

# Daniel 1:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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The selection criteria emphasize excellence: no blemish (physical perfection), well-favored (attractive), skillful in wisdom, knowledgeable, understanding science, and able to stand in the king's palace. Babylon sought the best, prefiguring how God demands excellence from His servants. The purpose—teaching Chaldean learning and tongue—aimed at cultural assimilation. Daniel and friends would face pressure to abandon Hebrew identity and adopt pagan worldview through intense three-year indoctrination.

## Historical Context

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Chaldean learning included literature, astronomy, mathematics, divination, and religious texts. The language was Akkadian, written in cuneiform script. Three years represents intensive education similar to modern graduate programs. Physical perfection was required for royal court service—no disabilities or disfigurements. This reflects ancient Near Eastern association of physical wholeness with spiritual and intellectual capacity.



## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 5:11** (Kingdom): There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

**Acts 7:22** (Parallel theme): And Moses was learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and was mighty in words and in deeds.

**Proverbs 22:29** (Kingdom): Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

**2 Samuel 14:25** (Parallel theme): But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.

**Daniel 2:10** (Kingdom): The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.