



# *Portraits of Biblical Faith*

*Faith Builders*  
*September 10, 2017*

**By Faith, Moses**  
**Hebrews 11:23-29**

**Hebrews 11, God's Hall of Faith:**

**Abel**  
**Enoch**  
**Noah**

**Abraham**  
**Isaac**  
**Jacob**

**Joseph**  
**Moses**  
**Rahab**

**Honorable Mention:**

**Gideon**  
**Barak**  
**Samson**

**Jephthah**  
**David**  
**Samuel**

**The prophets**

*"who by faith conquered kingdoms,  
performed acts of righteousness, obtained  
promises, shut the mouths of lions."*



*by faith, they shut the mouths of lions.*



## **The Faith of Daniel**

### **Some Basic Daniel Bio Facts:**

**Born shortly after time of Josiah's reforms beginning in 630 BC**

**Among select Jewish youths in first exile to Babylon in 605 BC**

**Age at deportation: teenager (probably 13-15 years old)**

**Entered government service in 602 BC**

**Served in Babylonian and Persian Empires for at least 66 years**

***“Daniel and his three friends Hananiah, Azariah and Meshael exemplified faithful living in exile, and provide models of how God’s people today should live as strangers and exiles in a world not their home.” (ESV Study Bible notes)***





# *Ancient Babylon*

*2300 – 730 BC*



## **The Faith of Daniel**

### **Positions Daniel held in the Babylonian Empire:**

**Entered the king's personal service, 1:19**

**Ruler over the Province of Babylon itself, 2:48**

**Chief Prefect over all the wise men of Babylon, 2:48**

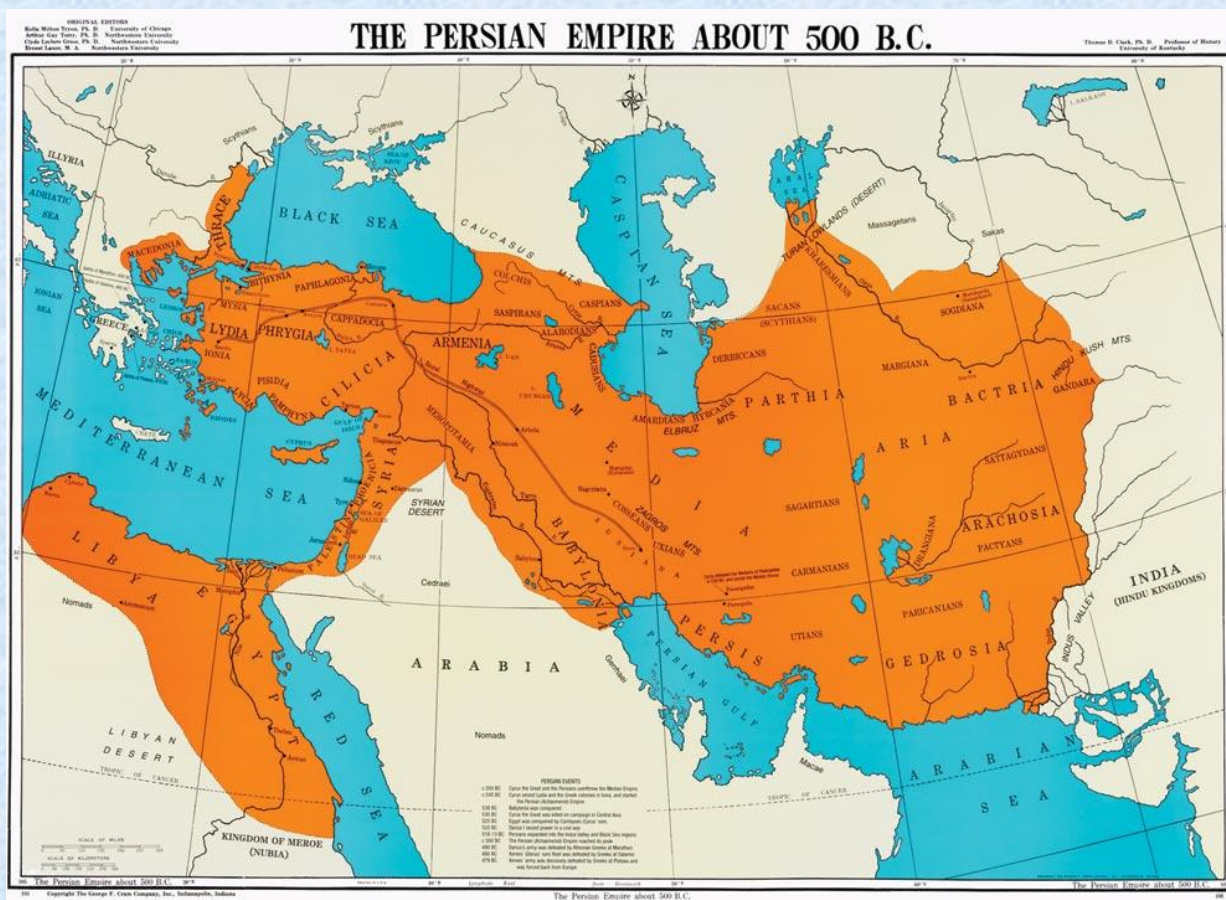
**Remained in king's court, to personally serve the king, 2:48**

