

Independence Day Special

Daniel's Guide to Present-Day Rebellion¹

The Biblical word for “truth” in the New Testament is **ἀλήθεια** (*alētheia*). In the Old Testament the word for “truth” is **אֱמֶת** (*'emeth*). Our Lord said in:

John 8:31 Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed in Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;

v. 32 “and you will know the truth [**ἀλήθεια** (*alētheia*)], and the truth will make you free.”

When a pastor communicates the truth and the believer places his positive volition under the authority of the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, he accumulates *alētheia*: truth in his soul, thus the formula would read like this:

The **F**illing of the **H**oly **S**pirit, + **P**ositive **V**olition under the **G**race **A**pparatus for **P**erception = the **T**eaching **M**inistry of the **H**oly **S**pirit:

$$\text{F/HS} + \frac{\text{GAP}}{\text{PV}} = \text{TM/HS}$$

Truth in the **S**oul **P**roduces **C**hristian **I**ntegrity. When **C**hristian **I**ntegrity is **U**nder **P**ressure and the believer remains **L**oyal to **T**ruth, he becomes a **P**erson of **H**onor:

$$\text{T/S} \xrightarrow{\text{UP}} \text{CI} + \text{L/T} = \text{PH}$$

1. In our Independence-Day study we are going to first consult the Book of Daniel with emphasis on four teen-aged, Jewish aristocrats who had truth in their souls. When their Integrity was placed under pressure, they remained Loyal to the Truth and in so doing demonstrated to their captors and eventually the world that they were men of honor.
2. Truth produces integrity in the soul. Honor is demonstrated integrity.
3. Daniel documents the experiences of the Jewish people during their seventy years of captivity in the Chaldean Empire.

¹ Also including his friends, Shádrach, Méshach, and Abéd-nego.



4. Israel suffered the administration of the fifth cycle of discipline when in 586 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem.
5. This culminates some twenty years of upheaval in the middle east during which a great power struggle occurred among the Egyptian, Assyrian, and Chaldean Empires.
6. Judah's national decline was such that in 606 B.C., it endured the fourth cycle of discipline under the forces of Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldean army.
1. There is some interesting and important history which leads up to the administration of the fourth cycle to Israel in 606. We go back to 625 B.C. when an obscure Chaldean king named Nabōpōlássar who brought order out of chaos which existed in the area of the Tigris-Euphrates Valley—the area of present-day Iraq.
2. The Chaldeans had five clans. Nabopolassar brought them together and took over the Babylonian Empire and established the Chaldean Empire. Organizing this people into a major fighting force, Nabopolassar began to harass the Assyrian Empire.
3. He later formed a coalition with Cyáxarēs, the King of Média, as well as the Scythians. In 612 B.C., this allied army overthrew the Assyrian Empire.
4. For years, Egypt had cast its eyes on Assyria, desirous of its vast holdings in the fertile crescent. Now that upstart Chaldea had gained possession, Egypt's Pharaoh Néchō decided in 606 B.C., that his army could take the area away from them.
5. The two armies met at the Battle of Cárchemish. This is where the Chaldean general, Nebuchadnezzar, decisively defeated Pharaoh Néchō and his forces. Nebuchadnezzar began to pursue the retreating Egyptian army back to Egypt when he caught sight of Jerusalem and decided to, instead, capture it.
6. After seizing the city, word came to Nebuchadnezzar that his father, King Nabopolássar had died in Babylon. This news required his immediate return home to Babylon. In order to insure his newly won holdings, Nebuchadnezzar ordered that 50 young men from the ruling tribe of Judah be taken as hostages. Jehoiakim who was king of Judah, but was nothing more than a political appointment subservient to Pharaoh Néchō.
7. Now that the Pharaoh is history, Jehoiakim must now deal with Nebuchadnezzar. Fifty sons of the royal line was an inspiration for him to be very cooperative in his dealings.



8. Later, in 598 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar again sacked Jerusalem, this time taking Ezekiel and King Jehoiachin as hostages. Finally, he executed the fifth cycle in 586 which was the beginning of the 70 years of captivity prophesied by the prophet Jeremiah (25:11).
9. The incident we will examine in this saga is the initial one which occurred in 606 B.C., and specifically, four of the 50 hostages taken from the royal line of Judah. Their message to us is that God takes care of believers who are victims of their Client Nation's defeat under the cycles of discipline. Although captured by the enemy, the young men were protected and promoted by means of the doctrine they possessed in their souls. There is no greater demonstration of the principle that Jesus Christ controls history on behalf of the Pivot than the story of these young men during their Chaldean captivity.
10. All of this serves as a background for the first chapter of Daniel.

