

NO MATTER WHAT

Part 3: When Your Beliefs Are Belittled

- Matthew 22:37 (NRSV) ³⁷ He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.”
- Proverbs 19:8 Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper.
- Proverbs 24:5 Wisdom brings strength, and knowledge gives power.
- Proverbs 4:13 Your education is your life so guard it well.

Daniel 1:1-7 (MSG) ¹⁻² It was the third year of King Jehoiakim’s reign in Judah when King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon declared war on Jerusalem and besieged the city. The Master handed King Jehoiakim of Judah over to him, along with some of the furnishings from the Temple of God. ³⁻⁵ The king told Ashpenaz, head of the palace staff, to get some Israelites from the royal family and nobility—young men who were healthy and handsome, intelligent and well-educated, good prospects for leadership positions in the government, perfect specimens!—and indoctrinate them in the Babylonian language and the lore of magic and fortunetelling. The king then ordered that they be served from the same menu as the royal table—the best food, the finest wine. After three years of training they would be given positions in the king’s court. ⁶⁻⁷ Four young men from Judah—Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah—were among those selected. The head of the palace staff gave them Babylonian names: Daniel was named Belteshazzar, Hananiah was named Shadrach, Mishael was named Meshach, Azariah was named Abednego.

Daniel 1:17 God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for learning the literature and science of that time.

Daniel 1:18 *When the three-year training was completed, the chief official brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with each of them, and none impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they were appointed to his regular staff as advisers!*

Daniel 1:20 *In all matters requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, the king found the advice of these young men to be ten times better than that of all the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom!*

DECIDE IN ADVANCE TO STAND FOR GOD.

Jesus said *"In the world you WILL have tribulation."*

THREE CHOICES

1. D _____
2. W _____
3. T _____