

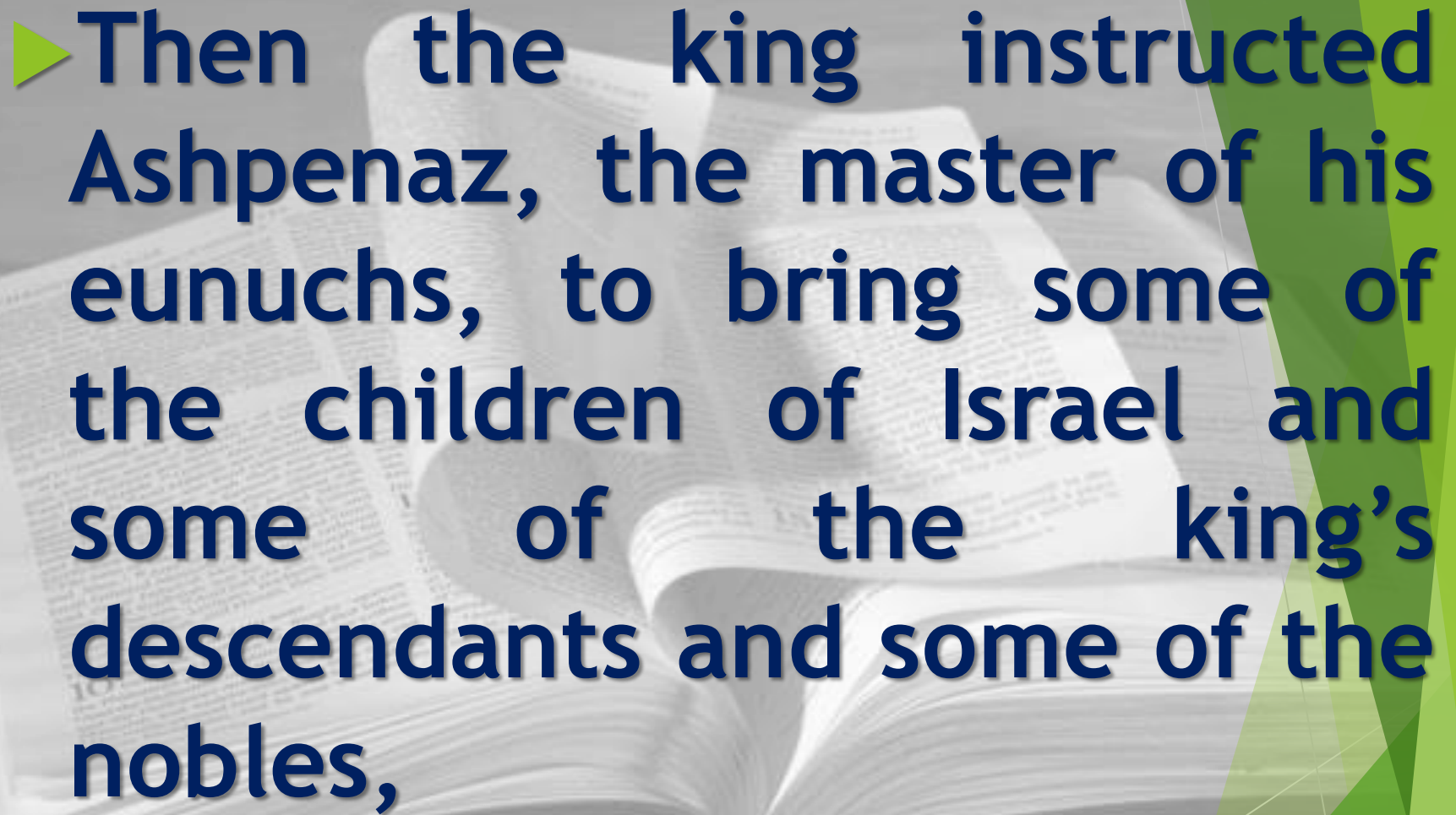
**THE QUEENS MINISTRY
BIBLE STUDY LESSON
BY BISHOP ANDY C. LEWTER**

THE TOPIC: DANIEL

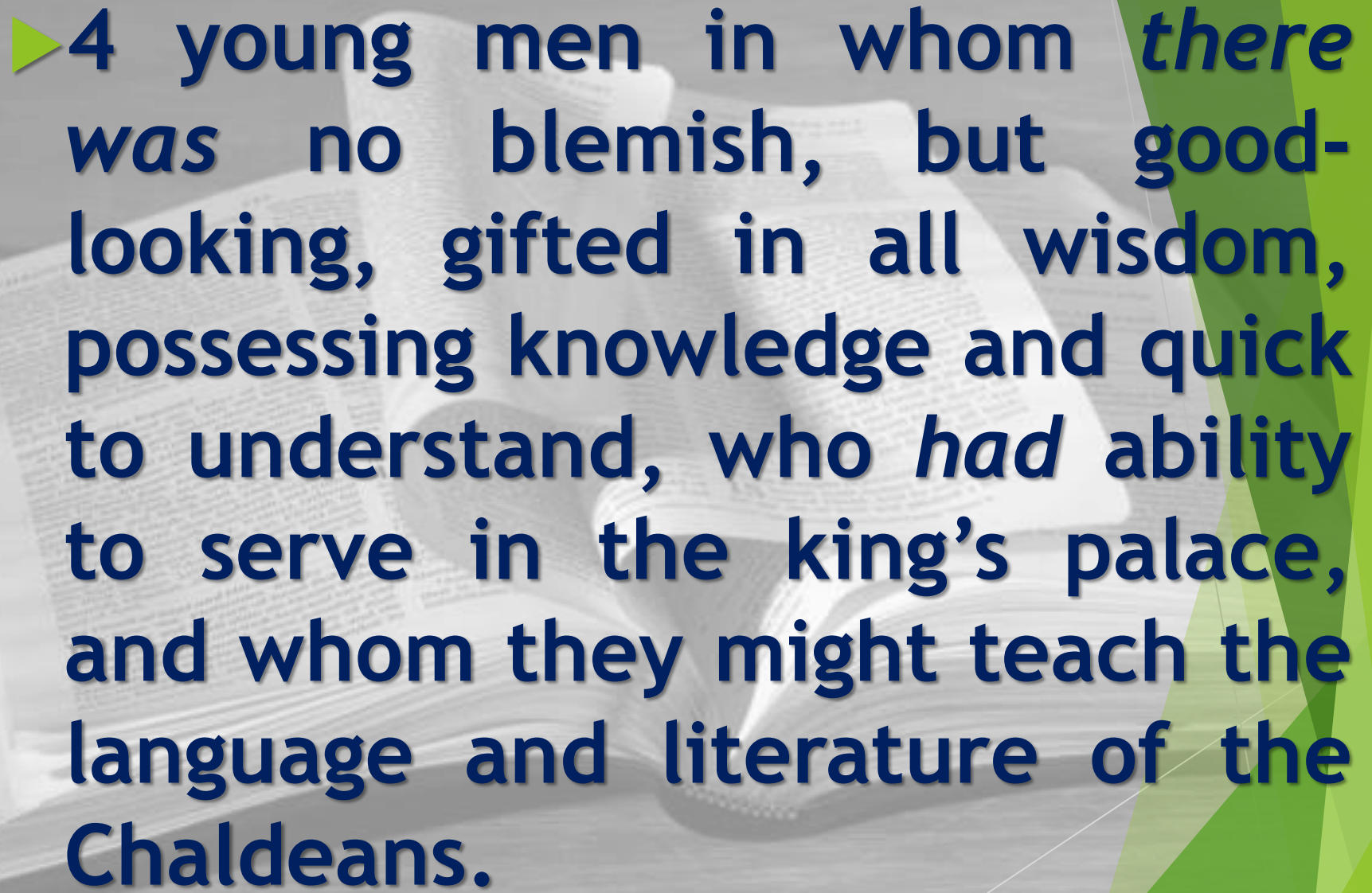
- Daniel Would Not
- Defile Himself
- Daniel 1:8-16.

- ▶ **1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.**

- ▶ **2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.**



► Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles,



► 4 young men in whom *there* was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who *had* ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

▶ **5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of *that time* they might serve before the king.**

INTRODUCTION

Imagine growing up in the royal family. As a teenager a foreign power overtakes your country and you are taken away to serve this foreign king.

