

## Introduction

1. Despite multiple warnings and rebukes from God's prophets, the southern kingdom of Judah went into Babylonian captivity ([Dan. 1:1-2](#))
  - a. This was due to Judah's idolatry ([Jer. 1:13-16](#))
2. Certain Israelites were selected to serve in the Babylonian king's palace ([Dan. 1:3-5](#))
  - a. Among them was Daniel ([Dan. 1:6](#))

## I. Purpose of Heart

1. Daniel was a Jew bound by the Law of Moses ([Dan. 1:3, 6](#))
  - a. This included a restricted diet ([Lev. 11](#))
  - b. No fat or blood was to be eaten ([Lev. 3:17, 17:10-14](#); cf. [Dt. 12:23-25](#))
  - c. The Law of Moses prohibited idolatry and eating food sacrificed to idols ([Ex. 34:12-16](#))
2. Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's delicacies and wine ([Dan. 1:8](#))
  - a. Though in a foreign land, his allegiance remained with the God of Heaven who is above all and is everywhere ([Eph. 4:6](#); [Pr. 15:3](#))
  - b. We all need purpose of heart to reverence God
3. Daniel was committed to not defiling himself and God providentially took care of him ([Dan. 1:9-14](#))
  - a. Daniel and his companions were tested for ten days, and they were found healthier than those that ate the king's delicacies ([Dan. 1:15](#))
4. God increased Daniel's knowledge and wisdom and gave him the ability to interpret visions and dreams ([Dan. 1:17](#))
  - a. Daniel had the opportunity to influence others for God in the Babylonian and Medo-Persian empires ([Dan. 1:21](#) with [Dan. 10:1, 5:30-6:2](#))
  - b. His reverence led to legislature that promoted others to reverence God ([Dan. 6:25-27](#))

## II. Priority, Persistence, and Penitence in Prayer

1. Priority in prayer ([Dan. 2:1-23](#))
  - a. When faced with death, Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom ([Dan. 2:14](#))

- b. Daniel asked a reasonable question ([Dan. 2:15](#))
  - c. Daniel requested time ([Dan. 2:16](#))
  - d. Daniel recruited help ([Dan. 2:17-18](#))
  - e. The dream and interpretation were revealed to Daniel by God ([Dan. 2:19](#))
  - f. Daniel thanked and praised God in prayer ([Dan. 2:20-23](#))
2. Persistence in prayer ([Dan. 6:1-11](#))
    - a. Daniel was in a position of power ([Dan. 6:1-3](#))
    - b. Daniel had a blameless character ([Dan. 6:4](#))
    - c. The only way Daniel's enemies could find a way to fault him was to make an opposing law to God's law ([Dan. 6:5](#))
    - d. The law was made concerning prayer ([Dan. 6:6-9](#))
    - e. Daniel knew that the law was signed by the king, and he still persisted in prayer ([Dan. 6:10](#))
    - f. God wants us to be persistent in our prayer life ([1 Th. 5:17](#); [Rm. 12:12](#))
3. Penitence in prayer ([Dan. 9:1-23](#))
    - a. Daniel had studied the writings of Jeremiah and learned that Judah was going to be in captivity for seventy years because of their sins ([Dan. 9:1-2](#); [Jer. 25:8-14](#))
    - b. This caused Daniel to mourn and go to the heavenly Father in prayer ([Dan. 9:3-4](#))
    - c. Daniel's prayer is one of great reverence, repentance, and confession ([Dan. 9:5-19](#))
    - d. Prayer must be utilized by God's adopted children when in penitence they seek His forgiveness ([Ac. 8:18-24](#))

## **Conclusion**

1. Daniel was a great man of God that showed the utmost reverence toward Him
2. Daniel showed us that we must stay focused and serve God no matter what situation we are in
3. Daniel taught us that prayer must have priority in our lives
4. Daniel exemplified persistence in prayer which Jesus Himself showed and taught
5. Daniel humbled himself in penitence and confessed his faults before the God of Heaven