



**Title: Resolve When All Seems Unraveled**

*Text: Daniel 1*

## CONTEXT |

Daniel is written to Israelites who were mostly still in Babylonian captivity while a few struggled to rebuild in Palestine. The aim of the writing is to point God’s people to God who is sovereign over all things, whether they seem good or bad. In this chapter we see his blessing on four men who choose to stand up and remain faithful to Him. Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon and he defeated King Jehoiakim and took Judah captive. He stole articles from the temple to put in the temple of the Babylonian gods. He took the best young men of Judah and intended to brainwash them to repurpose them for his own use.

## MAIN IDEA |

Resolve to be faithful to God, because He is always faithful to His people.

## KEY VERSE |

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

Daniel 1:8 ESV

## EXPLANATION |

The temptation to compromise came on two fronts for Daniel and his 3 friends. First, it seemed like God was nowhere to be found. Either he was defeated (see the emphasis of the vessels from the temple in v. 2), or he was so angry with his people that his back was turned to them. They were ripped from their home and brought to a pagan land. Second, in Nebuchadnezzar was giving them the opportunity to enjoy the finer things of the Babylonian culture (v. 5).

Yet, these four young men chose not to defile themselves. They remained faithful to God even though they couldn’t see his presence. And, he blessed them for it. God’s favor upon their lives became evident to all. We must trust God even when we can’t see Him, because He still sees us.

## DISCUSSION QUESTION IDEAS |

- Can you remember a time in life when it felt like God was absent and your faith was tested?
- What are some ways we are tempted to compromise our faithfulness to God today?
- How can we protect ourselves from being defiled by the world?
- What are some practical ways we can evaluate our commitment to the church family?
- When in the life of Jesus did he demonstrate resolve like Daniel in the face of temptation?