

# Daniel 1:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

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The 'daily provision of the king's meat' represents Babylon's generosity and the temptation it creates. Royal food was both honor and snare—honor because it elevated these captives, snare because it compromised dietary law and likely included food offered to idols. The phrase 'nourishing them three years' shows systematic preparation for service. Worldly systems offer provision and advancement, testing whether believers will compromise convictions for comfort and opportunity.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern royal courts maintained elaborate cuisines. The king's table represented privilege and obligation—eating the king's food created a bond of loyalty. Daniel 1:8 indicates this food violated Jewish dietary law, either through prohibited items (pork, unclean animals), improper slaughter, or dedication to idols. Accepting it would signal cultural and religious capitulation to Babylonian norms.

## Related Passages

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

## Study Questions

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1. How does the king's provision represent the world's offer of comfort and advancement in exchange for compromise?
2. What does Daniel's later refusal (v. 8) teach us about recognizing seemingly generous offers that require violating conscience?

## Interlinear Text

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מִפֶּת	בְּיוֹם ו'	בְּיוֹם ו'	דָּבָר	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	לֵהּ מ'	וַיִּמָּן
H0	H3117	H3117	H1697	H4428	H0	H4487
them a daily	them a daily	them a daily	provision	And the king		appointed
שָׁנֵי יָמִים	וְלִגְדָּל מ'	מִשְׁתֵּי יו'	וּמִיַּיִן	הַמֶּלֶךְ:	בֶּגֶד	
H8141	H1431	H4960	H3196	H4428	H6598	
years	so nourishing	which he drank	and of the wine	And the king	meat	
הַמֶּלֶךְ:	לִפְנֵי י'	יַעֲמֹד ו'	וּמִקֶּצֶת מ'	שָׁלֹשׁ		
H4428	H6440	H5975	H7117	H7969		
And the king	before	thereof they might stand	that at the end	them three		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Daniel 1:19** (Kingdom): And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

**1 Kings 10:8** (Parallel theme): Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

**Daniel 1:8** (Kingdom): 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.

