF JUDAH, UNTIL THE END OF THE ELEVENTH YEAR OF ZEDEKIAH THE SON OF JOSIAH, KING OF JUDAH, UNTIL THE CARRYING AWAY OF JERUSALEM CAPTIVE IN THE FIFTH MONTH.

THEN THE WORD OF THE LORD CAME TO ME, SAYING:
“BEFORE I FORMED YOU IN THE WOMB I KNEW YOU;
BEFORE YOU WERE BORN I SANCTIFIED YOU;
I ORDAINED YOU A PROPHET TO THE NATIONS.”
THEN SAID I:
“AH, LORD GOD!
BEHOLD, I CANNOT SPEAK, FOR I AM A YOUTH.”
BUT THE LORD SAID TO ME:
“DO NOT SAY, ‘I AM A YOUTH,’
FOR YOU SHALL GO TO ALL TO WHOM I SEND YOU,
AND WHATEVER I COMMAND YOU, YOU SHALL SPEAK.
DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THEIR FACES,
FOR I AM WITH YOU TO DELIVER YOU,” SAYS THE LORD.



Lesson ONE:

Jerusalem Beseiged by the King of Babylon

Daniel 1:1-7

Daniel 1:1-2

In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

Isaiah 39:5-7

Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Hear the word of the Lord of hosts: ‘Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,’ says the Lord. ‘And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’ ”

“Daniel and his friends were the fulfillment of this prophecy.” -Amir, p. 25

Joel 3:5

“Because you have taken My silver and My gold,
And have carried into your temples My prized possessions.”

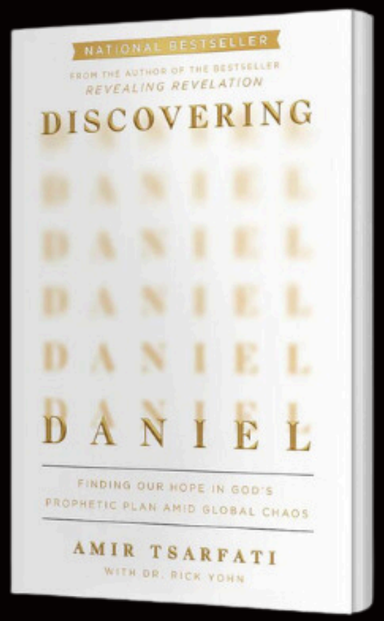
Daniel 1:3-4

Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles, young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king’s palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

Amir:

“One qualification that was not included was that they had to adhere to a common belief system. They were welcome to hold on to whatever gods they worshipped back in their home country. The only caveat was that their old ways could not interfere with Babylon’s new ways. Go ahead and worship your gods, as long as you worship our gods first. For most polytheistic pagan cultures, this was no problem. For the Jews, it was the problem.”

“There was no wiggle room allowed, even if it was at the demand of a king.”



Discovering Daniel, page 24

Deuteronomy 5:6-7

“I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

You shall have no other gods before Me.”

Daniel 1:5

And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of that time they might serve before the king.

Daniel 1:6-7

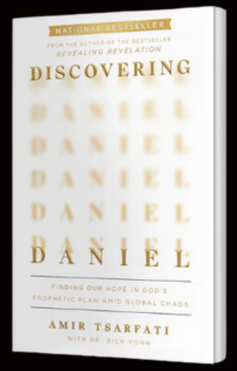
Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

“Reprogramming and Rebranding”

Daniel = “God is my Judge”

is named

Belteshazzar = “Bel protect the prince”



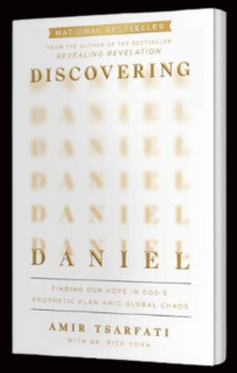
Discovering Daniel, page 26-27

“Reprogramming and Rebranding”

Hananiah = “Yahweh has acted graciously”
Shadrach = “Command of Aku”

Mishael= “Who is like God?”
Meshach= “Who is like Aku?”

Azariah= “Yahweh has helped”
Abednego= “Servant of Nabu”



Discovering Daniel, page 26-27

Naming Showing Ownership and Stewardship

And the Lord God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.” Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him. -Genesis 2:18-20

Lesson TWO

Daniel Would Not Defile Himself

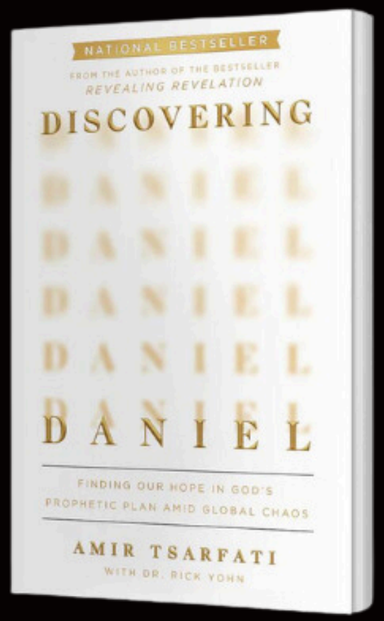
Daniel 1:8-21

Daniel 1:8

But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Amir:

“Daniel would not give in like the others. He would not defile himself with the king’s menu. He would stand for his beliefs. But he knew this was a risk. Standing against the orders of the king was a near foolproof method for getting yourself killed. So to pull this off, he and his buddies were going to have to be smart.”