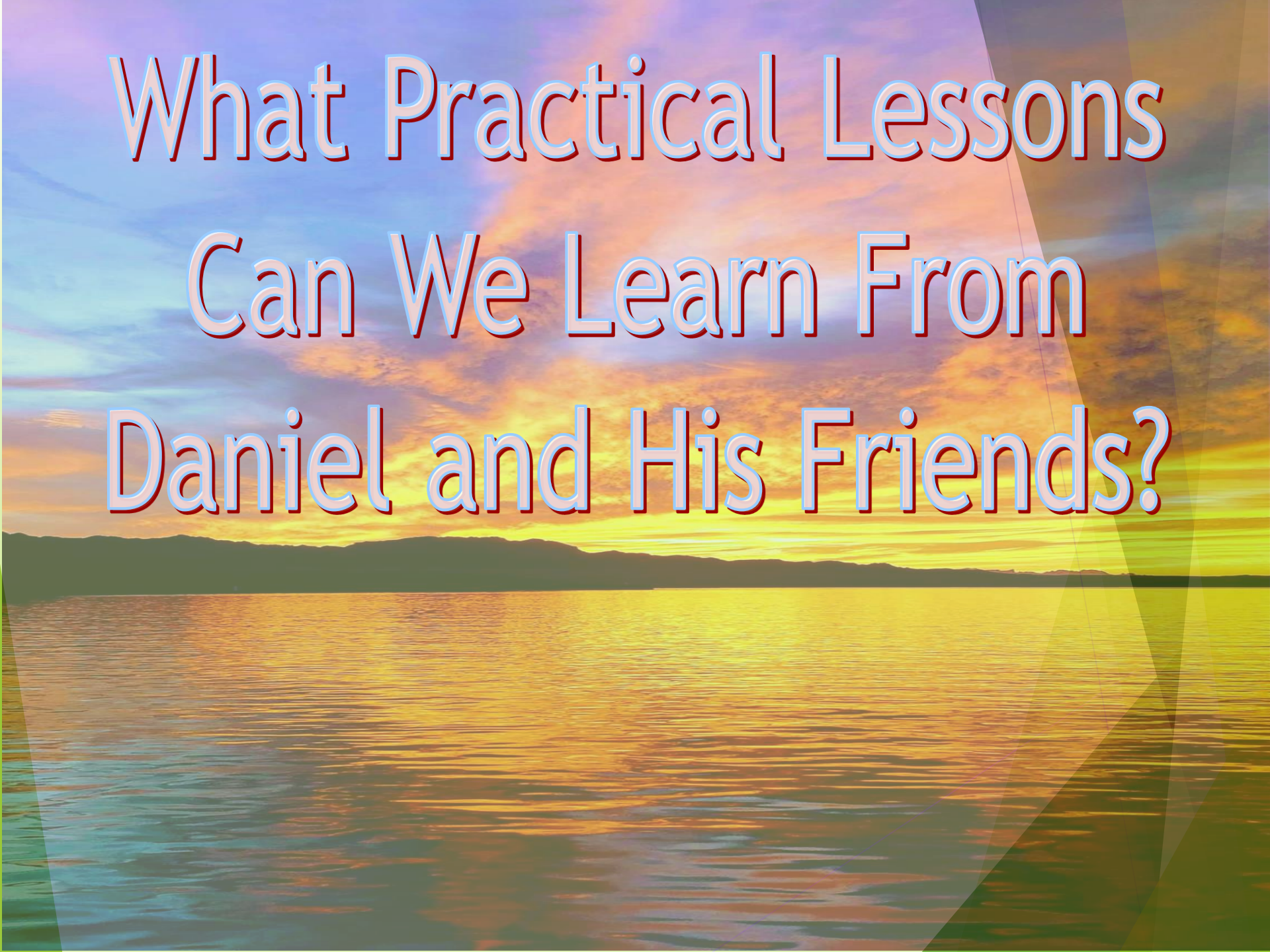
All that you knew and were accustomed to is taken away and a whole new world is thrust upon you.

**These four
young men
had
everything
going for
them:**

- ▶ They were physically healthy.
- ▶ Good looking.
- ▶ Showing intelligence and wisdom.

**These four
young men
had
everything
going for
them:**

- ▶ Socially suitable for the king's court.
- ▶ One can almost imagine people telling their children ... why can't you be more like Daniel...



What Practical Lessons Can We Learn From Daniel and His Friends?

