

### When God blesses .....



Imagine you have been deported to a foreign country. There you get the once in a lifetime chance to take part in a three year training programme; the prospect: high government official; going in and out of the central chamber of the current world power. On top of that: "royal" food.

But Daniel and his friends don't jump into this new world. They make their choice before God. They know: The royal food has been dedicated to Nebuchadnezzar's god Marduk. They don't want to defile themselves with it. God helps, and their relief is great: They can remain clean!

This sacrifice on their part is rewarded richly. God blesses them. He gives them knowledge and skill. The Babylonian school has never had better trainees; these four are appointed by Nebuchadnezzar. The goal has been reached – especially in the school of God.



- 3. How does Daniel achieve that the four friends don't have to eat the food of the king's court?
- 4. What does God give them as reward for their steadfastness?



The Nebuchadnezzar mentioned here is Nebuchadnezzar II, who reigned for more than 40 years, from 605 to 562BC, over the new-Babylonian empire. He became famous through his gigantic buildings. It is believed that he also had the „hanging gardens of Babylon“ built – one of the seven wonders of the world. These were created on his palace.



**Put yourself on God's side;  
It's worthwhile!**




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3. Daniel speaks to his superior clearly, yet unmistakably, and points out that the royal food would defile him (v8). – You can learn from this in the way you deal with people who present you with something that would defile you (spiritually). It is always worth it to be consistent with the help of God (v9-13). 4. God helps the four young men so that they are able to know, understand and apply the historical, political, legal and religious writings of the Chaldeans, as well as their language (chapter 1:4) (v17-20). In addition, Daniel receives understanding for all visions and dreams (v17).