

Daniel 1.3-21



Firm Footing amidst Free Fall
Last Monday BRAZILIANS watched
in Shock as their 200 yr. Old
National Museum in Rio –
holding 20 Million Historical items –
GUTTED by FIRE

Step into Story of Daniel ---

2500 yrs ago NATION of Judah WATCHED Entire Capital City RAVAGED
SEIGE - FAMINE – SWORD – FIRE – NOT 1 Stone was Left on ANOTHER
Of course MANY Nations have SUFFERED Terrible Loss in previous Millennia
But this little PEANUT of a Nation – JUDAH - made HUGE CLAIMS
“True, Living God, ONLY God, Creator Heaven & Earth their Unique LORD”
YET Judah ends up in ASH HEAP of History like any FALLEN EMPIRE
Destruction, Death & DRAGGING PRECIOUS Men & Metal to BABYLON
By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered
Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors
required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs
of Zion!” How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? Psalm 137.1-4
Here YOU are in BEIJING – Favorite Prosperity Preacher – One w OWN JET
Made many PROMISES: BUT You’re Eating Chinese Rice – Cannot Afford
Real Food like UGALI, POSHA, FU FU, or HAMBURGERS and PIZZA

How do WE Testify to God's Promises when we're Poor and Powerless?

Bertrand Russell was PHILOSOPHER and an ATHEIST

Someone Challenged him – When you DIE, IF there is a God, have to Answer...

GOD asks: "Why did you not believe in me?"

"Not enough evidence!" Bertrand Russell

Can Read Sydney Morning Herald, Pretoria News, China Daily, El Nuevo Dia,
or New York Times for a MONTH – probably NOT hear about True GOD

They may POKE FUN at God or his Followers – Not FEAR or Follow HIM

God is ALWAYS Sovereign – fancy word "complete control of everything"

Sometimes His Sovereignty is SILENT, DISTANT, seen only in SUFFERING

Judah's EXILE affected 1000's >> CLOSE UP View of just 4 Young Men

DISCLAIMER Same Exp. NOT happen to ALL Believers – THEN or NOW

Some sing "Dare to be a Daniel" > Same, Faithful God – ONLY One Daniel

HERO of the Story is GOD of Daniel – Daniel & Homies SUPPORTING Cast

Jesus: "the Scriptures... it is they that bear witness about me" John 5.39

Daniel is FIRST and Foremost a REVELATION of God

Stories TOLD for us to See GOD and KNOW HIM Better

But God does not REVEAL Himself in the Abstract but in RELATIONSHIPS

Now these things took place as examples for us... 1 Corinthians 10.6

MORAL Truths to SHAPE and GUIDE our Faith in God of Daniel TODAY

Recent News Article here...

“A growing number of potential recruits are unfit to join the national military and junk food, smartphones, and excessive masturbation are to blame...a war zone does not need weak pretty boys, it needs strong young men who can shoulder the responsibility of protecting the nation. With such lack of character and determination, and such physical weakness how can they do their duty?”

Major-General Luo Yuan, PLA Daily

Ch 1 > NEB has CAMPAIGN to DEVELOP & DEPLOY CIVIL SERVANTS

Expanding Babylonian EMPIRE required Extended BUREAUCRACY

Babylonianization Program > ELITE of Subdued Nations PRESSED into Service

1. Squeezed to Conform

a. Bodies Captured

vs. 3-5 Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance...The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank.

Young MEN had BRAINS, BRAWN, BEAUTY that pleased BABYLON

We are expected to value the things the surrounding culture values, to pursue passionately its glittering prizes, and generally live in obedience to its idols. We have to choose daily whether to be part of this world in which we live, or to take the difficult path of standing against it. Iain Duguid

IF Daniel was Young TEEN when we Step into Story > Grew Spiritual ERA

622 BC - 8 year old KING JOSIAH found LAW of God in TEMPLE

Law given to LEAD Nation been LOST > Nation became LOST TOO

Opened, Read, Understood > SEASON Repentance, Restoration, Renewal

DANIEL GREW UP in Years of VIBRANT National Faith > Last Gasp before...

