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### **Feasting and Fasting**

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance  
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition  
or Roget's Thesaurus – **February 1, 2015**

## **Daniel 1:5, 8-17, Matthew 6:16-18**

**Introduction:** ...as countless believers have learned throughout the centuries, when we trust in God and honor him above all things. He will **honor us** and **reward us** in his own way and **in his own time**. The Old Testament offers no better example of this truth than what we find in the experiences of young Daniel and his three friends as captives in Babylon.  
(Source: *The Bible Expositor and Illuminator*, Union Press Publication-Christian Life Series)

**Daniel 1:1-2**, In the third year of the reign of **Jehoiakim** king of Judah came **Nebuchadnezzar** king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the **vessels** of the house of God: which he **carried** into the land of Shinar...

**Thought 1.** For hundreds of years, the Lord had sent his prophets to warn the people about the consequences of breaking the Covenant with him. In 628 B.C., Daniel was born. And Judah was besieged in 605 B.C., meaning, at that time, he's about 23. The Lord had revealed to the prophet Habakkuk in 606 B.C. that this would be the punishment for the sin of his people. This judgment was ultimately occasioned by the sins of Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, who died in 698 B. C.. (Source: *The Reese Chronological Bible*, pages 957, 968, 996-1001)

**2 Kings 24:2-3**, And the Lord **sent (appoint)** against him (**Jehoiakim**) bands of the Chaldees ...bands of the Syrians ...bands of the Moabites ...bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to **destroy it**, according to the **word** of the Lord, which he **spake** by his servants the prophets. Surely at the commandment of the Lord came this upon **Judah**, to **remove** them out of his sight, for the **sins** of **Manasseh**...

**Thought 2.** Now, let's see how Jehoiakim came into power. When Manasseh died, Amon, his son, who was 22 reigned in his stead. He reigned 2 years, and did that which was evil, just like his father Manasseh. Amon's servants conspired against him, and killed him in his own house. The people of the land executed everybody involved in his death, and then made his son Josiah, who was 8 years old, king in his stead. 2 Kings 21:18-24 & 2 Chronicles 34:1 Pharaohnechoh king of Egypt, who is called Necho in 2 Chronicles 35:20, went up against the king of Assyria and killed Josiah in battle when he would not take heed to his warning telling him, "I come not against thee this day, but against the house wherewith I have war: for God that commanded me to make haste: forbear thee from meddling with God, who is with me, that HE destroy thee not: 2 Chronicles 35:21. **Jehoahaz**, his son was made the next king. He was 23 years old and reigned for 3 months: 2 Chronicles 36:1-2.

**2 Kings 23:32-33**, And he (**Jehoahaz**) did that which was **EVIL** in the **sight** of the **Lord**, according to all that his *fathers (forefathers; not Josiah)* had done. ...Pharaohnechoh put him in **bands (prison)** at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign...

**2 Chronicles 36:4-6**, And the king of **Egypt** made **Eliakim** his brother king over Judah and Jerusalem, and **turned** his name to **Jehoiakim**. ...Jehoiakim was **twenty** and **five** ...when he began to reign, and he reigned **eleven years** in Jerusalem: and he did that which was **EVIL** in the **sight** of the Lord his God. Against him came up **Nebuchadnezzar** king of Babylon, and **bound** him in **fetters**, to carry **him** to Babylon.

**Thought 3.** But, as Daniel 1:1 says, he first besieged them in Johoiakim's 3rd year.

**Daniel 1:3-7**, And the **king** (Nebuchadnezzar) spake unto **Ashpenaz** the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's **seed**, and of the **princes**; Children in whom was no **blemish**, but **well favoured**, and **skilful** in all **wisdom**, and cunning in **knowledge**, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might **teach** the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. And the king **appointed** them a daily provision of the king's **meat**, and of the **wine** which he drank: so nourishing them **three years**, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. Now among these were of the children of **Judah**, **Daniel**, **Hananiah**, **Mishael**, and **Azariah**: Unto whom the **prince** of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of **Belteshazzar**; and to Hananiah, of **Shadrach**; and to Mishael, of **Meshach**; and to Azariah, of **Abednego**.

**Thought 1.** The names of Daniel and his other three Hebrew companions are defined as follows: Daniel is defined, judge of God. Hananiah is defined, Jah has favored. Mishael defined, who (is) what God (is)? And Azariah is defined, Jah has helped. The word "Jah" is another word meaning Lord. See Psalms 68:4.

**NOTE:** As for the reasons why the names of these men were changed by their Babylonian masters, several **motives** could have caused it: (1) Hebrew names being unfamiliar to the Babylonians, they replaced them with names they could more easily remember and pronounce. (2) A definite hostility to the religion of the Hebrews is also evident. They replaced names which were derived from the **true God** through the use of syllables meaning Yahweh, or Jehovah, with Babylonian names which either honored Babylonian **pagan gods**, or in some way might have been derogatory.

