

The Book of Daniel

Part 1: The Exile Finds Favor

Introduction to Series

- ◇ The book of Daniel is about refusing to compromise your convictions, living counter-culturally, saying what needs to be said and confronting the brutal facts with unwavering faith.

Styles of Writing

- ◇ Narrative: the Stories of Daniel
- ◇ Eschatology: the Prophecies of Daniel
- ◇ Written both in Hebrew and Greek

The Background

- ◇ Daniel 1:1-2
- ◇ Takes place in 605 BC
- ◇ God give Israel into Nebuchadnezzar's hand because of the adultery of Israel.

- ◇ Jeremiah 25:11-12

"This whole land will be a desolation and a horror, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 'Then it will be when seventy years are completed I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation,' declares the Lord, 'for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans; and I will make it an everlasting desolation.'"

The Captivity

- ◇ Daniel 1:3-7
- ◇ Daniel and Friends move from Royalty to Slavery
- ◇ God intends to place Daniel into a position of Influence
- ◇ Educated in the Literature, Language, Religion and Culture of Babylon
- ◇ Given the Food of Babylon
- ◇ Exposed to Religion of Babylon
- ◇ Daniel and Friends Given New Names- Slave Names in an attempt to change their identities.
 - ◇ From Daniel: God is Judge- to Belteshazzar: May Bel Protect His Life
 - ◇ From Hannah: Yahweh is Gracious- to Shadrach: Command of Aku
 - ◇ From Mishael: Who is What God is- to Meshack: Who is What Aku is
 - ◇ From Azariah: Whom Yahweh Helps- to Abednego: Servant of Nebo

Their Minds Are Made Up

- ◇ Daniel 1:8-16
- ◇ Would Not Defile Themselves
 - ◇ Possibly Unclean Meat
 - ◇ Possibly Meat Sacrificed to Idols
 - ◇ Possibly Meat Not Slain According to Rabbinic Law- Not Kosher
- ◇ He could not control what he was called but he could control what he would ingest.
- ◇ They choose not to conform to the world

◇ Romans 12:2

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

◇ Daniel Finds Favor and Compassion

God Blesses Them

◇ Daniel 1:17-21

◇ God gave them knowledge and intelligence

◇ 10 Times better than anyone in the realm

◇ Example for Teenagers today

◇ Age does not hinder your ability to be used by God

◇ God is raising up a generation of Godly men and women

◇ God desires to 10X You!

What About You?

◇ If you want to experience the favor of God you must dare to be a Daniel

◇ Daniel and Friends chose to remain faithful and God blessed them

◇ Begins with relationship with Jesus Christ