HEARTS and HOMELAND were BROKEN & Brutalized by BABYLON

Now Young TEENS in Babylon > Intense Program of REEDUCATION

Aggressive CAMPAIGN to BLOT OUT Memory of their GOD & Homeland

YOUNG People chosen who can be EASILY Molded to New ENVIRONMENT

Change Whole WORLD VIEW – Media, Education, Symbols, Traditions, Laws

In Ancient Israel, Wisdom is inextricably bound up with the ‘fear of the Lord’

and inevitably the reader wonders what will happen when the wisdom comes into

contact with Babylonian wisdom which is likewise bound up with the worship of

Babylonian gods. Bob Fyall

Modern Babylon wants to CONTROL our BODIES by their FALSEHOOD

When you were born, your doctor probably assigned you a sex — male or female

— based on your sex anatomy. But that doesn’t necessarily say anything about

your gender identity. Planned Parenthood, 2018

b. Brains Conformed

vs. 4,5 skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning,

and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and

language of the Chaldeans... They were to be educated for three years, and at the

end of that time they were to stand before the king.

Young People **PLUCKED** in Foreign Land, Friends, Campus, Beliefs, Behavior

They would likely have to imbibe the

‘scientific’ omen texts; for example, there

was a series of astrological omens in

seventy-seven tablets, twenty-three of

which focused on observations of the

moon...

...then perhaps medical omens – one ran to a series

of forty tablets; nor could they neglect dream

interpretation – the longest collection runs to one

hundred and ten tablets. D.J. Wiseman

ALL Truth is GOD’S Truth > from Scripture, Science or Nebuchadnezzar

OPPORTUNITY to STUDY is an Opportunity to SERVE GOD > Sacred Trust

“there is no positive theology of pagan or secular learning here, but rather the

assurance that it can be triumphed over” J.E. Goldingay

for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way,

as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1 Timothy 4.8

c. Beliefs Challenged

vs. 6,7 Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of

Judah. And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

Hebrew Name >> Meaning Meaning << Babylonian Name

Daniel God is my Judge goddess protect the king Belteshazzar

Hananiah Who is like God? Form of name: god Marduk Shadrach

Mishael God is gracious Form of name: god Marduk Meschach

Azariah God is my helper Servant of god Nabu Abednego

ARAMAIC was Native Language of CHALDEANS > In power in Babylon

Native Language of Babylonians > AKKADIAN – a SEMITIC lang like Hebrew

1970's Gov't of ALBANIA forced anyone w/ Biblical Name > CHANGE IT

Feared when heard Abraham, Ruth, Daniel, Luke people ask "Where is it from?"

Search for BIBLE to find the SOURCE > Bible was OUTLAWED & BANNED

Hebrew Boys did NOT Fight this Battle over Name Change

Could CHANGE their NAMES but could NOT change their HEARTS

No matter what People CALL YOU does NOT make You what they SAY

One of SUBTLE tricks of god of this World > Change Meaning of Good Words

GAY describes People striving to be HAPPY in all the WRONG WAYS

Love, Choice, Rights, Freedom, Rainbow, Gay> Be CAREFUL and CLEAR

Daniel teaches us that the struggle is not to make the culture Christian, but how to live as a Christian in a hostile culture. Tremper Longman III

2. Standing for Convictions

a. Resolve

v. 8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank.

RESOLVED – Definite & Settled Decision, Shaped by BIBLE & his BUDDIES

4 Young Men would have been VERY FAMILIAR words of God's PROPHET

And when they say to you, "Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter," should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

Isaiah 8.19,20

Great Advantage of TEAM of Brothers to Think, Pray, & Make Wise Decisions

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!...And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4.9-12

Impt in NEW PLACE – Good Friends, Buddy, Small Group, Accountability

Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals." 1 Corinthians 15.33

REASON for FOOD REFUSAL...

Jewish KOSHER Dietary Laws? THEY say NOTHING about WINE

Offered to IDOLS --- Certainly! --- Even VEGGIES out of Kitchen were TOO
LATER Daniel will eat CHOICE Foods of PAGAN PERSIANS

I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at
all, for the full three weeks. Daniel 10.3

NOT Infomercial for VEGANS or TEE-TOTALERS

Perhaps more POLITICAL than Theological > Jews stand against Babylon

Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no
better off if we do. 1 Corinthians 8.8

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of
righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14.17

Their minds as well as their bodies are being fed by the Babylonian court. If they
prosper, then to whom should they attribute their success?...by refusing to eat the
food of the king...Only God could have done it. Tremper Longman III

It is in the small matters that great victories are won...because he started out for
God in small things, God used him greatly. James Boice

