



Going Deeper Daniel 1:3-7 De-Converting the Royal Seed

1. Read through Daniel 1:3-7

³Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family³ and of the nobility, ⁴youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. ⁵The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. ⁶Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. ⁷And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

2. De-conversion is the process of destroying a believer's confidence in his/her faith. What "de-conversion" stories have you seen in your life? What are some of the common themes we see in those who have lost their faith?

3. We discussed 4 stages of de-conversion

- a. Isolation from community
- b. Formation around language and literature
- c. Introduce the customs and culture of the new host nation (food)
- d. Most importantly – New identities!

4. Review the identity/name chart below... why is this significant for you? While we might not be named with some strange foreign pagan name there is still very much a real fight for our identity. Where do you see the battle happening our culture today?

DANIEL 1:5-8 → DE-CONVERSION ATTEMPT

- NEW DIET/FOOD
- NEW EDUCATION
- NEW NAMES

NAME	MEANING	NEW NAME	MEANING-
DANIEL	GOD IS MY JUDGE/ PROTECTOR	BETESHAZZAR	"BEL" WILL PROTECT
HANANIAH	GOD HAS BEEN GRACIOUS	SHADRACH	INSPIRED OF AKU
MISCHAEL	WHO IS WHAT GOD IS (WHO IS LIKE GOD?)	MESCHACH	BELONGING TO AKU
AZARIAH	YAH ^{THE LORD} HAS HELPED	ABEDNAGO	SERVANT OF NEGO

5. Two Tim Keller quotes on identity. What part of these quotes do you find helpful? Where do you get your identity?

"Our need for worth is so powerful that whatever we base our identity and value on we essentially 'deify'. We will look to it with all the passion and intensity of worship and devotion, even if we think ourselves as highly irreligious." - Tim Keller

"Religion: 'My identity is built on being a good person.' Gospel: 'My identity is not built on my record or my performance but on Christ's.'" - Tim Keller