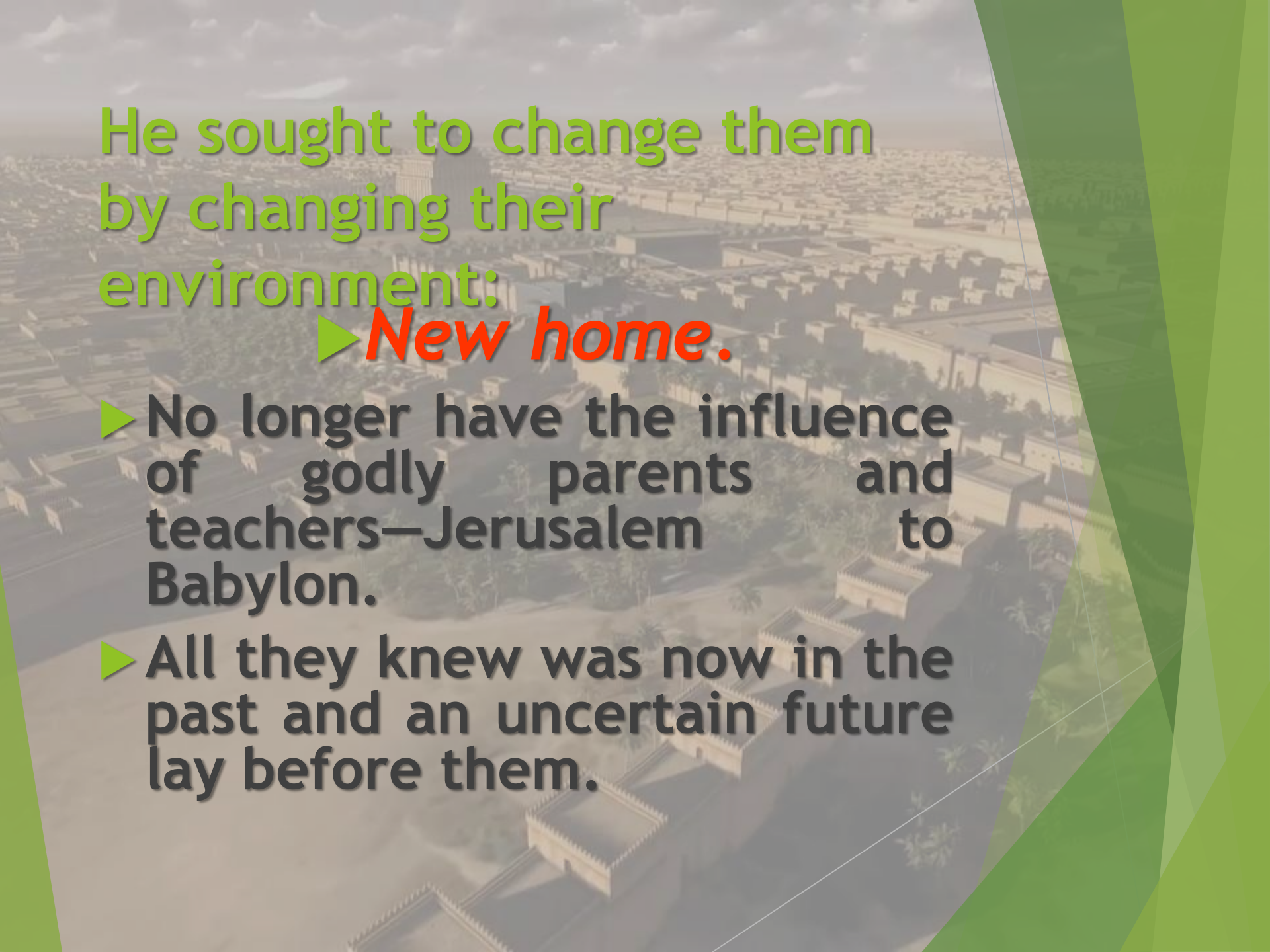


I. Nebuchadnezzar sought to change these four young men.

- ▶ The king wanted to make these Jewish boys Babylonians—Chaldeans, trained in the wisdom, language, and philosophies of Babylon.
- ▶ He was offering them “the best in the world.”

- ▶ **Christians today face the same kind of challenge.**
- ▶ **Satan (the ruler of this world) wants us to conform to the world.**
- ▶ **To be “just like” everyone else!**

- ▶ **Romans 12:2.**
- ▶ **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.**



He sought to change them
by changing their
environment:

▶ ***New home.***

- ▶ No longer have the influence of godly parents and teachers—Jerusalem to Babylon.
- ▶ All they knew was now in the past and an uncertain future lay before them.



▶ ***New knowledge.***

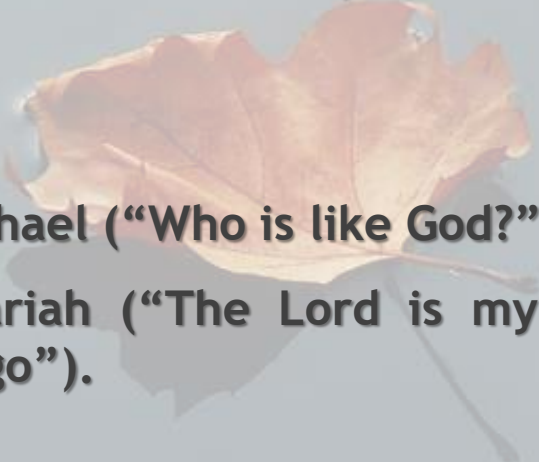
- ▶ **The literature and language of the Chaldeans—idolatrous philosophies.**

▶ *New names:* (from Israelite to heathen).