The names given in Babylon to these men had the following meanings: Belteshazzar means "Bel (a pagan god) protects his life." Shadrach means "The command of Aku (the moon god)." Meshach means "Who is this?" Abednego means "Servant of the god Nabu." From this it is easy to see that the purpose of the names included the desire to **eradicate** all **traces** of the **Hebrew religion** and replace them with names honoring Babylonian pagan gods. The development of this paragraph shows that these particular Hebrew young men, along with an undetermined number of others, were enrolled in a three-year course of study to master the wisdom, the learning, and the language of the Chaldeans.

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

**Daniel 1:8**, But Daniel **purposed** (**determine** [fixed, SETTLED]) in his **heart** that **he** would not **DEFILE** himself with the portion of the king's **meat**, nor with the **wine** which he drank: therefore he **requested** of the **prince** of the eunuchs that he might not **defile** himself.

**NOTE:** The chief reasons why Daniel would not eat meat from the royal table were probably these three:- 1. Because they ate **unclean beasts**, which were forbidden by the Jewish law. 2. Because they ate, as did the heathens in general, beasts which had been strangled, or not properly blooded. 3. Because the animals that were eaten were first **offered** as victims to **their gods**. It is on this account that Athenaeus calls the beasts which here served up at the tables of the Persian kings, victims, lib. iv. c. 10, p. 145.

(Source: The Adam Clarke Commentary classic.studylight.org/com/acc/)

**Leviticus 11:4-13** ... these shall ye **NOT** **eat** of them that chew the **cud**, or of them that divide the hoof: as the **camel**, because he cheweth the **cud**, but divideth not

the **hoof**; ...And the **coney (species of rock-rabbit)**, because he cheweth the **cud**, but divideth not the hoof ...And the **hare**, because he cheweth the **cud**, but divideth not the **hoof** ...the **swine (hog, boar)**, though he divide the hoof, and be clovenfooted, yet he cheweth not the cud ... ...And all that have NOT **fins** and **scales** in the seas ...the rivers ...in the waters ...any living thing which is in the waters, they shall be an **abomination (filth)** unto you: ...ye shall NOT **eat** of their flesh, but ye shall have their carcasses in abomination. ...And these are they ...among the **fowls**....

**Thought 1.** Since Daniel and the others were in captivity because of the breaking of the Covenant with God by evil kings and those that followed them, being there was a graphic reminder to OBEY God, and not break his Covenant by eating the wrong foods. Another truth is all of this about what to eat, and not eat points to Jesus and his words.

**John 6:53-55**, Then **Jesus** said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Except** ye eat the **flesh** of the Son of man, and **drink** his **blood**, ye have NO **LIFE** in you. Whoso eateth **my** flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal **life**; and I will **raise** him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

**John 6:63**, It is the **SPIRIT** that **quickeneth (give life)**; the **FLESH** profiteth nothing: the WORDS that I speak unto you, they are spirit ...they are life.

**Thought 2.** We should believe (EAT) only Gods' words. This means unclean animals represent unclean SPIRITS, and their words, spoken or thought.

Now, when it comes to “physical food”, we, being Christians through faith in Jesus under the New Covenant, CAN eat anything! But, there are guidelines so as to not offend those who don't know this truth.

**1 Timothy 4:4-5** ...**every creature** of God is good, and **nothing** to be refused, IF it be received with thanksgiving: For it is **sanctified** by the WORD of God and prayer.

**Roman 14:14-17**, I know, and am **persuaded** by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that **esteemeth (think)** any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean. But IF thy brother be grieved with thy **meat**, now walkest thou not charitably. Destroy not him with thy meat, for whom Christ died. Let not then your GOOD be evil spoken of: For the **kingdom** of God is not **meat** and **drink**; but **righteousness**, and **peace**, and **joy** in the Holy Ghost.

**Daniel 1:9**, Now God had **brought** Daniel into **FAVOUR** and tender love (mercy, pity) with the prince of the eunuchs.

**Thought 1.** God was able to do this because of Daniel's reverence and love of the truth.

**Proverbs 3:3-4**, Let not **mercy** and **TRUTH** forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find **FAVOUR** and good understanding in the **sight** of **God** and **man**.

**Proverbs 8:1,35**, Doth not **wisdom** cry? and understanding put forth her voice? For whoso findeth me findeth LIFE, and shall obtain **favour** of the Lord. (See Pro. 12:8)

**Daniel 1:10-16**, And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I **FEAR** my lord the king, who hath appointed your **meat** and your **drink**: for why should he see your faces **worse** liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me **endanger** my **head** to the king. Then said Daniel to **Melzar**, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, **Prove (TEST)** thy servants, I beseech thee, **ten days**; and let them give us **pulse (vegetable as food)** to **eat**, and **water** to **drink**. Then let our **countenances** be **looked** upon **before** thee, and the countenance of the children that **eat** of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou SEEST, deal with thy servants.

So he consented to them in this matter, and **proved (test)** them **ten days**. And at the end of **ten days** their **countenances** appeared **fairer** and **fatter** (firm) in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat. Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them **pulse (vegetable as food)**.

**Thought 1.** What we see here is favor from God, and the use of his wisdom in humility to ask and receive a reasonable petition in order to not break the Covenant with him. True to his Covenant, the Lord honored their faith, and obedience to him.

