



Daniel: A Faithful Life in a Hostile Culture
Daniel 1:8-21
From 8.16.26

Read *Daniel 1:8-21*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: The first of Daniel's confrontations has arrived. We've already seen and discussed that it comes over the simple, almost benign issue of food. But sin and compromise always begin with the small things and grow over time. But Daniel and his friends were ready. They were not blindsided but knew the enemy would be coming for them. they took their stand on the Word of God. In this instance, it works out okay for the young men. We know, in their future, the consequences will be great.

1. What was Daniel's preemptive protection plan? To know the will of God through the Word of God and to make a resolute covenant to not violate God's Commands in even the smallest of things.

1a. When is the best time to prepare for temptation and chances to sin? Long before the situation comes.
See also *Psalms 17:3, Job 31:1, & Galatians 5:16-17*

Also discuss Jesus' admonition to Peter in the Garden. Jesus first warned Peter that great trial was coming and Peter would deny Christ. In the Garden, Peter chose to sleep over praying. Peter had no plan.

2. Unfortunately, when do most address sin and temptation? After the fact. In our guilt. When facing the consequences. For many: never.

2a. Do you know the time, places, people, and situations that most often make you fall into sin?

2b. Who does? Discuss. God and Satan

3. Nebuchadnezzar put his trust in worldly values and virtues. What are some worldly resources even we can falsely trust in or rely on? Various answers. Money, bank accounts, retirement plans, our own wisdom, education, parents, others, the government, ...

4. Discuss the phenomena that local churches fill up with attendance following national/international crisis, only to quickly go back to original numbers.

5. Are we promised deliverance from each and every confrontation with the world/culture? Is it just a matter of faith? No. In fact, we are guaranteed there will be consequences in the world. Vs view of the charismatics.

6. What are we promised? Read each passage and note the promise God has given:

- *Matthew 28:19-20*—We are never alone. Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, is always with us.
- *1 Corinthians 10:13*—Although temptation is inevitable, we will never face more than we can bear.
- *Matthew 10:19*—God's Presence will give us the right words to say to the world.
- *James 1:2-3*—All trials had to pass before God first. They will produce godly growth in us.
- *1 Peter 5:10*—After the trial, God will restore and comfort us.