- Daniel (“God is my judge”) to Belteshazzar (“Bel protect his life”).
- Hananiah (“The Lord is gracious”) to Shadrach (“the command of the moon god”).

▶ ***New names:*** (from Israelite to heathen).

- 
- ▶ **Mishael (“Who is like God?”) to Meshach (“Who is like Aku?”).**
 - ▶ **Azariah (“The Lord is my helper”) to Abed-nego (“the servant of Nego”).**

- *New diets.*

▶ They were to eat the king's food and drink his wine, this was objectionable to them for two reasons:



- *New diets.*

▶ The meat portions may have been offerings to idols, and to eat it meant blasphemy to God.



- *New diets.*

▶ Some of the meats may have been unclean.



II. The Daring Test of Daniel and his kinsmen (Dan. 1:8-16).

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile

- ▶ 9 Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs.
- ▶ 10 And the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink. For why should he see your faces looking worse than the young men who *are* your age? Then you would endanger my head before the king.”

- ▶ 11 So Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,
- ▶ 12 “Please test your servants for ten days, and let them give us vegetables to eat and water to drink.

▶ 13 Then let our appearance be examined before you, and the appearance of the young men who eat the portion of the king's delicacies; and as you see fit, so deal with your servants.”

- ▶ 14 So he consented with them in this matter, and tested them ten days.
- ▶ 15 And at the end of ten days their features appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies.

▶ 16 Thus the steward took away their portion of delicacies and the wine that they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

The Babylonians could change...

- ▶ Daniel's home.
- ▶ Textbooks.
- ▶ Menu.
- ▶ And his name...
- ▶ But they could not change his heart!