Jaelene Hinkle talented Soccer

Player > Hard Working

Dreamed > play on USA

Woman's National Team >

INVITED to Join

Found USA Team would wear

GAY PRIDE Jerseys > Prayed

> REFUSED

Kicked Off Team REFUSING wear Jersey Endorsed HOMOSEXUALITY
 HIRED by Professional Soccer Team travels across USA Booed Everywhere
 Not FIGHT Back – Plays Hard – Let’s her Kindness & her Game do Talking
 “Jaelene is high on her faith, and in my honest [opinion] that’s absolutely
 incredible. If she’s for God, then that’s fine, that’s great if that’s what keeps her
 going in her life and keeps positivity in her life, then let that be. Everyone has
 their opinions about the Bible and God. It’s obviously not in my control what she
 thinks. At the end of the day, I’m still going to be friends with her. We have no
 problems with each other. She’s never said anything bad about me. She never
 said anything bad about anybody. So, for people to pass on that kind of judgment
 on another human being, I think it’s uncalled for. She’s got her opinions. That’s
 fine. Everybody does. It hasn’t affected our team at all.”

Jessica McDonald, teammate

b. Respect

v. 8 Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile
 himself.

Did not STAGE Sit-In over FOOD – Public PROTEST or HISSY-FIT

No Public Proclamation, No Food Strikes – Quietly, Respectfully asked Steward
 RESPECTFULLY asked PROPER AUTHORITIES for Acceptable Alternative

but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action Daniel 11.32
v. 9 And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs,

God concerned with RISE & Fall of EMPIRES AND Details of Everyday Life
Daniel made STAND on PRINCIPLE but Willing to be FLEXIBLE on Details
v. 10 and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king.”

Denial of v. 10 maybe not Outright Refusal “I cannot make the order, but if you can work it out another way, go for it!”

Daniel BOUNCED off the CEO and went DOWN to the COO

So Daniel went DOWN a Notch to KEEP MATTER even MORE QUIET

God has his PEOPLE everywhere – People to ADVANCE His Cause

And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you. Luke 10.6

Even when Person might NOT KNOW God...Yet

Worker in DORMITORY Smiles & Opens Door People come for Bible Study

ADMINISTRATOR who arranges Schedule so you can COME & WORSHIP

Not know WHY BABYLONIAN GUARD cared about DIET of Hebrew BOYS

v. 11-14 Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had

assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, “Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see.” So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days.

KAREN was working on her P.H.T. degree – ‘Put Hubby Through’ SCHOOL
 Karen worked for MONEY / HUSBAND worked for MASTER’s degree Theol.
 She worked in Pharmaceutical Company while he studied to become PASTOR
 Karen Quality-Control Inspector and their LIFE Together earning HIGH Marks
 One Day Syringe Machine Backed Up: Production Cycle CONTAMINATED
 KAREN told her Boss - Tried to Fix It – Crunched NUMBERS Too Expensive
 Ordered Karen to SIGN-OFF on INSPECTION Report – She Refused
 Federal Law required Karen’s Signature or Entire BATCH be DISPOSED Of
 Company President came to Pressure Karen to SIGN > REFUSED > FIRED
 CUSTOMER who was to Receive Syringes found out about Situation
 Met Karen – Thanked her --- HIRED Her – and RAISED her SALARY

There is not so much something in the food that defiles as much as it is the total program of assimilation. At this point the Babylonian government is exercising control over every aspect of their lives. They have little means to resist the forces of assimilation that are controlling them. They seize on one of the few areas where they can still exercise an opportunity to preserve their distinct identity.

John Walton

c. Recognition

vs. 15,16 At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food. So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

Diet was PRIVATE, NOT Public > King took Credit > Hebrew Boys knew Truth
GRACE is the UNDERTOW in this Whole Passage

REASON for their SUCCESS and ADVANCE

For every believer there comes a moment of decision, an issue where a stand must be made and the choice will determine the whole future character of life...For Daniel it was food, for others it may be vast wealth...The key issue is that for all of us there is a point at which we must choose to go on in the way of faithfulness to God or to compromise. Bob Fyall

3. Success in Captivity

vs. 17-20 As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before

Nebuchadnezzar. And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians

and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.

Daniel Not Only took the Classes > Graduated SUMMA CUM LAUDE

So much for DANIEL DIET – they were FATTER than the REST

Why I don't eat Vegetables!

LOOKING GOOD was NOT Because of DIET > MIRACLE of God

If you want to SPEAK to World > Need to UNDERSTAND World

In fact you should KNOW the WORLD BETTER than it knows Itself

Sovereignty of God FAR SURPASSES the MIGHTIEST of Human RULERS

Great REFORMER John Calvin > Wrote 1000 page Commentary Daniel

In 10 years Translated from FRENCH into ENGLISH > Still Read TODAY

Passionately LINKED troubles of Daniel to FIGHT for Gospel in Hostile Europe

Words breath COMPASSION on 1000's MARTYRED in his 16th Century

God proves the faith of his people by various trials...that they should never be

weakened by the concussion of the severest storms and tempests; or at least if

they totter they should never fall away...Here we see a living picture, that when

God spares the wicked for a time, he proves his servants like gold and silver.

