

**"Daniel remains faithful to God "**

The great King Nebuchadnezzar besieged the city of Jerusalem and conquered it. The situation was hopeless for the Jews.

God allowed King Jehoiakim to be taken captive. He had worshiped false gods who couldn't help him now. The enemy robbed the treasury of the city and even stole from the temple.

**King Nebuchadnezzar:** "Ashpenaz, I want young Israelites to serve me. Take the strongest and smartest. Young, handsome men."

The prisoners marched over 600 miles. Daniel and his friends were among them.

They finally reached the great city of Babylon. What would they find in the King's palace? They had to obey every single order. And they had no rights at all. But Daniel and his friends were strongly determined to remain faithful to God.

Is that your conviction as well? Are you always faithful to Him in school and at home? With your friends and on the soccer field? God is worth being faithful to!

Daniel and his friends soon faced their first test. The King ordered three years of instruction for the prisoners. They were to learn the Babylonian language as well as to study many other subjects. From the King's table, they were to eat what was set before them.

**Daniel:** "Hananiah, it's impossible for us to eat this food, for it doesn't follow God's dietary rules."

**Hananiah:** "Do you think we could get something else to eat?"

**Daniel:** "Excuse me, but we can't eat food from the King's table."

**Ashpenaz:** "The King ordered it for you. If I make an exception for you and you look worse than all the others, the King would have my head."

**Daniel:** "Please let us try this for ten days. Give us vegetables to eat and water to drink, and then compare us with the others and decide if we should continue or not."

The overseer agreed. And the Bible describes the result in this way:

"At the end of ten days, Daniel and his friends looked better than all the others did." So the overseer let them continue eating vegetables and drinking water.

Daniel stayed strong. He was faithful to God and was rewarded for it. After three years, the King tested the prisoners. And it just so happened that Daniel and his friends were the best of them all!

**King Nebuchadnezzar:** "These young men are ten times smarter than all the teachers in my kingdom. I want them to serve me."

But soon after this, their lives were in danger.

I'll tell you about it in the next drama.

**People:** Narrator, Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel, Hananiah, Ashpenaz