

¹ فِي السَّنَةِ الثَّالِثَةِ مِنْ مُلْكِ يَهُوَيَاقِيمَ مَلِكِ يَهُوذَا ذَهَبَ تَبُوحْدَنْصَرُ مَلِكُ بَابِلَ إِلَى أُورُشَلِيمَ وَحَاصَرَهَا.² وَسَلَّمَ الرَّبُّ يَدَهُ يَهُوَيَاقِيمَ مَلِكِ يَهُوذَا مَعَ بَعْضِ آيَةِ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ، فَجَاءَ بِهَا إِلَى أَرْضِ شِنْعَارَ إِلَى بَيْتِ إِلَهِهِ، وَأَدْخَلَ الْآيَةَ إِلَى خِزَانَةِ بَيْتِ إِلَهِهِ.³ وَأَمَرَ الْمَلِكُ أَسْفَنْتَرَ رَئِيسَ خِصْيَانِهِ بِأَنْ يُخَصِّرَ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَمِنْ تَسْلِ الْمُلِكِ وَمِنْ السَّرَقَاءِ⁴ فِتْيَانًا لَا عَيْبَ فِيهِمْ، حِسَانَ الْمَنْطَرِ، خَادِقِينَ فِي كُلِّ حِكْمَةٍ وَغَارِفِينَ مَعْرِفَةً وَدَوِي فَهْمٍ بِالْعِلْمِ، وَالذِّبْنَ فِيهِمْ قُوَّةً عَلَى الْوُفُوفِ فِي قَصْرِ الْمَلِكِ، فَيَعْلَمُوهُمْ كِتَابَةَ الْكِلْدَانِيِّينَ وَلِسَانَهُمْ.⁵ وَعَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الْمَلِكُ وَطِيقَةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ يَوْمِهِ مِنْ أَطْيَابِ الْمَلِكِ وَمِنْ خَمْرِ مَسْرُوبِهِ لِتَرْبِيَتِهِمْ ثَلَاثَ سِنِينَ، وَعِنْدَ نَهَائِهَا يَقِفُونَ أَمَامَ الْمَلِكِ.⁶ وَكَانَ بَيْنَهُمْ مِنْ بَنِي يَهُوذَا، دَانِيَالُ وَخَتْنِيَا وَمِيشَائِيلُ وَعَزْرَبَا.⁷ فَجَعَلَ لَهُمُ رَئِيسُ الْخِصْيَانِ أَسْمَاءً، فَسَمَّى دَانِيَالُ بِلْتَشَاصَّرَ وَخَتْنِيَا شَذْرَحَ وَمِيشَائِيلَ مِيشَاحَ وَعَزْرَبَا عَبْدَنْعُو.⁸ أَمَّا دَانِيَالُ فَجَعَلَ فِي قَلْبِهِ أَنَّهُ لَا يَتَّجِسُّ بِأَطْيَابِ الْمَلِكِ وَلَا يَخْمَرُ مَسْرُوبِهِ، فَطَلَبَ مِنْ رَئِيسِ الْخِصْيَانِ أَنْ لَا يَتَّجِسَ.⁹ وَأَعْطَى اللَّهُ دَانِيَالُ نِعْمَةً وَرَحْمَةً عِنْدَ رَئِيسِ الْخِصْيَانِ.¹⁰ فَقَالَ رَئِيسُ الْخِصْيَانِ لِدَانِيَالُ، إِنِّي أَخَافُ سَيِّدِي الْمَلِكَ الَّذِي عَيْنَ طَعَامِكُمْ وَشَرَابِكُمْ، فَلِمَاذَا يَرَى وَجُوهَكُمْ أَهْزَلَ مِنَ الْفِتْيَانِ الَّذِينَ مِنْ جِيلِكُمْ، فَيُذَيَّبُونَ رَأْسِي لِلْمَلِكِ.¹¹ فَقَالَ دَانِيَالُ لِرَئِيسِ السُّقَاةِ الَّذِي وَلَاهُ رَئِيسُ الْخِصْيَانِ عَلَى دَانِيَالُ وَخَتْنِيَا وَمِيشَائِيلَ وَعَزْرَبَا،¹² جَرَّبْتُ عِبِيدَكَ عَشْرَةَ أَيَّامٍ، فَلْيُعْطُوا الْقَطَايِيَّ لِتَأْكُلَ وَمَاءً لِتَشْرَبَ.¹³ وَلْيُطْهَرُوا إِلَى مَتَاطَرِ أَمَامِكَ وَإِلَى مَتَاطِرِ الْفِتْيَانِ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ مِنْ أَطْيَابِ الْمَلِكِ، ثُمَّ اصْنَعْ عِبِيدَكَ كَمَا تَرَى.¹⁴ فَسَمِعَ لَهُمْ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ وَجَرَّبَهُمْ عَشْرَةَ أَيَّامٍ.¹⁵ وَعِنْدَ نَهَايَةِ الْعَشْرَِةِ الْأَيَّامِ طَهَّرَتْ مَتَاطِرُهُمْ أَحْسَنَ وَأَسْمَنَ لَحْمًا مِنْ كُلِّ الْفِتْيَانِ الْآكِلِينَ مِنْ أَطْيَابِ الْمَلِكِ.¹⁶ فَكَانَ رَئِيسُ السُّقَاةِ يَرْفَعُ أَطْيَابَهُمْ وَخَمْرَ مَسْرُوبِهِمْ وَيُعْطِيهِمْ قَطَايِيَّ.¹⁷ أَمَّا هَؤُلَاءِ الْفِتْيَانُ الْأَرْبَعَةُ فَأَعْطَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مَعْرِفَةً وَعَقْلًا فِي كُلِّ كِتَابَةٍ وَحِكْمَةٍ، وَكَانَ دَانِيَالُ فَهِمًا بِكُلِّ الرُّؤْيِ وَالْأَحْلَامِ.¹⁸ وَعِنْدَ نَهَايَةِ الْأَيَّامِ الَّتِي قَالَ الْمَلِكُ أَنْ يُدْخِلُوهُمْ بَعْدَهَا، أَتَى بِهِمْ رَئِيسُ الْخِصْيَانِ إِلَى أَمَامِ تَبُوحْدَنْصَرُ¹⁹ وَكَلَّمَهُمُ الْمَلِكُ فَلَمْ يَوْجَدْ بَيْنَهُمْ كُلَّهُمْ مِثْلَ دَانِيَالُ وَخَتْنِيَا وَمِيشَائِيلَ وَعَزْرَبَا. فَوَقَفُوا أَمَامَ الْمَلِكِ.²⁰ وَفِي كُلِّ أَمْرِ حِكْمَةٍ فَهَمَّ الَّذِي سَأَلَهُمْ عَنْهُ

¹In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.²And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.³And 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; 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.⁵And 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.⁶Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:⁷Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Belteshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.⁸But 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.⁹Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.¹⁰And

الْمَلِكُ وَجَدَهُمْ عَشْرَةَ أَصْعَافٍ فَوْقَ كُلِّ الْمُجُوسِ
وَالسَّحَرَةِ الَّذِينَ فِي كُلِّ مَمْلَكَةٍ. ²¹وَكَانَ دَايِمًا إِلَى
السَّيِّئَةِ الْأُولَى لِكُورَشَ الْمَلِكِ.

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. ¹¹Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah, ¹²Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. ¹³Then 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. ¹⁴So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days. ¹⁵And 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. ¹⁶Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse. ¹⁷As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. ¹⁸Now 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. ¹⁹And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king. ²⁰And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the

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magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.²¹ And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.