John Calvin

Ch Begins w/ HUMILIATION of JUDAH to EXALTATION of God's People

God's SOVEREIGN Rule NOT Abstract Theory > Seen in Lives of SERVANTS

FIND Firm Foundation after FREE FALL of EXILE from Homeland

To Serve God Faithfully & Effectively > Eternal Word to Ever-changing World

FIND God in midst of our STORY > Story of Daniel INSPIRE & Encourage
 All our SMALL STORIES fit together into the GRAND STORY of Salvation
 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name
 great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him
 who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be
 blessed.” Genesis 12.2,3

To LIVE FAITHFULLY in Exile we must Know God’s FAITHFULNESS
 The New Testament is never interested in conduct and behavior in itself...it does
 not make an appeal for good behavior to anyone but Christian people. It is not
 interested in the morality of the world. It tells us quite plainly not to expect
 anything from the world except sin...there is nothing more futile than appealing
 for the world to live a Christian life...the only message the Bible has for the
 world is repentance. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

v. 21 > Punches the FAST FORWARD Button > about 70 years Down ROAD
 7 HEBREW words Packed w/ DYNAMITE: 80 yr old Daniel GOING STRONG
 Babylon, the hairy-chested macho brute of the world, has dropped with a thud in
 the mausoleum of history, while fragile Daniel, servant of the Most High God, is
 still on his feet. Dale Ralph Davis

ONE Greater than Daniel SHOWN us Perfect Example of Being Exile
 SERVE Needy World into which He was Thrust – AND Remain SET APART
 Good News God did not come just to Save VALIANT & NOBLE like Daniel

God sent MOST VALIANT, MOST NOBLE, MOST Faithful Refugee into Exile
 God's Son – Traveled FAR from Home – Lived in HOSTILE Earth

LOVED – TAUGHT – MIRACLES – KINDNESS > Gave Life for SINNERS

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our
 weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet
 without sin. Hebrews 4.15

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered
 Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors
 required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, "Sing us one of the songs
 of Zion!" How shall we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land? Psalm 137.1-4

"Not enough evidence!"

Bertrand Russell

It is a very necessary warning in advance to people who find themselves living in
 momentous times not to think that they are already living in the time of the end
 and the End is at hand, simply because their own times show certain features that
 will mark the end of time as well.

David Gooding

"A growing number of potential recruits are unfit to join the national military
 and junk food, smartphones, and excessive masturbation are to blame...a war
 zone does not need weak pretty boys, it needs strong young men who can
 shoulder the responsibility of protecting the nation. With such lack of character
 and determination, and such physical weakness how can they do their duty?"

Major-General Luo Yuan, PLA Daily

For every believer there comes a moment of decision, an issue where a stand must be made and the choice will determine the whole future character of life...For Daniel it was food, for others it may be vast wealth...The key issue is that for all of us there is a point at which we must choose to go on in the way of faithfulness to God or to compromise.

Bob Fyall

“A growing number of potential recruits are unfit to join the national military and junk food, smartphones, and excessive masturbation are to blame...a war zone does not need weak pretty boys, it needs strong young men who can shoulder the responsibility of protecting the nation. With such lack of character and determination, and such physical weakness how can they do their duty?”

Major-General Luo Yuan, PLA Daily

I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks.

Daniel 10.3

For every believer there comes a moment of decision, an issue where a stand must be made and the choice will determine the whole future character of life...For Daniel it was food, for others it may be vast wealth...The key issue is that for all of us there is a point at which we must choose to go on in the way of faithfulness to God or to compromise.

Bob Fyall

There is not so much something in the food that defiles as much as it is the total program of assimilation. At this point the Babylonian government is exercising control over every aspect of their lives. They have little means to resist the forces of assimilation that are controlling them. They seize on one of the few areas where they can still exercise an opportunity to preserve their distinct identity.

John Walton

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm,

but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 4.9-12

but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action Daniel 11.32

In Ancient Israel, Wisdom is inextricably bound up with the ‘fear of the Lord’ and inevitably the reader wonders what will happen when the wisdom comes into contact with Babylonian wisdom which is likewise bound up with the worship of Babylonian gods.