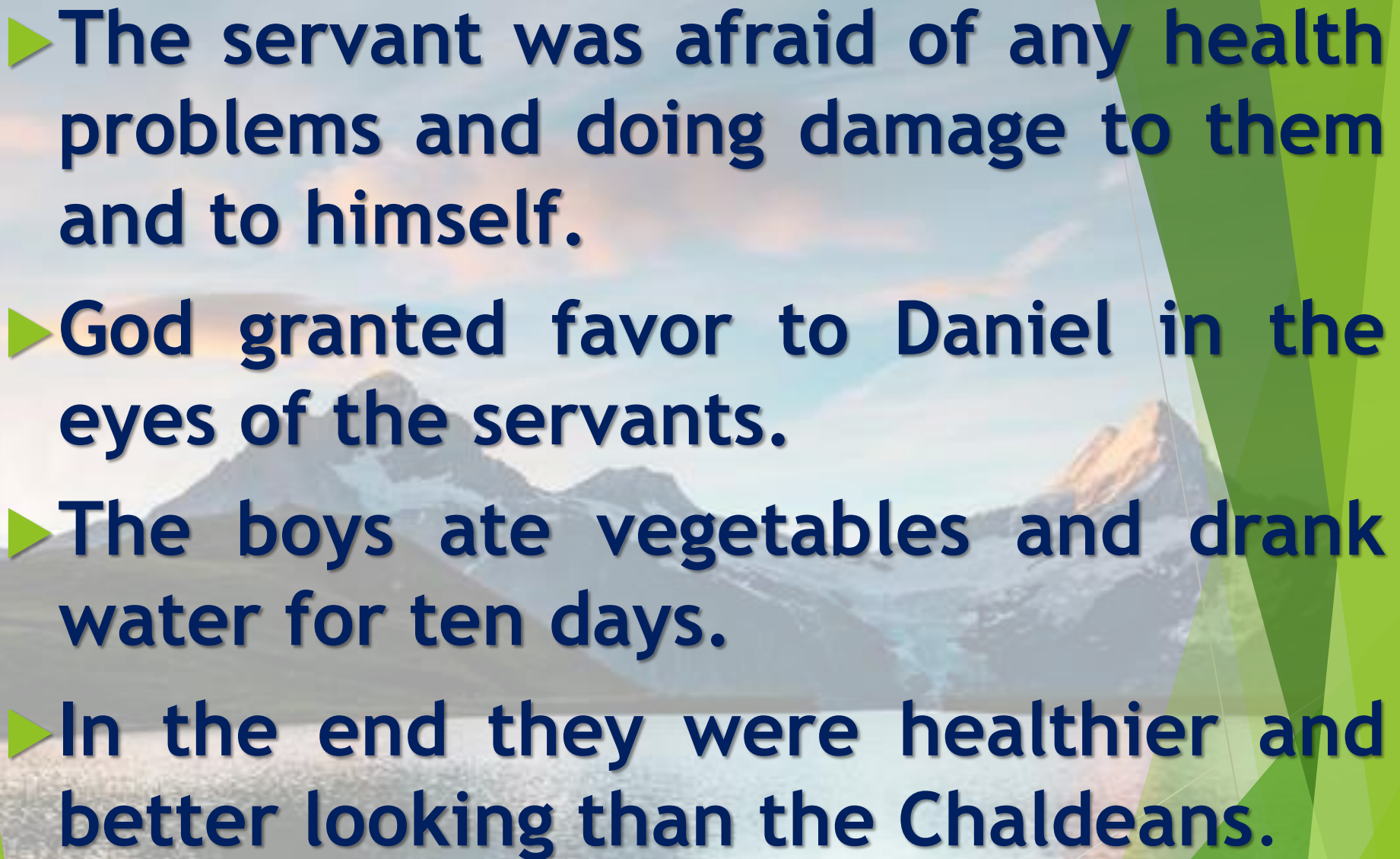


They could have made popular excuses:

- **Everybody's doing it."**
- **"We have to obey the king."**
- **"We'll obey on the outside and keep our faith privately."**



Daniel courageously asked for a ten-day test with food that would not violate their faith or their conscience.

- 
- ▶ **The servant was afraid of any health problems and doing damage to them and to himself.**
 - ▶ **God granted favor to Daniel in the eyes of the servants.**
 - ▶ **The boys ate vegetables and drank water for ten days.**
 - ▶ **In the end they were healthier and better looking than the Chaldeans.**

Proverbs 16:7.

- ▶ When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
- ▶ Daniel's ways were certainly pleasing to God!

***III. Some Important
Lessons.***

1. Daniel Made Up His Mind to Follow God (1:8)

- ▶ ***What you believe matters!***
- ▶ **Daniel had no choice but to give up his country, his name, and his language; but he would not give up his faith in his God.**

- ▶ *How you live your faith matters!*
- ▶ Some might think what food you eat is no big deal; but to Daniel it was a very big deal!
- ▶ But it was not so much a matter of food as it was a matter of **FAITH!**
- ▶ Daniel had faith in God and God's Word and he put that faith into **ACTION!**



- ▶ *Whether you speak up matters.*
- ▶ Daniel found a way to do right without embarrassing others.



- ▶ *He did not rant and rave - he made his case and stood prepared to back it up.*
- ▶ *But the gist of it is... HE SPOKE UP!*

▶ So often we say “Maybe” to sin instead of “no,” leaving the option open for us to say “yes” later on.

