

Daniel: Living Faithfully in an Ungodly World

Greg Wendschlag November 24, 2019

Bible-First Lifestyle reading: Jn. 19-21; Daniel 1-12; 1 Thess. 1-2; Ps. 142-147

Context of Daniel

- The Hebrews are taken captive because of their disobedience to God.
- Jerusalem and the Holy Temple are destroyed.
- God is discredited in the eyes of pagan nations as weaker than their gods.
- Daniel and his friends are faithful to God who reveals His mighty power leading the pagan kings to acknowledge Yahweh as the one true God.

The Uniqueness of Daniel

- Written by Daniel in Babylonian captivity.
- Some of the Bible's most beloved stories are found in Daniel.
- Daniel is the Old Testament companion book to the Revelation.
- Daniel's prophecies are referenced more than any other prophet.
- Daniel has the most detailed and specific end times prophecies in the Bible outside of the Revelation.
- Daniel has the most unique picture of the spirit realm and spiritual warfare.

How to live faithfully in an ungodly world.

1. Devote yourself to **prayer**.

"Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to God, just as he had done before." Dan. 6:10

"I, Daniel....turned to the Lord God and pleaded with Him in prayer and petition, in fasting and in sackcloth and ashes." Dan. 9:2-3

"At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food, no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over." Dan. 10:2-3

2. Live a life of **integrity**.

"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way." Dan. 1:8

"The king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next 30 days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lion's den...King Darius put the decree in writing. When Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem...and prayed...just as he had done before." Dan. 6:1-10

3. Fear **God** and you will fear **no man**.

“O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and He will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if He does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” Dan. 3:16-18

4. Your goal is the **long obedience**.

Daniel served under four pagan kings: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus. Yet he remained constant in all faithfulness toward the Lord.

“Again the one who looked like a man touched me and gave me strength. “Do not be afraid, O man highly esteemed,” he said. “Peace! Be strong now; be strong.” Dan. 10:18-19