

# Black History School

## God's Glory...Our Story

Biblically based • Culturally relevant • Education as liberation

### BHS Overview

Black History School (BHS) relates powerful stories from the past to our present. By studying the similarities between selected passages from the Book of Daniel with certain aspects of Black History, we will discover the transformative influence we can have in the world today.

### Lesson 1 Review

No matter which earthly king was on the throne, God was in control. We are in the same sovereign hands of God, who protected the four young men from Israel-Palestine in exile and our African American ancestors through enslavement.

Black history began with the earliest civilizations – long before the rise and fall of the Babylonian Empire.

### Better Than the King's Best

*Daniel 1:8-21*

**Lesson Aim:** To be reminded that we are divine originals, created in the image of God, and as such we must dare to be different.



**Recap:** 3 Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility:

4 young men without physical defect and handsome, versed in every branch of wisdom, endowed with knowledge and insight, and competent to serve in the king's palace; they were to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

5 The king assigned them a daily portion of the royal rations of food and wine. They were to be educated for three years, so that at the end of that time they could be stationed in the king's court.

6 Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, from the tribe of Judah.

7 The palace master gave them other names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

### Deportation and Indoctrination

#### Daniel 1:3 - cf 2 Kings 24:14

King Nebuchadnezzar carried away Jerusalem's best and brightest to indoctrinate them in Babylonian culture. They were taken – not invited.

#### Daniel 1:4

They came with something!

#### Daniel 1:5

They were being prepared for something specific. (Assimilation)

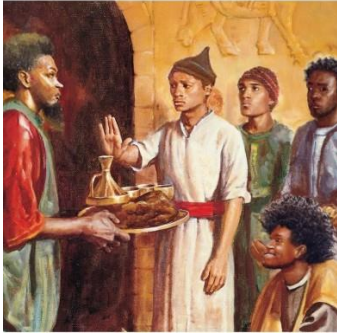
#### Daniel 1:6 & 7

These Hebrew boys of the tribe of Judah (a different ethnic group) were to be absorbed into Babylonian (the dominant culture) society.

They were stripped of their names, which honored God, and given names which honored gods.

HEBREW NAME	MEANING	NEW NAME	MEANING
Daniel (dinīyē'l)	God is my judge	Belteshazzar	Baal will protect
Hananiah (ḥānanyâ)	God has favored	Shadrach	Command of Aku/Great scribe
Mishael (mīšā'ēl)	Who is what God is	Meshach	Who is what Aku is /Most like god
Azariah (‘āzaryâ)	Jehovah has helped	Abednego	Servant of Nebo

## Daring to Be Different



### Daniel 1:8-10

#### *Refusal to Conform*

- v. 8 Daniel refuses to “defile himself” (repeated 2 times) – cf Romans 12:1-2
- v. 9 God {King of kings} grants Daniel favor with the palace master
- v. 10 The palace master believes King Nebuchadnezzar’s food is the best

### Daniel 1:11-13

#### *Request for Comparison*

- vv 11 & 12 Daniel asks the palace guard in charge of him, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to let them eat vegetables and drink water for 10 days



- v. 13 With confidence in his customary (God-prescribed) diet, Daniel asks the palace guard to compare their appearance with the others - cf Genesis 1:29

### Daniel 1:14-16

#### *Royal Rations Canceled*

- vv 14 & 15 At the end of the 10-day test, the four boys from Israel-Palestine looked better than the boys eating the king’s meat and drinking the king’s wine

- v. 16 Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were not required to consume the king’s rations of royal food and drink. **Their diet was found to be better than the king’s best!**



**“A gift opens doors; it gives access to the great.”**

(Proverbs 18:16)

Divinely & Differently Gifted (Daniel 1:17)

Given Access to the King (Daniel 1:18)

Stationed in the King’s Court (Daniel 1:19)

Simply the Best: Better Than All the Rest! (Daniel 1:20)

Sustained by God (Daniel 1:21)

## Our Stories of Nobility & Giftedness Pre- & Post-Date Daniel’s

(Cushite Empire 1070 BCE · Queen of Sheba 960 BCE · Young, Gifted & Black, 1964 CE)