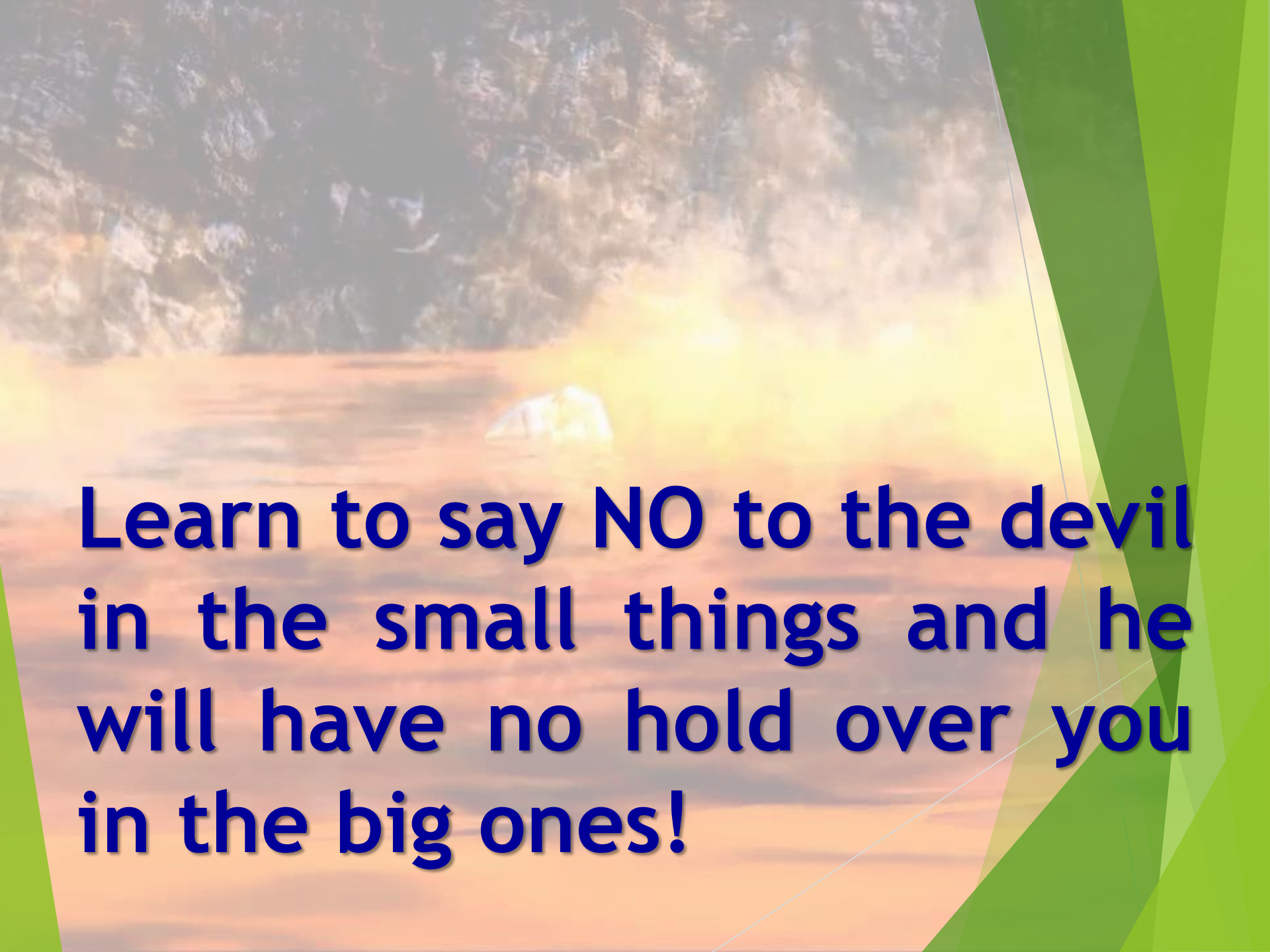


- ▶ Daniel did not say “maybe”; he closed the door on Satan at first opportunity.



- ▶ **James 4:7.**
- ▶ **Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**






**Learn to say NO to the devil
in the small things and he
will have no hold over you
in the big ones!**

2. God's Way Brings Success.

▶ **Prov. 3:3-7.**

▶ **Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.**

► Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

The image shows two hands, one from the left and one from the right, reaching towards each other. The background is a bright, glowing light with a blue and white gradient, suggesting a divine or spiritual presence. The hands are positioned as if they are about to meet or are in the process of holding each other.

**You can stand the
test when you have
God with you and
helping you.**

1 Cor. 10:13: “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.”

3. God Helps Those who Serve Him.

- ▶ **2 Chron. 16:9:**
- ▶ "For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His."





▶ God gives us wisdom to handle the struggles we face.

- **James 1:5 says,
“But if any of
you lacks
wisdom, let him
ask of God, who
gives to all men
generously and
without
reproach, and it
will be given to
him.”**



Daniel 1:17-20.

- ▶ **17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.**

Daniel 1:17-20.

- ▶ **18 Now at the end of the days, when the king had said that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.**

Daniel 1:17-20.

- ▶ **19 Then the king interviewed them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah; therefore they served before the king.**

Daniel 1:17-20.