Daniel, Chapter 1:

Daniel 1:1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

v. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim, king of Judah, into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar (Babylon), to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god [**the Chaldean pantheon**].

v. 3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials [**The King James Version uses the word "eunuchs" (סָרִיס: saris)**], to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, (NASB)

Ashpenaz held a position of importance in the cabinet of Nebuchadnezzar however he was not a eunuch in the physical sense of the word. The Hebrew word here is סָרִיס (*saris*) and means "an important government official." It became associated with eunuchs because of a custom in the ancient near east of placing eunuchs in key positions of government. However, emasculation was forbidden by the Mosaic Law and thus not practiced by the Jews. Unless the context makes it clear the word describes a governmental position.

There is nothing in the entire book of Daniel indicating that Ashpenaz or any of the Jewish hostages were ever emasculated. In fact, we will note that the goal of Nebuchadnezzar was to mold these young men into leaders.

Ashpenaz, being a governmental official, was given the task of choosing the crème de la crème of the ruling tribe of Israel and develop their potential within the Chaldean culture.

Nebuchadnezzar provided a personality profile which Ashpenaz was to consult in making his choices from the young men of the tribe of Judah.

Daniel 4:4 Youths in whom there was no defect, who were good looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding, and discerning knowledge, and who had the ability for serving the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and the language of the Chaldeans.

1. The first qualification is that these boys have no physical defect. This in itself rules out the idea that they were made eunuchs. It includes the concept of no handicaps.
2. They were to be handsome. A physical appearance which would in Nebuchadnezzar's mind, add to their leadership qualities.
3. "Showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom" refers to high IQ and the ability to quickly categorize information. These young men were well-educated in the Hebrew culture and thus had already learned quite a bit. Their current inventory of ideas on academic subjects was to be one of the qualities looked for by Ashpenaz.
4. "Endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge," refers to the science and a talent toward mechanics and astronomy.
5. "Ability for serving the king's court," speaks of the capability of leadership including poise, courage, and savoir fare; those things which enable a person to perform in governmental office.
6. The final order to Ashpenaz was for him to then teach his candidates in the literature and language of the Chaldeans.
7. Chosen were around 50 Jewish teenagers who were the smartest of the smart. Their souls were to be transformed away from the Jewish over to the Chaldean culture.
8. In short, these young men, all probably around 16 to 18 years of age, were to be propagandized and hopefully brainwashed.

PRINCIPLE: Those who wish to gain control over a population begin with the current generation's children. Change their minds and you change the mind of the nation within one generation.

9. He meant it positively but it can be taken in two ways. Evil men, who seek to gain power over a population, can make their task easier if they can condition the minds of children to accept their policies without question.
10. Cultures are changed when there are no absolute principles transmitted from one generation to the next. The current trend of assuming we live in a “values-neutral society” robs you and the next generation, of the enduring standards by which you can discern truth from error.
11. Satan knows that if he can convince a population to disregard the truth as its standard for policy making, then he can introduce in its place his system of human good and evil.
12. The only defense against such propaganda is Bible doctrine in the souls of the people.
13. It is the only thing which can defend the souls of these Jewish hostages in Babylon.
14. The first incident we are going to see involves the principle of momentum in the spiritual life.
15. **PRINCIPLE:** If we develop the habit of making right choices in the face of everyday situations, then when we encounter the major trials of life we are much prepared to make the right applications.
16. This is spiritual momentum. If we practice on the mosquitoes then when we face the charge of the elephant, we will have been well-trained for battle.
17. Four of the fifty young Jewish aristocrats are going to stand fast on what may appear to be a flexible issue in verse 8.
18. But that decision will provide the necessary spiritual momentum for them to face and pass major tests mentioned in chapters 3 and 6 respectively.

Daniel 1:5 The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.

19. This was viewed as a major project by Nebuchadnezzar. He had obviously discerned the superior intelligence of the Jewish people during his short encounter with them.
20. His intent was to convert them to Chaldean thought and utilize their vast genius in expanding his domain throughout the Middle East.

21. It is not to be taken lightly that he made the royal chef available to these hostages. He intended to provide them the best nourishment possible while they were being trained in the ways of Chaldea.
22. Ashpenaz is given three years to make the cultural conversion and to complete their formal education.
23. Only four of the fifty are ever mentioned by name. Part of the propagandizing/brainwashing process is to rob them of their given names and assign to them names which are symbolic of various aspects of Chaldeans culture.

Daniel 1:6 Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

v. 7 Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name בִּלְשַׁצְצַר (Belteshazzar), to Hananiah, שְׂדַרְחַךְ (Shadrach), to Mishael, מִישַׁח (Mishach) and to Azariah אֲבֵד־נֶגוֹ (Abéd-nēgo).

