

# DANIEL

MESSAGE: NATHAN BAIRD

MUSIC: DAN GILLETTE & REBECCA FRENCH

DATE: JULY 3, 2022

**Daniel 1:**  
**"Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself"**

## God's Kingly Judgment on Judah, the Southern Kingdom (see Jer. 20:4b-5, 2 Kings 24:10-16)

- His judgment involves banishment to the "household" of a different god  
*Daniel 1:1b* Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it... **2b** And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.
- Additionally, Judah's best and brightest would now serve a foreign power  
*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...
- Despite appearances, Yahweh is in control of the situation  
*Daniel 1:2a* And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand..

## Despite circumstances, Daniel's pre-determined loyalty to God produced...

...purposeful action

*Daniel 1:8a* But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank.

...bold & persistent action

*Daniel 1:8b* Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself...**11** Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned...

...wise action

*Daniel 1:12* "Test your servants for ten days... **13** and deal with your servants according to what you see."

## God honored Daniel's loyalty by...

...endearing him to his supervisors

*Daniel 1:9* And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs,

...granting him intellectual vitality

*Daniel 1:17* As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom...

...making Daniel his personal spokesman

*Daniel 1: 17b...* and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

...establishing Daniel in the King's confidence

**Daniel 1:20** *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.*

...blessing Daniel with longevity

**Daniel 1:21** *And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.*

### Developing a Daniel-like resolve (1 Peter 1:13-19)

1. **Take stock of who you are and Whom you serve (identity determines your actions)**  
**1 Peter 1:13** *Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded...*
2. **Put all your eggs in the basket of God's promises**  
**1 Peter 1:13b...** *set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
3. **As children of God, don't let circumstances make you live like orphans**  
**1 Peter 1:14** *As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*
4. **Make God's approval and his rewards your sole concern (remember WWPJ?)**  
**1 Peter 1:17** *And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,*
5. **Act in light of the value God placed on you to rescue you to Eternal Life**  
**1 Peter 1:18** *knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ...*

### Reflection/Discussion

1. Read through Daniel 1 and take note of God's choices and Daniel's choices. How are these related?
2. Reflect on our current cultural environment. What are some clues that you are not "at home" as a follower of Jesus?
3. Think of a past experience or upcoming encounter where your loyalty to Jesus may be put to the test. Practice applying the 5 action-steps from 1 Peter 1:13-19 to your situation. (Don't forget what we learned about Beholding and asking WWPJ from 2 Cor. 2-5)!

### SONGS

"WE PRAISE YOU" - Brandon Lake, Brian Johnson, Matt Redman, and Phil Wickham

"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS" - Thomas Obediah Chisholm, William Marion Runyan

"BE ENTHRONED" - Brian Johnson, Hunter Thompson, Jeremy Riddle, and Kalley Heiligenthal

"BEFORE THE THRONE OF GOD ABOVE" - Charitie Lees Smith

### BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$ 21,473.86

WEEKLY NEED: \$ 36,093.00

Y-T-D GIVING: \$853,460.62

Y-T-D GENERAL NEED: \$938,418.00