- ▶ **20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm.**

- **GOD BLESSED**
- **THE FOUR**
- **HEBREWS!**

4. Each Trial Helps Us to Grow Stronger.

- ▶ *Dan. 1:21:*
- ▶ *And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.*

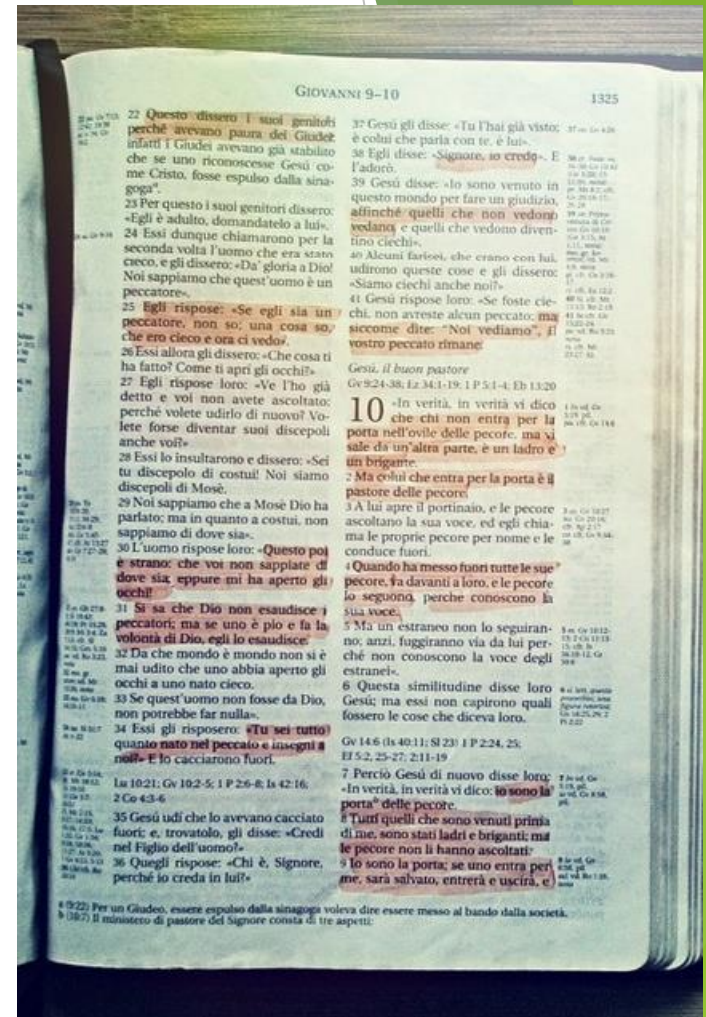


4. Each Trial Helps Us to Grow Stronger.

- ▶ *More than seventy years serving kings.*
- ▶ *Daniel indeed did well- He did well because God blessed him.*



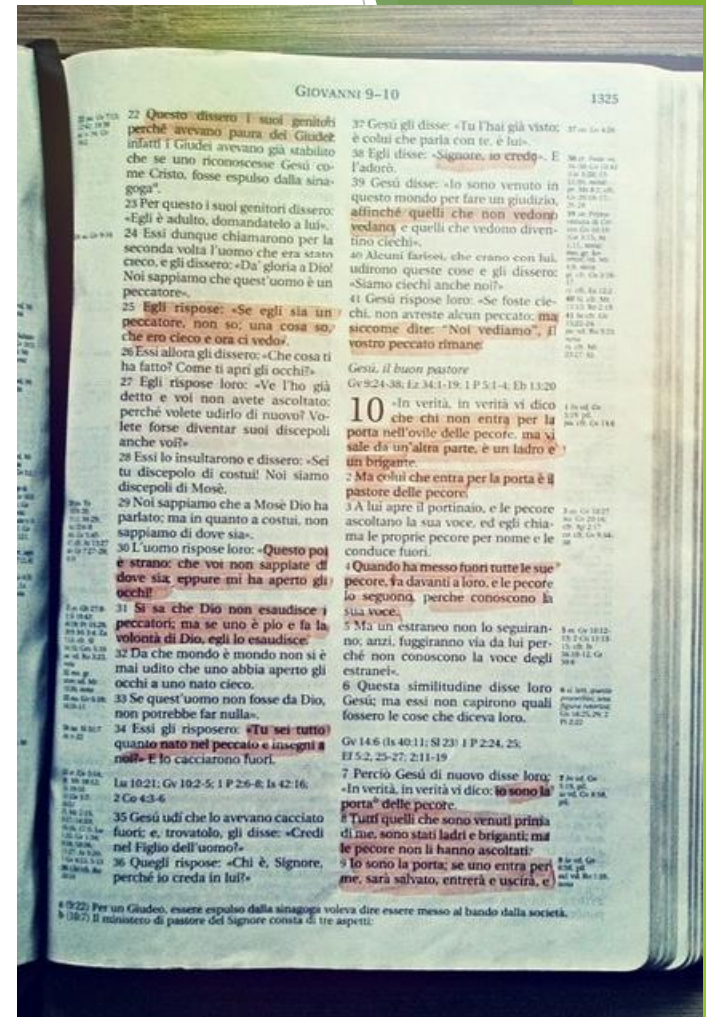
James 1:2-4 .
Consider it all joy,
my brethren, when
you encounter
various trials,
knowing that the
testing of your faith
produces endurance.



And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.



We all face our trials- but we never have to face a single one of them alone!



Ephesians 1:3-4.

- ▶ 3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,

Ephesians 1:3-4.

- ▶ 4 just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

Conclusion:

- ▶ Daniel and his friends looked to God, who gave them help and favor!
- ▶ If we keep our eyes on the prize and the Lord, we will find favor and success in our spiritual lives.
 - ▶ Philippians 3:13-15.

▶ 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

- ▶ **14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.**
- ▶ **15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.**

▶ **God will also be with you, if you determine to do His will!**

▶ **Are you willing to do His will here this morning?**