

Dispute Resolution

Example from Daniel

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What We Will Learn

- Under captivity in foreign land
- Daniel's negotiation skill
- Cleared way for him and three friends
- To complete a training program
- And prepare themselves for king's service
- Better than king's magicians and astrologers
- Daniel 1

Conscripted by King of Babylon

- King of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar
- Conquered Judah
- Conscripted select young men from Judah
 - Daniel (Belteshazzar)
 - Hananiah (Shadrach)
 - Mishael (Meshach)
 - Azariah (Abednego)
 - And others
- Daniel 1:1–4, and 6–7

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

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.

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

3 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.

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

7 To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.

Training for King's Service

- King placed the conscripts on training
- To prepare them for king's service
- Allotted them daily ration of food and wine
- From the king's supply
- Daniel 1:5

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

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.

Daniel's Concern

- King's food and wine
- Likely processed through religious rites
- Consumption of king's food and wine
- Meant worshiping Babylonian god
- Problem for Daniel
- And all conscripted from Israel

Daniel Requests Exemption from Royal Food

- Daniel rejected the royal food and wine
- Requested the chief of the eunuchs
- To exempt him and his friends
- From the royal food and wine
- Daniel 1:8

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

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 himself.

Daniel Chose to Negotiate

- Daniel opened channel for negotiation
- Recognized chief of eunuchs was the responsible authority
- Determined to reject the food and wine
- Sought negotiated settlement
- Instead of hostile confrontation

Chief of Eunuchs Responds to Daniel

- King assigned the diet
- To maintain a health standard
- Based on general appearance
- And would punish the chief
- If Daniel or other conscripts
- Appeared not well fed
- Daniel 1:9–10

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

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.”

Daniel's Assessment

- King wanted Daniel and friends to look healthy and well fed
- Chief did not want Daniel and his friends to appear inadequately nourished
- Daniel believed he could accomplish both without consuming royal food and wine
- Understand objective of other party
- Available options to accomplish objective within your own limits

Daniel Proposes Compromise

- Alternative diet acceptable to all
- Daniel requested steward
- To test him and his friends
- On diet of vegetable and water
- For ten days
- Believed the diet will be adequate
- Faith: God will make the diet adequate
- Daniel 1:11–13

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

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.

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

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.”

- Proposal will accomplish king's objective
- Proposed with assurance
- Based on faith of God
- And knowledge of the substitute diet

Daniel's Proposal Successful

- Steward accepted Daniel's proposal
- Daniel and his friends were well nourished from diet of vegetable and water
- Better than others on king's diet
- Daniel's diet confirmed
- For him and three friends
- Steward and chief of eunuchs accepted
- Daniel 1:14–16

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

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.

Daniel and Three Friends Complete King's Training

- King accepted their training and appearance
- Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah
- Showed themselves better prepared
- In all matters of wisdom and understanding
- Than the king's magicians and astrologers
- Daniel 1:17–20

Daniel 1 (NKJV)

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.

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 (NKJV)

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.

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.

What We Learned

- Under captivity in a foreign land
- Daniel negotiated a compromise
- To replace diet assigned by the king
- With alternative diet of vegetable and water
- Avoided defilement from king's diet
- Completed king's training program
- Found better prepared for service
- Than the king's magicians and astrologers