

# Daniel 1:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king 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;

## Analysis

Nebuchadnezzar's command to Ashpenaz reveals Babylon's strategy: co-opt enemy elites through education and indoctrination. The selection criteria—'children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes'—targets the nobility who could influence the nation. This represents Satan's perennial tactic: compromise godly leadership through worldly enticement. Yet God sovereignly uses this pagan program to position Daniel for influence in the empire's highest levels.

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern empires routinely took hostages from conquered territories, educating them in imperial culture to create loyal administrators. This practice combined threat (hostages guarantee good behavior) with opportunity (these youths could rise to high positions). Ashpenaz, master of eunuchs, likely oversaw the court's educational program and possibly made the noble youths eunuchs (cf. Isaiah 39:7).

## Related Passages

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does Babylon's educational strategy parallel modern attempts to indoctrinate believers through secular worldview training?
2. What does God's use of pagan educational programs to position Daniel teach us about providence working through adverse circumstances?

## Interlinear Text

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סְרִיס	יְה	בְּ	לְאַשְׁפֵן	זֶה	בְּמֵת	לְרֹא	וְיִאמֶר
spake	And the king	unto Ashpenaz	the master	of his eunuchs			
H559	H4428	H828	H7227	H5631			
לְקַבֵּב	יְא	מִבְנֵי	לְ	יִשְׁרָאֵל	וּמִצְרָעָה	הַמֶּלֶךְ	הַמֶּלֶךְ
that he should bring	certain of the children	of Israel	seed	and of the king's			
H935	H1121	H3478	H2233	H4410			
וּמִן	בְּפִרְתָּמִים						
and of the princes							
H4480	H6579						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 39:7** (Kingdom): And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

**2 Kings 24:15** (Kingdom): And he carried away Jehoiachin to Babylon, and the king's mother, and the king's wives, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, those carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

