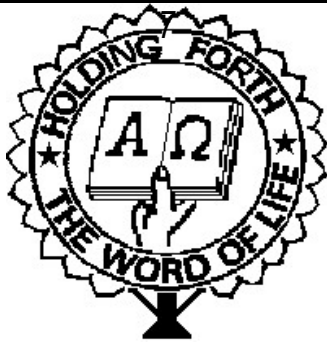




NEW LIFE

BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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"For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 30 No. 39

LORD'S DAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2026

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 92:1–5

Opening Hymn *

RHC 29 – *"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"*

Opening Prayer

Dn John Poh

Responsive Reading

Psalm 71

Second Hymn *

Psalm 71:1–8

(To the tune of Seraph, RHC 15)

Scriptural Text

Psalm 8

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Sermon Message

"When I Consider the Heavens"

Closing Hymn *

RHC 49 – *"How Great Thou Art!"*

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Rev Lim Chee Boon

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

** Congregation Stands*

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you.
Amen.

WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 25

Q: How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

A: Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself A SACRIFICE, to satisfy Divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.

Comments:

The duties of a priest were to offer sacrifices and pray for the people; and this is what Christ, as our priest, does for us. When he was here on earth, he offered himself as a sacrifice, and now that he is in heaven, he intercedes for us with his Father. We are here told, likewise, that the purposes for which Christ offered himself as a sacrifice were: 1. To satisfy the justice of God on account of our sin; and 2. To bring us back to God as dear children.

Scriptural Reference:

Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 9:28, Colossian 1:20, Hebrews 7:25

Dear brethren, Rev Lim Chee Boon authored this week's article based on Daniel 1. As the article has been specially prepared for our edification, and we hope it will be a source of encouragement and growth.

Daniel Purposed in His Heart (Daniel 1:1-21)

When was Daniel and his three friends taken into captivity in Babylon?

The Book of Daniel begins by telling the readers that Nebuchadnezzar besieged Jerusalem during the third year of Jehoiakim's reign over Judah. Actually, Jehoiakim was merely a vassal of Pharaoh Necho II of Egypt. After Necho deposed Jehoiakim's younger brother, Jehoahaz (2 Kings 23:34), he installed Jehoiakim as a vassal ruler over Judah under Egyptian control. When Nebuchadnezzar came to rule, Jehoiakim submitted voluntarily to him. The year was 605 BC. It was at this time that some Jews, including Daniel and his friends, were taken as captives and hostages to Babylon. Babylon continued its conquest of Judah with another two major waves of attack occurring in the years 597 BC and 586 BC. Jerusalem and the temple were completely destroyed eventually, and the remaining Jews were taken into captivity.

Daniel and his three friends were chosen by the king to receive special training in the royal palace. They were given the title of "wise men" to serve the king. Because of their special abilities, they were well-liked by the Babylonians, especially Daniel. He interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a large image of a man. The image represents world empires from the time of Babylon to the End Time just before Jesus' return (chapter 2). Later, he again interpreted another dream when the king saw a large tree being cut down (chapter 4). This tree represented the king's life of vanity and self-promotion and his punishment of receiving the mind of an animal for seven years.

The Training of Daniel and His Friends

The names of Daniel and his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were changed to Belteshazzar, Sharach, Meshach, and Abednego respectively. These are the meanings of their new names:

- Belteshazzar means "may Bel protect his life."
- Shadrach means "royal" or "commander of Aku."
- Meshach means "who is what Aku is."
- Abednego means "servant of Nebo."

Bel, Aku, and Nebo are names of gods worshiped by the Babylonians. Apparently, the name change was for the purpose of assimilating the Jewish young men into the Babylonian religion. Their names were changed from those that honored Jehovah God to those that were to honor Babylonian gods. So, the first training given to them was a religious one. Second, they were immersed into the Babylonian language and culture. While culture could be neutral, the Babylonian culture was largely heathen. Food was offered to deities, and ceremonies were interspersed with religious significance.