Discovering Daniel, page 32

Daniel 1:9

Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

Esther 2:8-9

So it was, when the king's command and decree were heard, and when many young women were gathered at Shushan the citadel, under the custody of Hegai, that Esther also was taken to the king's palace, into the care of Hegai the custodian of the women. Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king's palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women.

Daniel 1:10-14

And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who are your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king.”

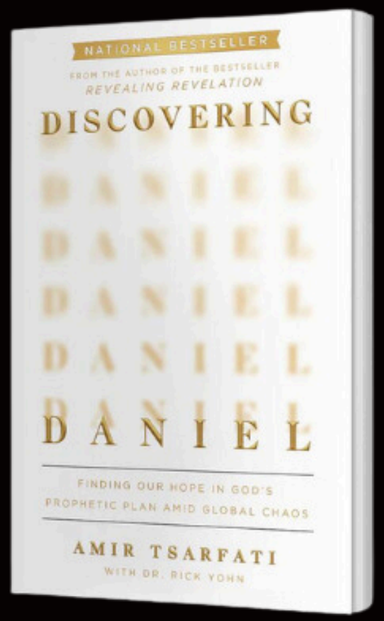
So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, “Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king’s delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.” So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.

Daniel 1:15-16

And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king’s delicacies. Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

Amir:

“God’s hand is so wonderfully evident in this account. A vegetarian diet can certainly bring noticeable changes in a person’s health over time. But for there to be that significant a difference in only ten days shows that God was there quite literally tipping the scales in their favor.”



Discovering Daniel, page 33-34

Mark 7:14-23

WHEN HE HAD CALLED ALL THE MULTITUDE TO HIMSELF, HE SAID TO THEM, “HEAR ME, EVERYONE, AND UNDERSTAND: THERE IS NOTHING THAT ENTERS A MAN FROM OUTSIDE WHICH CAN DEFILE HIM; BUT THE THINGS WHICH COME OUT OF HIM, THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT DEFILE A MAN. IF ANYONE HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR!”

WHEN HE HAD ENTERED A HOUSE AWAY FROM THE CROWD, HIS DISCIPLES ASKED HIM CONCERNING THE PARABLE. SO HE SAID TO THEM, “ARE YOU THUS WITHOUT UNDERSTANDING ALSO? DO YOU NOT PERCEIVE THAT WHATEVER ENTERS A MAN FROM OUTSIDE CANNOT DEFILE HIM, BECAUSE IT DOES NOT ENTER HIS HEART BUT HIS STOMACH, AND IS ELIMINATED, THUS PURIFYING ALL FOODS?” AND HE SAID, “WHAT COMES OUT OF A MAN, THAT DEFILES A MAN. FOR FROM WITHIN, OUT OF THE HEART OF MEN, PROCEED EVIL THOUGHTS, ADULTERIES, FORNICATIONS, MURDERS, THEFTS, COVETOUSNESS, WICKEDNESS, DECEIT, LEWDNESS, AN EVIL EYE, BLASPHEMY, PRIDE, FOOLISHNESS. ALL THESE EVIL THINGS COME FROM WITHIN AND DEFILE A MAN.”

Colossians 2:16-23

SO LET NO ONE JUDGE YOU IN FOOD OR IN DRINK, OR REGARDING A FESTIVAL OR A NEW MOON OR SABBATHS, WHICH ARE A SHADOW OF THINGS TO COME, BUT THE SUBSTANCE IS OF CHRIST. LET NO ONE CHEAT YOU OF YOUR REWARD, TAKING DELIGHT IN FALSE HUMILITY AND WORSHIP OF ANGELS, INTRUDING INTO THOSE THINGS WHICH HE HAS NOT SEEN, VAINLY PUFFED UP BY HIS FLESHLY MIND, AND NOT HOLDING FAST TO THE HEAD, FROM WHOM ALL THE BODY, NOURISHED AND KNIT TOGETHER BY JOINTS AND LIGAMENTS, GROWS WITH THE INCREASE THAT IS FROM GOD.

THEREFORE, IF YOU DIED WITH CHRIST FROM THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE WORLD, WHY, AS THOUGH LIVING IN THE WORLD, DO YOU SUBJECT YOURSELVES TO REGULATIONS— “DO NOT TOUCH, DO NOT TASTE, DO NOT HANDLE,” WHICH ALL CONCERN THINGS WHICH PERISH WITH THE USING—ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENTS AND DOCTRINES OF MEN? THESE THINGS INDEED HAVE AN APPEARANCE OF WISDOM IN SELF-IMPOSED RELIGION, FALSE HUMILITY, AND NEGLECT OF THE BODY, BUT ARE OF NO VALUE AGAINST THE INDULGENCE OF THE FLESH.

Daniel 1:17

As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:18-21

Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.

Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

539 BC

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