

WCFS Applied Civics 101; Gibbs & Gibbs
CLASS 2: Daniel 1, Purpose of Heart;
UTC TEXT pp 1-30, *Government, Independence & Confederation*

Daniel Chapter 1 OUTLINE: Captivating Captives Find Favor

I. Background and Context

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

B. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God,

1. The which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god;
2. And he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

II. The Plight of Israeli Nobles

A. Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring...

1. Some of the children of Israel, and
2. Some of the king's descendants and
3. Some of the nobles,

B. Young men in whom...

1. There was] no blemish,
2. But good-looking,
3. Gifted in all wisdom,
 - a. Possessing knowledge, and
 - b. Quick to understand,

C. Who [had] ability to serve in the king's palace, and

1. Whom they might teach the language, and
2. Literature of the Chaldeans.

D. And the king appointed for them a daily provision

1. Of the king's delicacies, and
2. Of the wine which he drank, and
3. Three years of training for them,
4. So that at the end of [that time] they might serve before the king.

III. The Purpose of Daniel to Not Defile Himself

A. Now from among those of the sons of Judah were:

1. Daniel,
2. Hananiah,
3. Mishael, and
4. Azariah. To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names:

B. He gave [them names]:

1. To Daniel [the name] Belteshazzar;
2. To Hananiah, Shadrach;
3. To Mishael, Meshach; and
4. To Azariah, Abed-Nego.

- B. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself... w
1. With the portion of the king's delicacies,
 2. Nor with the wine which he drank;
 3. Therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
- C. Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.

IV. The Plea Bargain: A 10-day Test

A. 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."

B. So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

1. "Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.
2. "Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies;
3. "And as you see fit, [so] deal with your servants."

C. So he consented with them in this matter, and

1. [He] tested them ten days.
2. And at the end of ten days their features appeared
 - a. Better, and
 - b. Fatter in flesh
 - c. Than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's

delicacies.

D. Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

V. The Results: Favor with God and Man

A. As for these four young men, God gave them

1. Knowledge, and s
2. Skill in all literature, and
3. Wisdom; and
4. Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

B. Now at the end of the days (3-years!), when the king had said that they should be brought in,

1. The chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.
 - a. Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah;
 - b. Therefore they served before the king.
 - c. 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.

C. Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus.

Chapter Two: The Declaration of Independence; Why America Exists

- ~ It is important to note the nuanced point that God ordains which governing authorities He actually permits in time and space.
- ~ On the surface, it appears that men of ambition derived from various motives seek to institute government according to their dictates and preferences.
- ~ They can only do this when they gain enough power to enchant subjects or enforce their will over them.
- ~ Satan, a fallen angel, has succeeded, through the power of sin (man's sin) to rule over men's affairs except when, through repentance and God's grace, God grants good men to rule. Daniel is a powerful illustration of this principle.
- ~ Spiritual warfare in the heavenly places always exists in any human government on the earth. Good government can only arise out of the influence of genuinely godly believers who act in faith on God's behalf and by His mercy and grace.

~ NOTE THESE VERSES:

Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly [places] in Christ, ... which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated [Him] at His right hand in the heavenly [places], - Eph 1:3, 20 ...and raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in the heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus, - Eph 2:6 ...to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly [places]. - Eph 3:10

...For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places]. - Eph 6:12

I. The Declaration of Independence (DoI) Establishes a Biblical Foundation For the Constitution.

A. The Constitution does not directly mention the Bible, depending on the DoI as the foundational source of authority to organize a government.

B. The 1897 US Supreme Court ruled that the DoI is the thought and spirit behind the organic law from which the Constitution must be read.

II. The Laws of Nature and Nature's God are the Basis for the Declaration of Independence.

A. Any appeal to God in the earthly affairs of government requires that man looks to the immutable evidence of law and order in the visible creation. (Blackstone)

1. Man is a creature, created under the governance of how the creation exists and functions.
2. Man is absolutely dependent upon the provisions of the Creator must first conform himself to the power of these laws of creation in order to exist and survive in this world. (Nutrition, Gravity etc.)
 - a. In this sense, man's free will is restrained and regulated by the instinctive desire to survive.

b. In this sense, man's liberty is released to discover the purpose and nature of those laws. We call this science.

B. Nature's laws are distilled from incontrovertible observation of evidentiary science, plainly visible and understandable to men and women who are required to give God glory and thanks as a personal act of worship in a grateful response to the One Who Created All Things. (Romans 1)

C. **Nature's Laws Govern.** In the modern vernacular, "Science Rules". "Scientific Authority" has been the foundation of Western Civilization .

1. Nature's Laws are *Coevalent*, meaning "They were imposed on all creation by the Creator at Creation".

2. Nature's Laws are *Superior*, meaning "They represent the highest obligation of the creature to his natural existence".

3. Nature's Laws are *Immutable*, meaning "They cannot be changed over time".

4. Nature's Laws are *Incontrovertible*, meaning "They cannot be denied". (Indisputable)

5. Nature's Laws are *Universal*, meaning "They cannot be exempted". (They apply everywhere equally.)

6. Nature's Laws are *Transcending*, meaning "They surpass the power of human laws". (They are the basis for valid laws.)

7. Nature's Laws are *Revealed in Stone*, meaning "They are discovered by observation". (Written in stone.)

8.

III. Self-Evident Truths are Revealed by Natural Law because they apply to every creature the same.

IV. The "Equitable Application" of the Laws of Nature is proof positive that all men are created equal.

V. Unalienable Rights are rights which cannot be separated from man by men because of man's duty to God.

VI. The Right to Life. (See Genesis 9, Human Life is the foundational authority of human government.)

VII. The Right to Liberty. (The innate impulse to order one's life before God first and man second, in deference to the other's similar necessity. See Galatians 3)

VIII. The Right to the Pursuit of Happiness. (While easily abused, this right assumes pursuits of conscience before God and deference to man.)

IX. Government's chief purpose is to secure man's God-given unalienable rights. (Consent to be governed arises from one's conscionable duty to God.

X. Rebellion against an existing government can only be countenanced under the first priority of one's duty to God.

(Collectively, a sovereign nation can only be formed by complete and mutual surrender of every secondary element of life in exchange for the absolute and mutual reliance upon God to uphold the cause of those who are collectively organizing together.)

XI. The First and Second Continental Congresses were convened for the express purpose of collectively seeking to redress the grievances of the Colonies against the King of England. Their deliberations ended with the Declaration of Independence. The Constitution was written as a firewall against the overreach of civil government into the private consciences of the citizens of the newly formed United States.

Chapter Three: The Articles of Confederation

A provisional charter for the newly formed nation, these articles were passed after five years into the war for independence, but two years before the war effort was successful.

I. Provisions

- A. No taxation authority.
- B. No executive officer.

**II. They Acknowledged God as the Great Governor of the World.
(Please Note Daniel 1-5)**

III. They became insufficient because they were unworkable, relying on unanimous consent of each several state.

IV. The quest for improvement resulted in the Constitutional Convention.