

A New Identity – New Names (Daniel 1:6-7)

Old Name / Meaning	New Name / Meaning
Daniel "God is my judge"	Beltshazzar "Marduk (Bel), protect his life!"
Hananiah "Yahweh has taken pity"	Shadrach "Command of Aku" (the moon god)
Misael "Who is what God is?"	Meshach Who is what Aku is?
Azariah "Yahweh has helped"	Abednego Servant of Nebo (god of wisdom)

"Though we cannot be dogmatic in the details, it appears that in their attempt to give the Judean youths a new identity and allegiance, they bestowed upon them names that associated them with Babylonian gods."

- Temper Longman III, *NIV Application Commentary, Daniel*, 51.

"But there is irony here, for despite the fact that the four Jewish heroes are given Babylonian names as functionaries in Nebuchadnezzar's court, the meanings of their Hebrew names are what prevail in the book."

- Alexander A. Di Lella, *Daniel – A Book for Troubling Times*, 23.