

¹In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.² And 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.³ 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; 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.⁵ 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.⁶ Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:⁷ Unto 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.⁸ 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.⁹ Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.¹⁰ And

¹فِي السَّنَةِ الثَّالِثَةِ مِنْ مُلْكِ يَهُوْيَاقِيمَ مَلِكِ يَهُودَا دَهَبَ تَبُوحْدَتَصَّرُ مَلِكُ بَابِلَ إِلَى أَوْرُشَلِيمَ وَخَاصَرَهَا.² وَسَلَّمَ الرَّبُّ يَدَهُ يَهُوْيَاقِيمَ مَلِكُ يَهُودَا مَعَ بَعْضِ آيَةِ بَيْتِ اللَّهِ، فَجَاءَ بِهَا إِلَى أَرْضِ شِنْعَارَ إِلَى بَيْتِ إِلَهِهِ، وَأَدْخَلَ الْآيَةَ إِلَى خِرَاطَةِ بَيْتِ إِلَهِهِ.³ وَأَمَرَ الْمَلِكُ أَشْفَنَازَ رَئِيسَ خَصِيَانِهِ بِأَنْ يُخَصِّرَ مِنْ بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ وَمِنْ نَسْلِ الْمَلِكِ وَمِنْ الشَّرَفَاءِ⁴ فِتْيَانًا لَا عَيْبَ فِيهِمْ، حَسَنَانَ الْمَنْطَرِ، خَادِقِينَ فِي كُلِّ حِكْمَةٍ وَعَارِفِينَ مَعْرِفَةً وَدَوِي قَهْمٍ بِالْعِلْمِ، وَالَّذِينَ فِيهِمْ قُوَّةٌ عَلَى الْوُفُوفِ فِي قَصْرِ الْمَلِكِ، فَيَعْلَمُوهُمْ كِتَابَةَ الْكِلدَانِيِّينَ وَلِسَانَهُمْ.⁵ وَعَيَّنَ لَهُمُ الْمَلِكُ وَطِيقَةً كُلَّ يَوْمٍ يَتُومِهِ مِنْ أَطْيَابِ الْمَلِكِ وَمِنْ خَمْرِ مَسْرُوبِهِ لِتَرْبِيَتِهِمْ ثَلَاثَ سِنِينَ، وَعِنْدَ نِهَائِهَا يَقِفُونَ أَمَامَ الْمَلِكِ.⁶ وَكَانَ بَيْنَهُمْ مِنْ بَنِي يَهُودَا، دَانِيَالُ وَخَنِيَا وَمِيشَائِيلُ وَعَزْرَبَا.⁷ فَجَعَلَ لَهُمْ رَئِيسُ الْخَصِيَانِ أَسْمَاءً، فَسَمَّى دَانِيَالُ بَلْتَشَاصَّرَ وَخَنِيَا شَدْرَاحَ وَمِيشَائِيلَ مِيشَاحَ وَعَزْرَبَا عَدْنَعُو.⁸ أَمَّا دَانِيَالُ فَجَعَلَ فِي قَلْبِهِ أَنَّهُ لَا يَتَجَسَّسُ بِأَطْيَابِ الْمَلِكِ وَلَا يَخْمَرُ مَسْرُوبِهِ، فَطَلَبَ مِنْ رَئِيسِ الْخَصِيَانِ أَنْ لَا يَتَجَسَّسَ.⁹ وَأَعْطَى اللَّهُ دَانِيَالُ نِعْمَةً وَرَحْمَةً عِنْدَ رَئِيسِ الْخَصِيَانِ.¹⁰ فَقَالَ رَئِيسُ الْخَصِيَانِ لِدَانِيَالُ، إِنِّي أَخَافُ سَيِّدِي الْمَلِكَ الَّذِي عَيَّنَ طَعَامَكُمْ وَشَرَابَكُمْ. فَلِمَاذَا يَرَى وُجُوهَكُمْ أَهْزَلَ مِنَ الْفِتْيَانِ الَّذِينَ مِنْ جِليكُمْ، فَتُذَبِّتُونَ رَأْسِي لِلْمَلِكِ.¹¹ فَقَالَ دَانِيَالُ لِرَئِيسِ السَّقَاةِ الَّذِي وَلَاهُ رَئِيسُ الْخَصِيَانِ عَلَى دَانِيَالُ وَخَنِيَا وَمِيشَائِيلَ وَعَزْرَبَا،¹² حَزَبْتُ عَشِيرَةَ آبَائِي. فَلْيُعْطُونَا الْقَطَائِيَّ لِتَأْكُلَ وَمَاءً لِتَشْرَبَ.¹³ وَلْيُطَيَّرُوا إِلَى مَتَاطَرِ أَمَامِكَ وَإِلَى مَتَاطِرِ الْفِتْيَانِ الَّذِينَ يَأْكُلُونَ مِنْ أَطْيَابِ الْمَلِكِ. ثُمَّ اصْنَعْ بِعَبِيدِكَ كَمَا تَرَى.¹⁴ فَسَمِعَ لَهُمْ هَذَا الْكَلَامَ وَجَرَّبَهُمْ عَشِيرَةَ آبَائِي.¹⁵ وَعِنْدَ نِهَائَةِ الْعَشِيرَةِ الْيَوْمِ طَهَّرْتُ مَتَاطِرَهُمْ أَحْسَنَ وَأَسْمَنَ لَحْمًا مِنْ كُلِّ الْفِتْيَانِ الْآكِلِينَ مِنْ أَطْيَابِ الْمَلِكِ.¹⁶ فَكَانَ رَئِيسُ السَّقَاةِ يَرْفَعُ أَطْيَابَهُمْ وَخَمْرَ مَسْرُوبِهِمْ وَيُعْطِيهِمْ قَطَائِيَّ.¹⁷ أَمَّا هَؤُلَاءِ الْفِتْيَانُ الْأَرْبَعَةُ فَأَعْطَاهُمُ اللَّهُ مَعْرِفَةً وَعَقْلًا فِي كُلِّ كِتَابَةٍ وَحِكْمَةٍ، وَكَانَ دَانِيَالُ فَهِيمًا بِكُلِّ الرُّؤْيِ وَالْأَحْلَامِ.¹⁸ وَعِنْدَ نِهَائَةِ الْيَوْمِ الَّذِي قَالَ الْمَلِكُ أَنْ يُدْخِلُوهُمْ بَعْدَهَا، أَتَى بِهِمْ رَئِيسُ الْخَصِيَانِ إِلَى أَمَامِ تَبُوحْدَتَصَّرَ وَكَلَّمَهُمُ الْمَلِكُ فَلَمْ يُوجَدْ بَيْنَهُمْ كُلُّهُمْ مِثْلُ دَانِيَالُ وَخَنِيَا وَمِيشَائِيلَ وَعَزْرَبَا. فَوَقَفُوا أَمَامَ الْمَلِكِ.²⁰ وَفِي كُلِّ أَمْرِ حِكْمَةٍ قَهْمٍ الَّذِي سَأَلَهُمْ عَنْهُ

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

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

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