**Personal adviser to the king, interpreting dreams and signs, 3 & 4**

**Third Ruler in the Entire Empire of Babylon, 5:29**

**(for a few hours)**







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### **Positions Daniel held in the Persian Empire**

**One of three commissioners over the 120 satraps (governors) who administrated the Persian Empire, 6:2.**

**To be appointed as lead over the entire empire, 6:3**

**The Faith of Daniel**  
**Daniel 1**  
**Being Faithful in a Small Thing is a Big Thing**

**I Taken into Exile, vs 1-7**

**The Criteria for selecting the exiles**

- " Youths – young, adolescent males, probably 13 – 15 years old.**
- " No physical defects.**
- " Good-looking.**
- " Intelligence in every branch of wisdom.**
- " Endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge.**
- " Ability for serving in the king's court.**



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**The Criteria for selecting the exiles**

**The Curriculum**

*The literature and the language of the Chaldeans.*

**The Cuisine**

*The king's choice food and wine.*

**The Names**

**Daniel**      **"God is my judge"**

**Hananiah**   **"Yahweh has been gracious"**

**Mishael**     **"Who is what God is?"**

**Azariah**      **"Yahweh has helped"**

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**Belteshazzar**    Bel protect his life

**Shadrach**       I respect Aku

**Meshach**       Who is what Aku is?

**Abednego**        Servant of Nebo



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**II Remained undefiled, vs 8-16**

**Daniel 1: 8**

***But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank.***

**Daniel's problem**

***The food was not kosher***

***The food had likely been offered to idols***

**Ashpenaz's problem**

***He could lose his head if Daniel and friends did not appear healthy***

**The request to the overseer**

***Test us for 10 days on vegetables and water***

**The result of the test**

***Better physical appearance than those eating the choice food***

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**III Promoted and Preserved, vs 17-21**

**God gave these four youths knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom.**

**Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.**

**The four passed training with flying colors**



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**III Promoted and Preserved, vs 17-21**

**God gave these four youths knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom.**

**Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.**

**The four passed training with flying colors – without comparison among other trainees.**

**The four then entered the king's personal service, and there distinguished themselves as 10 times better than their counterpart false religious counselors.**

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**IV Application**

**What are some seemingly small areas where God, in His word, calls you to be faithful?**

**How does obedience demonstrate faith?**

***Biblical faith produces action and obedience, Hebrews 11:8.***



**The Faith of Daniel**  
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**IV Application**

**Biblical faith produces action and obedience, Hebrews 11:8.**

**To be faithful in a small thing is a big thing.**

**Be faithful/obedient in the “smaller” things so that God can entrust to you the “bigger” things.**