





## LESSON 3

### THE CONTROVERSY BEGINS

#### Answer Key

1. a. eats      b. image      c. Nebuchadnezzar's      d. defiling  
e. praying
2. a. great      b. times,      c. laws
3. Besieged
4. God
5. Changed, forsaken, broken
6. Babylon
7. a. King's      b. blemish      c. wisdom, knowledge      d. science
8. Years
9. a. Daniel      b. Hananiah      c. Mishael      d. Azariah
10. a. Belteshazzar      b. Shadrach      c. Meshach      d. Abednego
11. Meat, wine
12. Mocker, deceived, wise, moveth
13. Unclean
14. Purposed, defile, meat, wine
15. Defile
16. Favour, love
17. Fear
18. Day
19. Pulse, water
20. Daniel
21. Knowledge, skill, visions, dreams
22. Times

because they disobeyed God and entered into false worship. These underlying issues of worship and obedience were the reasons for Israel's captivity, and the Israelites' victory in this area was their reason for deliverance.

#### Question 9

Daniel and his three friends were very fortunate. They could have become slaves. After all, they were captives in Babylon. But instead, Nebuchadnezzar treated them with great favour, offering to educate them into Babylonian society.

This was not totally uncommon among ancient monarchs. Many of them would take young people like Daniel and his friends captive, re-educate them, and then send them back to their country to rule. Hopefully this would insure their loyalty to Babylon.

Whether King Nebuchadnezzar had this in mind for Daniel and his friends, we do not know. They obviously never went back to Jerusalem to rule, but their education paved the way for them to be accepted into the educational society of Babylon, and thereby able to exert tremendous influence upon Nebuchadnezzar.

#### Question 11

Daniel and his friends were given special treatment. They could even eat off the king's table and drink his wine.

#### Question 12

Do not get into a discussion on the merits or demerits of drinking alcoholic beverages. Likewise, in Question 13, do not get into a discussion of unclean foods.

This issue will be thoroughly dealt with in Lesson 20. At this stage you are merely laying a foundation by showing the reason why Daniel would

not eat the king's food or drink his wine. At this point in the series you are not trying to convince anyone not to drink alcohol or not to eat the unclean foods.

Your reason for mentioning these things at this point is merely to show why Daniel would not touch them. The obvious implication is that we shouldn't touch them today either.

Let your students draw that conclusion on their own, but it is not wise for you to suggest it this early in the series.

### Question 14

This is the key text in Chapter 1. In fact, it may well be one of the key texts in the entire book of Daniel. The outward issue may be to not eat the king's food or drink the king's wine, but the real issue was loyalty to God. Make certain you make clear to your students the real issue that was illustrated by the outward issue of food and drink.

### Question 19

Read the note under Question 19 to your students.

Again, don't get side-tracked into the merits or demerits of a vegetarian diet. That issue will be explored in Lesson 20. The thrust at this point is that Daniel wanted his mind clear so that he could maintain loyalty to God at a time of stress and test that would come to him in ancient Babylon.

### Question 22

This note is also extremely important to call to the attention of your students and should receive strong emphasis. The only ones who pass the severe tests that come in the book of Daniel are those who pass the simple test in Chapter 1.

The point to emphasize is that we need to be faithful to God in times of

prosperity or we will not be faithful to God in times of adversity. As you can see, this lesson lays the foundation for not only the health message, but Sabbath keeping as well.

As you discuss Question 22 with your students, be sure to move into a very beautiful appeal to be loyal to God in times of prosperity.

### Response Questions:

1. Is it your desire to be loyal to God in times of prosperity, that you may also be loyal to God in times of adversity?  
If so, place a check mark in Box 1.
2. If you would like me to pray that God will give you victory in your life today, put a check in Box 2.