Daniel Purposed in His Heart to Do Right

Daniel 1:8–10 *"But Daniel purposed 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. Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. 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."*

Daniel was confronted with the problem of compromise in the matter of eating food provided by the king. No doubt, the provision for him of the king's food was intended to be generous and indicated the favor of the king. Daniel, however, "purposed in his heart" or literally, "laid upon his heart," not to defile himself. The problem with the king's meat is twofold:

First, the food provided did not meet the requirements of the Mosaic law in that it was not prepared according to regulations and may have included meat from forbidden animals. Second, while there was no complete prohibition in the matter of drinking wine in the Law, the problem here was that the wine, as well as the meat, had been dedicated to idols, as was customary in Babylon. To partake thereof would be to recognize the idols as deities. Eating the meat would, in effect, be participation in the worship of idols. Anyhow, Daniel had purposed in his heart to honor God by doing right.

Daniel's Request for a Ten-Day Test

1:11-14 "Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse 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 them ten days."

The word Melzar in Hebrew is not a proper name. Therefore, it does not refer to the name of a person but rather to an appointment or office. In this context, Melzar was the chief steward whom the eunuch set to watch over the Jewish youths. Daniel appealed to the steward who had immediate charge of Daniel and his friends for a ten-day test. The proposal was to give a reasonable length of time to test a diet and yet one that would not entail too much risk of incurring the wrath of the king. The request to eat "pulse" or vegetables included a broad category of food. Bible commentators say this did not limit the diet to peas and beans, but to food that grows out of the ground; i.e., "the sown things." John Calvin is right in saying that Daniel had a special revelation from God in seeking this permission, and for this reason the youth made the proposal that, at the end of the ten days, their countenance (or appearance) should be examined and judgment rendered accordingly. The steward granted their request, and the test was put into motion.

The Result

1:15-16 "And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter 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."

At the end of the test, Daniel and his companions not only were better in appearance but also were fatter in flesh than those who had continued to eat the king's food. Although God's blessing was on them, it is not necessary to imagine any supernatural act of God here. The food they were eating was actually better for them. On the basis of the test, their request was granted, and their vegetarian diet continued. The food grown on the ground was substantial for the physical needs of the four young men.

God's Blessing on Daniel and His Friends

1:17-21 "As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 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 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 enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm. And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus."

Some lessons from this passage of Scripture:

Continued on page 4...

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begin with the **Worship Service** at **11.00 am** followed by a **Bible Study & Children's Sunday School** at **1:30pm**. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, we extend a warm welcome to you this Lord's Day. We hope that you have a blessed time worshipping with us today.

For those unable to attend Church in person, please join our Worship Service and Bible Study on our live-stream via YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/@NewLifeBPCLondon>

We thank God for providing Rev Lim Chee Boon to minister to us today.

Rev Lim will be returning to Singapore this week. Do pray for journey mercies.

Next Sunday, Rev Derek Edwin will be ministering to us.

Tithes & Offerings – The offering box is located at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary.

After-Service Fellowship — Join us for lunch fellowship after the morning worship service – for this week, Rev Lim and Sis Hazel will be providing lunch.

No Afternoon Bible Study – the Bible Study will reconvene next week.

No Children's Sunday School – the Sunday School will reconvene next week.

Annual Congregational Meeting 2026, 27 September – The Church will be holding its ACM today after the morning worship service. The ACM will be moderated by Rev Lim Chee Boon.

MEMORY VERSE

This Week

"O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens."

Psalms 8:1

Last Week

"Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."

Isaiah 49:16

1. Daniel and his friends were not in the best position to take a stand for God. They were captives in Babylon. Yet they decided in their hearts to put God first. They left the consequences to Him who was in control of everything. So, they did what was right, and God gave them the wisdom to handle the situation. Paul says, *"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."* (1 Cor. 10:13)

2. Daniel and his friends were in the world, but they do not belong to the world. Jesus prayed to the Father to keep the disciples from the evil of the world (John 17:13-19). These young men were in Babylon, learning their sciences, history, and even their religion. They were however, very clear in whom they believed and trusted. The scholarship of Babylon did not sway them from believing in Jehovah God. Sometimes, our young people are influenced by their friends, who convince them that there is no God. But, to Daniel and his friends, God is real because they had experienced Him in personal ways.

3. Daniel and his friends had a godly motivation. They believed that honoring God and doing His will would never be wrong. The prophet Samuel says, "For them that honour me I will honour, and they despise me shall be lightly esteemed." (1 Sam. 2:30) The result of their steadfastness was that they gained much knowledge and wisdom. They became wiser than the magicians and astrologers. The Book of Proverbs clearly says that, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Pro. 9:10)