

The Book of Daniel
Relentless Faithfulness
Daniel 1:8-21

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Wednesday, 1/17/18
Mid-Week Bible Study Notes

1 - Daniel's _____ (v.8a)

Daniel's decision, while still a youth, to remain faithful to God in a foreign land where the entirety of his life's activities are being directly governed by the most powerful man in the world (cf. vs.3-7), sets the tone for all of the biographical accounts of the four faithful friends.

1a - The Situation of _____

As a general rule, it is God's will for believers, both before and after the cross, to live faithfully and at peace within whatever society and situation we are in (Gen 39:3-4, 21-23; 2 Kings 5:2-3; Jer 29:4-9; 1 Pet 2:11ff; Rom 12:18). In an effort to honor God, these young boys were commanded to do something that was not only foreign, but also forbidden by God (Lev 11:1ff; Acts 21:25; 1 Cor 10:14ff)

1b - The Resolution of _____

Daniel was not alone in this decision, but he apparently was the leader and spokesman for the group of four faithful friends (cf. v.10ff). But when faced with an explicit command to violate God's commands, they made the only decision that was truly an option for them (Acts 5:29).

2 - Daniel's _____ (v.8b-16)

A resolution without follow through is an empty wish. Daniel actively sought out a favorable resolution to the problem posed by the king's food.

2a - Daniel's First Attempt to Be Faithful (vs.8b-10)

Daniel brought his concern straight to Ashpenaz, the primary authority over all of his affairs. While he listened to Daniel and was compassionately disposed to him, Ashpenaz found the personal risk far too high to concede to Daniel's request.

2b - Daniel's Second Attempt to Be Faithful (vs.11-16)

Daniel and his friends were not deterred from faithfulness because of adversity. He now went to another man who had authority over him and proposed a reasonable plan.

3 - God's Faithfulness to the Boys (vs.17-20)

The blessing of the Lord on these young boys was so extraordinary that a dispassionate monarch was impressed. God had given insight to them all and to Daniel a special ability to understand and interpret direct revelation from God.

4 - Daniel's _____ (v.21)

This final verse of this chapter indicates the longevity of Daniel's service to several kings and regents of Babylon. When considering the intrigues and politics of the court, many that are not contained in the book, it is no minor detail to note that God sustained Daniel in that place for so long (cf. Dan 10:1).

A good name proverbs

Action Steps for Living like Daniel in a Hostile World

1 - _____ to Living Peacefully and Maintaining a Good Name (Prov 22:1)

2 - _____ to maintain a regiment of faithfulness to God (cf. Dan 6:10)

3 - _____ you know what the Bible says (i.e. - don't get your primary theology from hearsay, 2nd hand sources, music, etc.) (Dan 9:2; Deut 6:6ff)

4 - _____ to honoring God over man when the two are in conflict (Acts 5:29)

5 - _____ in seeking peaceful resolutions to unavoidable conflicts between faithfulness and citizenship (Dan 1:8b)

6 - _____ in seeking peaceful resolutions when attempts fail (Dan 1:11)

7 - _____ in God, come what may (Dan 1:13, 3:16-18)