Bob Fyall

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life

Deuteronomy 30.19,20

Hebrew Name	Meaning	Meaning	Babylonian Name
Daniel	God is my Judge	a goddess protect the king	Belteshazzar
Hananiah	Who is like God?	Forms of name of god Marduk	Shadrach
Mishael	God is gracious	Forms of name of god Marduk	Meschach
Azariah	God is my helper	Servant of god Nabu	Abednego

It is in the small matters that great victories are won...because he started out for God in small things, God used him greatly. James Boice

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much.” Luke 16.10

And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn.

Isaiah 8.19,20

In Mesopotamia, omens were considered the primary way by which the gods revealed their will and intentions. When powerful communicators keep telling you the same thing over and over again, it is hard not to be influenced.

Rodney Stortz



“She is high on her faith, and in my honest [opinion] that’s absolutely incredible. If she’s for God, then that’s fine, that’s great if that’s what keeps her going in her life and keeps positivity in her life, then let that be. Everyone has their opinions about the Bible and God. It’s obviously not in my control what she thinks. At the end of the day, I’m still going to be friends with her. We have no problems with each other. She’s never said anything bad about me. She never said anything bad about anybody. So, for people to pass on that kind of judgment on another human being, I think it’s uncalled for. She’s got her opinions. That’s fine. Everybody does. It hasn’t affected our team at all.”

Jessica McDonald, teammate

for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

1 Timothy 4.8

They would likely have to imbibe the ‘scientific’ omen texts; for example, there was a series of astrological omens in seventy-seven tablets, twenty-three of which focused on observations of the moon; then perhaps medical omens – one

ran to a series of forty tablets; nor could they neglect dream interpretation – the longest collection runs to one hundred and ten tablets. D.J. Wiseman

“But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. Mark 13.9

who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. Isaiah 40.23,24

Babylon, the hairy-chested macho brute of the world, has dropped with a thud in the mausoleum of history, while fragile Daniel, servant of the Most High God, is still on his feet. Dale Ralph Davis

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life Deuteronomy 30.19,20

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful— for he cannot deny himself. 2 Timothy 2.11-13

Their minds as well as their bodies are being fed by the Babylonian court. If they prosper, then to whom should they attribute their success?...by refusing to eat the food of the king...Only God could have done it. Tremper Longman III

“there is no positive theology of pagan or secular learning here, but rather the assurance that it can be triumphed over” J.E. Goldingay

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. 1 Corinthians 10.6

And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him

who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12.2,3

Daniel teaches us that the struggle is not to make the culture Christian, but how to live as a Christian in a hostile culture. Tremper Longman III

Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. 1 Corinthians 8.8

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Romans 14.17

The New Testament is never interested in conduct and behavior in itself...it does not make an appeal for good behavior to anyone but Christian people. It is not interested in the morality of the world. It tells us quite plainly not to expect anything from the world except sin...there is nothing more futile than appealing for the world to live a Christian life...the only message the Bible has for the world is repentance. D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Hebrews 4.15

God proves the faith of his people by various trials...that they should never be weakened by the concussion of the severest storms and tempests; or at least if they totter they should never fall away...Here we see a living picture, that when God spares the wicked for a time, he proves his servants like gold and silver. John Calvin

We are expected to value the things the surrounding culture values, to pursue passionately its glittering prizes, and generally live in obedience to its idols. We have to choose daily whether to be part of this world in which we live, or to take the difficult path of standing against it. Iain Duguid

In his days, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up, and Jehoiakim became his servant for three years. Then he turned and rebelled against him. And the Lord sent against him bands of the Chaldeans and bands of the Syrians and bands of the Moabites and bands of the Ammonites, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by his servants the prophets.

2 Kings 24.1,2

Many DIFFERENCES – Culture, Language, Religion, Ideologies >> ALL DIE

- | |
|---|
| <p>I. The place in which faithfulness is lived. Chapter 1</p> <p>II. The God to whom the kingdom belongs. Chapters 2-7</p> <p>III. The people to whom the kingdom is given. Chapters 8-12</p> |
|---|

“The Message of Daniel” by Dale Ralph Davis

Daniel 1.³ Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, ⁴ youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. ⁶ Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. ⁷ And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. ⁸ But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. ⁹ And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, ¹⁰ and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, “I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your

own age? So you would endanger my head with the king.”¹¹ Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,¹² “Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink.¹³ Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see.”¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days.¹⁵ At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's food.¹⁶ So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.¹⁸ At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king.²⁰ And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.²¹ And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.