

Evening Sermon Outline – July 28, 2019

“Dare to Be Like Daniel” Daniel 1

The name Daniel means “God is Judge”

It was appropriate because Israel was judged by God early in Daniel’s life. In 605 BC when Nebuchadnezzar came down upon Jerusalem, Daniel was less than 15 years old.

Daniel is one of the few men in all of Scripture of which nothing bad is said. Tonight, let us learn from Daniel’s life:

I. Daniel was sought after –

1 In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

1. *Nebuchadnezzar sought valuables, gold -*

2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

2. *Nebuchadnezzar sought valuable children –*

A. *These children were captured -*

3 Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king’s descendants and some of the nobles,

B. *These children were the best -*

4 young men in whom *there was* no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand,

C. *These children would be servants / slaves - who had ability to serve in the king’s palace,*

D. *These children were not Nebuchadnezzar’s children, but they would be taught Nebuchadnezzar’s ways -*

and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans.

E. *With good food Nebuchadnezzar sought their hearts -*

5 And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king’s delicacies and of the wine which he drank, and three years of training for them, so that at the end of *that time* they might serve before the king.

6 Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. **7** To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel *the name* Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego. Daniel 1:1-7

Read the rest of Daniel’s Book and we see him continually sought after ... But for his wisdom, for his integrity –

Note too, for a time it seems he is shelved / set aside, rather than sought after...

II. Daniel was single minded –

8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Daniel 1:8

1. *He was an example to and prophesied of others who would be single-minded –*

32 Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*. Daniel 11:32

2. *Even as a young man he had Solomon-like wisdom –*

23 When you sit down to eat with a ruler, Consider carefully what is before you; **2** And put a knife to your throat If you are a man given to appetite. **3** Do not desire his delicacies, For they are deceptive food. Proverbs 23:1-3

He saw Nebuchadnezzar’s design in delicious food ---

Lawful luxuries can lead us a long length from the love of the LORD!

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1 John 2:15-17

As a much older man Daniel saw and understood how passing the things, treasures, kingdoms of this world are –

¹⁶ And I have heard of you, that you can give interpretations and explain enigmas. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple and *have* a chain of gold around your neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom.”

¹⁷ Then Daniel answered, and said before the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; yet I will read the writing to the king, and make known to him the interpretation. Daniel 5:16-17

²⁹ Then Belshazzar gave the command, and they clothed Daniel with purple and *put* a chain of gold around his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.

³⁰ That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. ³¹ And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, *being* about sixty-two years old. Daniel 5:29-31

III. Daniel was successful – 1:9-21

1. *In this circumstance / as a youth / young man -*

⁴⁸ Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise *men* of Babylon. Daniel 2:28

2. *In old age –*

6 It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom one hundred and twenty satraps, to be over the whole kingdom; ² and over these, three governors, of whom Daniel was one, that the satraps might give account to them, so that the king would suffer no loss. ³ Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. Daniel 6:1-3

Read all of chapter 6 and we see Daniel successful:

- *Despite ungodly opposition*

- *Amid trial*
- *Thanks to answered prayer*

Yet Daniel did not seek worldly success – Daniel 5:17

IV. Daniel trusted in God’s sovereign power –

² And the **Lord gave** Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god. Daniel 1:2

Nebuchadnezzar’s taking of Jerusalem not attributed to:

1. *His superior army, skill or strategy*
2. *Satan*
3. *False gods*

⁹ Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. Daniel 1:9

Favor attributed to God, not to – Daniel’s smile, style or personality...

Trusted before he had interpreted Nebuchadnezzar’s dream -

²⁰ Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
For wisdom and might are His.

²¹ And He changes the times and the seasons;
He removes kings and raises up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
And knowledge to those who have understanding. Daniel 2:20-21

Trusted even enough to give the King bad news -

²⁵ They shall drive you from men, your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make you eat grass like oxen. They shall wet you with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses. Daniel 4:25

*Even when thrown himself to the lions -
Daniel 6*

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