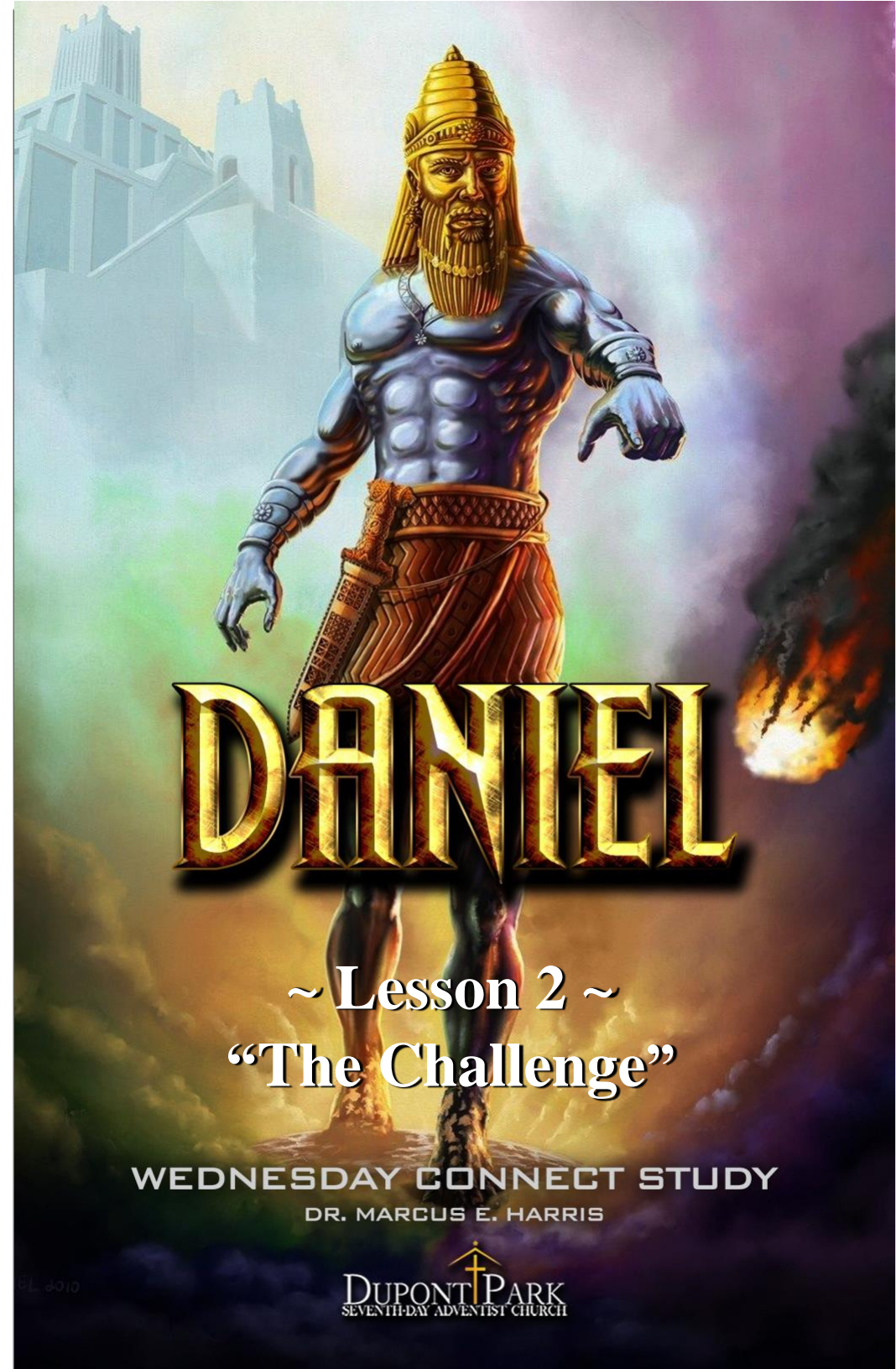


## Introduction:

One of the popular activities on social media is the “challenge.” It’s the modern-day digital equivalent of the age-old “dare.” Many of the challenges went viral and were quite harmless, like the “Doodle Challenge,” the “Don’t Leave Me Challenge,” and the “Ice Water Bucket Challenge.” Whereas others like the “Blackout Challenge,” the “Coronavirus Challenge,” or the “Car Surfing Challenge” are dangerous and unfortunately deadly.

In life, we often face what some may call the weightier challenges. Destiny-altering, transformative, life-changing forever challenges, where the right or wrong decision could have positive or negative ripple effects for generations if not permanently. In our study this week of Daniel 1, we find the precursor to a larger challenge for God’s people in the experience of the four Hebrew expatriates in the training program for the king of Babylon’s court. The question of whether to obey God or some other influence has been the universal test on this planet from Eden to Babylon. Before these Jewish captives could settle into their new surroundings, they were faced with not simply a health decision but a spiritual one. Let’s give careful study to the message of the Daniel 1 narrative as we consider “The Challenge.”



# DANIEL

~ Lesson 2 ~

“The Challenge”

WEDNESDAY CONNECT STUDY

DR. MARCUS E. HARRIS

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

**Focus Text:**

<sup>8</sup> But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore, he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:8 (NKJV)

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**In your own words, what does it mean that “Daniel purposed in his heart?”**

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**Transition**

What orders did the king of Babylon give regarding the captives that were to be brought from Jerusalem for possible service in the king's court?

Daniel 1:3-4

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What else did Nebuchadnezzar take from Jerusalem in this phase of his conquest of Jerusalem?

Daniel 1:2  
2 Chronicles 36:7

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**Challenged!**

What was the specific challenge these Hebrew young men faced in Daniel 1? Were there any others? What was the outcome? How did God move in this situation?

Daniel 1:5-21

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**Conclusion:**

After studying Daniel 1, what are some takeaways for you and how do they apply to the Christian journey?

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