

HOPE FOR THE WORLD: Daniel's Resolution

Daniel 1:8-16

Introduction

When Daniel and his friends were taken as hostages by Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel and his friends were determined to live their lives being faithful to their identity as children of God and not compromise their beliefs. How do they do this? They are certain their God, the God of all Gods, is the same one they worshiped back in Jerusalem. God had not changed, even though their circumstances had changed immensely. God was still God, God still loved them, and God would be faithful to them – they knew God could be in control even though there were immense cultural, political, and spiritual changes in their world.

Though this story is 2,500 years old, the message is very contemporary. Daniel serves as an excellent model for us. We are going to look at two characteristics of Daniel we can surmise from this passage that were foundational to the strong resolution he and his friends were able to possess.

I. FAITH COMMITMENT (v. 8ff)

II. HUMILITY (vv. 11-13)

1 Peter 2:23 *“When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but committed Himself to His who judges righteously.”*

III. THE RESULT

HOPE FOR THE WORLD: A Study of Daniel

I. The Narratives (chapters 1-6)

Ch. 1: God's Vindication of Daniel and His friends for their faithfulness

Ch. 2: Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream

Ch. 3: God's deliverance of Daniel's friends from the fiery furnace

Ch. 4: God's Judgment/Restoration of Nebuchadnezzar

Ch. 5: God's judgment on Belchassar

Ch. 6: God's deliverance of Daniel from the lion's den

II. Daniel's Visions (chapters 7-12)

Ch. 7: Vision of the 4 Beasts & establishment of God's Kingdom

Ch. 8: Visions of the ram and the goat

Ch. 9: Vision of the 70 weeks

- *Daniel's prayer (vv. 1-19)*

- *God's answer (vv. 20-27)*

Chs. 10-12: Vision of the angel and the future history of God's people

- *The angel's message to Daniel (10:1-11:1)*

- *History from Daniel to Antiochus IV Epiphenes (11:2-20)*

- *The rule of Antiochus IV Epiphenes (11:21-35)*

- *The rule of the antichrist (11:36-12:3)*

- *A final message to Daniel: How long? (12:4-13)*

**(from the Reformation Study Bible)*

Historical Timeline of Israel

1010-970 BC	King David rules over the united kingdom
970-930 BC	King Solomon rules over the united kingdom
966 BC	The temple of the Lord is dedicated in Jerusalem
930 BC	The kingdom of Israel is divided into North & South
740-681 BC	Isaiah warns of the coming judgment against Israel
722 BC	Fall of the Northern Kingdom (<i>Isaiah dies: 681 BC</i>)
626-585 BC	Jeremiah warns of coming judgment against Judah
606 BC	Daniel taken captive to Babylon
597 BC	Ezekiel taken captive to Babylon
586 BC	Fall of the Southern Kingdom (<i>Jeremiah dies: 585 BC</i>)
539 BC	Fall of Babylon to the Persians
536 BC	Cyrus decrees that the Jews can return to Jerusalem (70 years of exile)
530 BC	Daniel dies
516 BC	Temple rebuilt (70 years after its destruction)