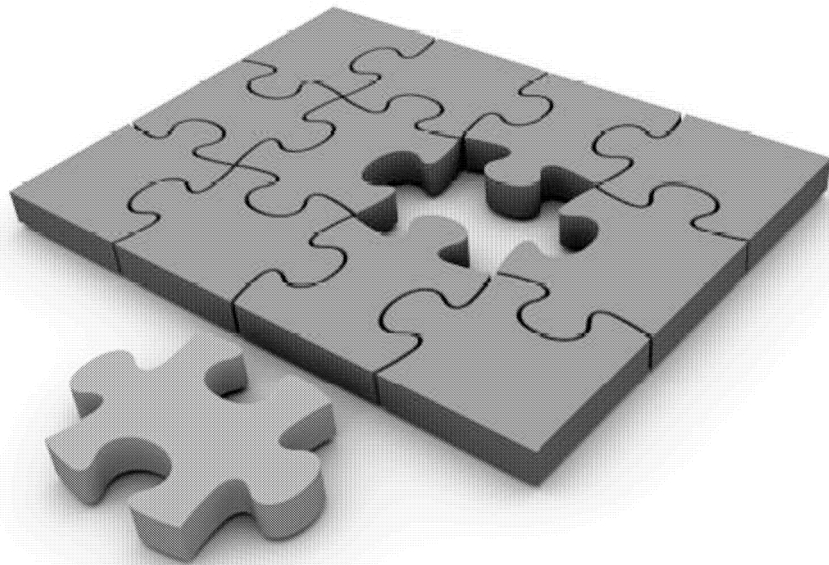


## Studies in Daniel – (Study 3) First among equals

Reading: Daniel 1:17-21



# Living a godly life in an ungodly world

In our last study we examined what happened when Daniel and his friends took a stand for God and how God in turn honoured their faithfulness.

- 1) Out of all those who were taken to Babylon from Judah at this time, we are told that only four took their stand. *What would have been the pressures of being among others of God's people who didn't see things as they did? Is there a parallel for Christians in today's world?*

### Read Daniel 1:17-21

- 2) Verse 17 links the incident of the food and wine with the whole sequence of events. *What does the word 'gave' remind us is underpinning the whole story?*
- 3) God blesses those who obey and yet we still see these young men in very difficult circumstances with worse to come. *How can we reconcile these two seemingly contradictory statements and what does this teach us today?*
- 4) The writer emphasises that Daniel could understand visions and dreams. *In the culture in which he was being immersed, why would you say this was important?*
- 5) The chapter which began with the humiliation of Judah and its royal house, ends with some of that house in a leadership role in Babylon. *Referring back over the chapter, how would you explain that this has happened?*
- 6) Having been introduced to a young man in his teens, the chapter ends with him well into his eighties. *What is the significance of the detail given in verse 21 to the wider theme of God's purposes for his people?*