

The Lord gave him victory over King Jehoiakim of Judah and permitted him to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. ... But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, – Daniel 1:2, 8

It's no easy thing to live a godly life in the midst of an increasingly godless society. But it can be done. Daniel shows us how. He not only survived, he thrived - and changed an entire empire while he was at it.

Daniel and His Circumstances ... Daniel 1:1-21

- I. How bad is Babylon? ... _____ of Evil
Cp. Rev. 17:5-6; 18:2; Isaiah 13:17-20
- II. Who is Nebuchadnezzar? ... _____ Leader
Cp. Daniel 1:1-2; Jeremiah 25:9; 27:6; 43:10; Proverbs 21:1
- III. What about the Culture? ... _____ and _____
Cp. Dan. 1:4, 5; Acts 2:40; 2 Peter 1:4
- IV. What about Daniel's Experience? ...
Cp. 1 Peter 2:19-21; Philippians 2:12-16

Insights into Daniel's Success in a Godless Culture

1. _____ ... God is in _____, of who's in _____.
Cp. Dan. 1:2; Habakkuk 1; Dt. 29:29; Rom. 8:28, 35-39; Mt. 16:18
2. _____ ... Every person deserves _____.
Cp. Dan. 1:8-14; 2:26-30; 6:19-22; 2 Tim. 2:24-26
3. _____ ... Big Difference between what we do not like and what God _____.
Cp. Dan. 1:4-8, 17-20; 6:10; Acts 4:18-20

So What?

Daniel didn't just survive in exile, he thrived and _____ an entire empire while he was at it. ... Matt. 2:1-11; Dan. 9:25; Mic 5:2-4

1. Read Genesis 3:1-6. While we know the story and its consequences, attempt to put yourself in Adam and Eve's shoes. What were they wanting that they did not have? What did the serpent prod them with? Read vs. 5 and 6 from several translations, including the New Living Translation.
2. How have you felt like God was against you? That He was keeping from you something that would have made the situation better? Was that the truth? Why or why not? How did God prove faithful in your circumstance?
3. Read the following verses about the first principle regarding the Sovereignty of God.

Job 42:2	Psalm 115:3	Psalm 135:6-9
Romans 11:33-36	Ephesians 1:11	Revelation 19:6-7

What stands out to you from these verses? Anything bothers you or causes you to struggle?
4. Read Daniel 4:34-35, 37. Prior to these verses, King Nebuchadnezzar had taken credit for the greatness of his kingdom. As a result, God struck him with a kind of insanity that made him think he was a beast of the field. For seven years he lived among the wild animals. When he finally turned his heart to the Lord, his sanity was restored. These verses are how he responded to the Lord after he was turned his heart to the Lord. What stands out to you from these verses? How did he speak of the Lord? What caused Nebuchadnezzar to praise the Lord after 7 years of living like a wild animal?

Appointment with God – Prayer Focus

The disciples confessed ... "I believe; help my unbelief." Mark 9:24
Unbelief cripples us individually and as a Church (I'm speaking about THE Church, not just individual churches). Pray against UNBELIEF!
Ask the Lord to shine His light on us, to convict us, break us, bring us to the place of repentance, and of deeper relationship with Him.

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Daniel and His Circumstances ... Daniel 1:1-21

- I. How bad is Babylon? ... **Personification** of Evil
Cp. Rev. 17:5-6; 18:2; Isaiah 13:17-20
- II. Who is Nebuchadnezzar? ... **Blood Thirsty** Leader
Cp. Daniel 1:1-2; Jeremiah 25:9; 27:6; 43:10; Proverbs 21:1
- III. What about the Culture? ... **Occult** and **Astrology**
Cp. Dan. 1:4, 5; Acts 2:40; 2 Peter 1:4
- IV. What about Daniel's Experience? ...
Cp. 1 Peter 2:19-21; Philippians 2:12-16

Insights into Daniel's Success in a Godless Culture

1. **Hope** ... God is in **Control**, of who's in **Control**.
Cp. Dan. 1:2; Habakkuk 1; Dt. 29:29; Rom. 8:28, 35-39; Mt. 16:18
2. **Humility** ... Every person deserves **Respect**.
Cp. Dan. 1:8-14; 2:26-30; 6:19-22; 2 Tim. 2:24-26
3. **Wisdom** ... Big Difference between what we do not like and what God **Forbids**.
Cp. Dan. 1:4-8, 17-20; 6:10; Acts 4:18-20

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