24. This is the first stage in the brainwashing technique used by Ashpenaz. It may appear to be simply a thing of convenience to change their names in order to make it easier to identify them.
25. But the mandate of Nebuchadnezzar was to make Chaldeans of them. The first place to start in making that conversion is with their own personal identity.
26. There is nothing more personal than your name. Change that and you have made great strides in changing your personality, especially when that name carries with it principles of doctrine.
27. In order that we might see how crucial this tactic truly was and the impact Nebuchadnezzar and Ashpenaz intended to have on these boys, let us assign the title to Daniel 1:7 with the term:

“Operation Noms de Guerre”

I. INTRODUCTION:

Literally “name of war,” this French term has been anglicized to mean any fictitious name, especially a “cover” name adopted while involved in one particular activity. Pseudonym.²

1. Here are a few examples of Noms de Guerre:

² William Morris and Mary Morris, *Morris Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins*, 2d ed. (New York: Harper & Row, Publishers, 1988), 413.

Gen. Francis Marion: “The Swamp Fox” (War for Independence)
Gen. Thomas Jonathan Jackson: “Stonewall” (War between the States)
Gen. Zachary Taylor: “Old Rough and Ready” (Mexican War)
Gen. Andrew Jackson: “Old Hickory” (War of 1812)
Gen. John J. Pershing: “Black Jack” (World War I)
Gen. George S. Patton: “Old Blood and Guts” (World War II)
Jesus Christ: “**Κύριος Σαβαώθ** (*Kúrios Sabaóth*): Lord of the Armies”
(Angelic Conflict)³

2. A nom de guerre is a name showing respect for a person’s bravery, cunning, or toughness in battle.
3. As hostages, Daniel, Hananiah, Míshael, and Azariah were subjected to the deceptions of Chaldean propaganda and attempted brainwashing.
4. These tactics were designed to convert them from the worship of the God of Israel— Jesus Christ —to the false gods of the Chaldean pantheon.
5. These boys’ names indicate their relationship to the God of Israel in the eyes of their parents.
6. Devout parents, as was the Jewish custom, gave their children names as a reminder of their alliance with God.
7. Ashpenaz is going to change their names in an attempt to destroy that alliance and win them over to the Chaldean culture.
8. We will note the assignment of these new names and analyze Ashpenaz’s logic behind each.
9. In view of the fact his efforts did not accomplish their intended objective, we will call these teenagers’ new names, noms de guerre: Names which these boys earned because of their toughness, cunning, and bravery under pressure.
10. To call them noms de guerre is not a tribute to their Chaldean definitions but to these young men who were not indoctrinated by them.

II. **DANIEL:** דַּנְיֵאל (*Daniyye’l*)

1. “Dániel” means “God is Judge.” Divine justice is one-half of divine integrity, the other half being divine righteousness.
2. Daniel’s name emphasizes our status before the essence of God.

³ See James 5:4.

3. Prior to the Fall in Eden, our original parent's direct contact with God was through personal love. They were perfect and therefore a worthy object of divine love.
4. However, when they chose to sin, they acquired a sin nature and God could no longer maintain a loving relationship with them.
5. Righteousness demands righteousness. Man being unrighteous did not qualify.
6. Consequently, righteousness demanded of justice that unrighteousness be condemned.
7. That condemnation placed a barrier between God and man. From that point on, Justice has regulated the relationship between God and man.
8. Petrus Joubert (zhū-ber), vice-president of the South African Republic and a Boor commander during the Boor War with England, is credited with making the following statement: "Force and Right rule the world: Force, till the Right is ready."
We might paraphrase that only slightly to illustrate the principle that mankind's point of contact with God is His Justice: "Justice and Righteousness rule the world: Justice, till Righteousness is ready."
9. Justice rules from the Fall until the Second Advent. Righteousness will rule in the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.
10. It was divine justice which imputed our sins to Christ and judged them. Sin ceased to be an issue and divine righteousness demanded of justice that it vindicate the believer of any guilt related to his personal sins.
11. It is justice which condemned us at physical birth, it is justice which vindicates us when we are born again.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no
condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."

12. The Member of the Trinity Who is designated as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Heaven is our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 5:22 "Not even the Father judges anyone,
but He has given all judgment to the Son."

13. It is Christ who will preside over the final judgment of human history when the unbelievers are brought before His Great White Throne to face the charge of having rejected Him as Savior in favor of their own "good works."

Revelation 20:11a And I saw a great white throne
and Him who sat upon it ...

14. Whenever Daniel heard his name called, these doctrines and principles were