**NOTE:** The inadequacy of the Hebrew language, especially with regard to tenses of verbs, is evident in the rendition in Dan. 1:16, where "the wine that they should drink" actually means "the **wine they would** (or should) **have drank**."

The steward ran little or no risk at all in complying with Daniel's request; because, if the **experiment** had not been successful, he could have altered the diet accordingly. God blessed Daniel and his companions; and, basing his actions on the appearance of the four, the steward promptly changed their diet according to Daniel's request.

(Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

**Daniel 1:17**, As for these **four children (young man)**, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had **understanding** in all **visions** and **dreams**.

**NOTE:** They were very sober and diligent, and studied hard; and we may suppose their tutors, finding them of an uncommon capacity, took a great deal of pains with them, but, after all, their achievements are ascribed to God only. It was he that gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; for every **good** and **perfect gift** is from above, from the Father of the lights. It is the Lord our God that gives men power to get this wealth; the **MIND** is furnished only by him that formed it.

...he (Daniel) knew how to **interpret dreams**, as Joseph, not by rules of art, such as are pretended to be given by the oneirocritics (interpreter of dreams), but by a **divine sagacity** (acuteness [sharpness] of discernment or penetration) and wisdom which God GAVE HIM. Nay, he was endued (endowed) with a **prophetic spirit**, by which he was enabled to converse with God, and to receive the notices of divine things in **dreams** and **visions**, Num. 12:6.

**Numbers 12:6**, And he said, Hear now my words: **IF** there be a **prophet** among you, I the Lord will **make** myself **known** unto him in a **vision** (something supernaturally presented to the MIND) and will speak unto him in a **dream**.

According to **this GIFT** given to Daniel, we find him, in this book, all along employed about dreams and visions, interpreting or entertaining them; for, *as every one has received the gift*, so shall he have an opportunity, and so should he have a heart, to *minister the same*, 1 Pet. 4:10. II. Their great acceptance with the king. After *three years* spent in their education (they being of some maturity, it is likely, when they came, perhaps about twenty years old) they were presented to the king with the rest that were of their standing (Source: The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible classic.studylight.org/com/mhc)

**1 Peter 4:10**, As every man hath received **the gift**, even so **minister** the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold **grace** of God.

**Thought 1.** In revealing the call to the ministry of a prophet/prophetess today, these words still explain WHY a person in the body of Christ is given DREAMS and VISIONS on a regularly basis, as God sees fit. In doing so, he's getting us familiar with the tools of this ministry. There are certain "Gifts of the Spirit" found to be in operation during these visions and dreams from God. Now, just because a person has "a dream" from God does not mean they're called to the ministry. But, if it happens "off and on", at key times in the life of that person to help people, as the Lord sees fit, they are indeed a prophet or



prophetess. And the Christian who doesn't know this has missed this sign from God that confirms placement in this office of the body of Christ when the person was "born again."

**1 Corinthians 12:27-28**, Now ye are the **body of Christ**, and members in particular. And God hath SET some in the church, first apostles, secondarily **prophets**...

**Thought 2.** Another truth the person who is used in the "prophetic" can REST in is since God is the one that put us in this ministry, he'll set up things to prove that this indeed our ministry in Christ's body. In other words, he'll qualify it so everyone can see it.

Second, he'll work within "the method of operation" he's SET for this ministry, as written in the scriptures in order to confirm it. And this will give us comfort when we experience some of the supernatural manifestations that seem to be way out there! So, read about: Abraham, Joseph, Samuel, David, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Jesus, Peter, Paul, and the apostle John.

**Daniel 1:18-20**, Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king **communed** (talk together) with them; and **among** them all was found

**NONE** like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood **they** before the **king**. And in all matters of WISDOM and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them **TEN times better** than **ALL** the **magicians** and **astrologers** that were in **all** his **realm**.

**Thought 1.** Even today, the people whose wisdom and thoughts come from Satan's spirits cannot compare with that which comes from our Father through Jesus by his Holy Spirit. And as you saw, this includes those evil spirits that are pushing Astrology /Horoscopes.

**Matthew 6:16**, Moreover when ye **FAST (abstain from FOOD (religiously))**, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to **fast**. Verily I say unto you, They have their **REWARD**.

**Thought 1.** You did notice that fasting means "not eating FOOD" for a period of time for religious purposes? This means you should drink water, as needed. And a fast can last from a few hours to a number of days. The idea is quality time beyond the ordinary spent in prayer (communion with God, speaking to and listening) and study of the scriptures.

**Matthew 6:17-18**, But thou, when thou **fastest**, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall **reward thee** openly.

**Thought 1.** As we see, God will "reward" us, when we fast according to his wisdom. The fasts that I have done over the years were to get answers to questions I had and to receive more understanding of God's word. And during those times, I had no desire for food. I was just consumed with getting God's understanding/ light, with which he always rewarded me.

**Isaiah 58:6-9**, Is not this the **fast** that I have **chosen?** to **loose** the **bands** of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye **break** every **yoke?** Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh (kin)? Then shall thy **LIGHT (illumination)** break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy **rereward** (rear guard of an army, 1913 Webs.). Then shalt thou **call**, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the **yoke**, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity...