

Back to School

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Script – Introducing Daniel

Setting: A newsroom in Babylon. Daniel is being interviewed by the show’s host. Both can sit behind a desk (handy for keeping the script nearby).

Characters: The TV host and Daniel (also called Belteshazzar).

You will need:

- Costume(s). The host can get away with wearing a suit like a normal TV host, however Daniel should be dressed appropriately. We suggest a robe and decorated cloth around his shoulders. He should ideally also have white hair and a beard, as Daniel is not a young man at this point!
- A scroll (rolled up piece of parchment paper)
- Some appropriate opening and closing music, such as *TV9 Good Beats*: the mp3 file is free to download at www.zedge.net/find/ringtones/tv%20news.

Script

Host: Hello, and welcome to Babylon TV news, the lifestyle section. My name is Hezekiah Rafiniah the Third. On today’s show we’ll be having fashion out of Persia... and we’ll be speaking to King Darius’s very own chef, Gordon Bleu, about some of the recipes that the king absolutely loves to eat. But first, please welcome a very special guest. Not the first, not the second, but the third most important man in the land. Ladies and Gentleman...please welcome... Belteshazzar!!

(Daniel enters and sits down)

Daniel: *(eagerly)* Thanks for having me.

Host: Belteshazzar, welcome to today’s show. *(leans forward)* But I understand you have another name?

Daniel: Yes, my parents called me Daniel, but my name was changed when I moved to Babylon.

Host: You weren’t born in Babylon, were you? Can you tell us a bit about where you’re from and how you came to Babylon in the first place?

Daniel: Yes, that’s right – I come from the city of Jerusalem. When I was a teenager my city was... well... conquered by the Babylonians. Some of us were brought here to live, and I have lived here ever since.

Host: Amazing. We have one of your school reports saying what you were like in those days. Turns out you were quite a good student! It says here you were *(look down at piece of paper)* “without any physical defect, handsome,

showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace." *(looks impressed)*

Daniel: Well, that's why my friends and I were chosen – we were good students and they were looking for people to come into service in the royal palace. And actually, they wanted to teach us how to be good Babylonians.

Host: So you were, what, 17, and living in the palace? It sounds like you were living the dream!

Daniel: *(Hesitantly)* Well yes... although we did have some difficulties with what had happened. We had a new name... it was a new place... a new language, new rules. I think for us, the hardest thing was that we were now living among a people who did not serve the true and living God.

Host: *(looking puzzled)* True and living God?

Daniel: Well, we believe in the God who created everything, who holds all things together, who loves his people and wants them to love him in return. We believe that he has a plan for all of our lives and that's the case even when the unexpected happens.

Host: *(cutting in)* ...like being brought to a faraway country?

Daniel: Yes, we believe that God is still in control! We found here that people didn't love or even know him. We felt it was important to stand up and stand out for God.

Host: I have a few notes here... uh, something about refusing food?

Daniel: Oh, yeah, yeah, there was a situation where we were told to eat food from the king's table. But it was food that had been offered to idols – bits of wood and bits of stone that people worshipped as though they were gods. We felt it would be wrong to eat that food - so we just said no to it.

Host: You said no to the king?! That's very brave!

Daniel: We didn't see it as brave - we just saw it as the right thing to do.

Host: So, how did you go from being a food-refusing student with a group of disobedient friends, to being the third most important man in the land?

Daniel: Well that's just as much a surprise to me as it is to you, let me tell you! I've never wanted to be in charge, I just wanted to love and follow God no matter what and do what he tells me. My journey with him has brought me into this position. I think it all started with the dreams... oh, and the floating hand.

Host: Wait a minute. Dreams? Hand?

Daniel: Oh, they're stories for another time - you can read about them in the written records. *(Holds up scroll)* Basically, God has enabled me to serve and help the kings I've worked for.

Host: Wow. So what has helped you?

Daniel: Don't get me wrong - this is the **king** we're talking about here - he's as likely to kill me as he is to listen to me, especially when I have to tell him things that he doesn't want to hear. But I do know that God is in control. And I also know that following him is the most important thing of all, even when that might be difficult.

Host: So, you've been taken away from your home, you've stood out from the crowd all your life, you and your friends have been in danger for your beliefs... how do you deal with the difficult times?

Daniel: Well for me, it all comes back to my relationship with God. I make sure I speak to Him three times a day, no matter what. Now that King Darius has taken over the land, I am confident that God has placed me in this position for this time to do what He wants me to do, and I'll continue to serve Him as long as I live. I have only been able to do what the kings have asked and interpret their dreams, for example, by the power of Almighty God.

Host: No offence, but you're an old man now. Have you any advice for the people watching at home?

Daniel: Well, for me it all comes down to prayer. Never stop praying, trust in God and be confident in him and his plans for your life. Prayer has shaped me. Prayer has saved me time and again!

Host: Thank you so much for joining us, Daniel!
(Turning to the screen)
That's all for today's show. We hope you enjoyed it – and look forward to seeing you next week.

Closing music (if using)