

STANDING STRONG IN A WAYWORD WORLD

(Daniel 1)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The location, timing, and setting of the book of Daniel:
- B. Daniel was in a place of judgement for his people but would see it as opportunity:

II. A NEW WORLD AND PLACE WHERE FAITH WOULD BE CHALLENGED: (*Daniel 1:1-21*)

A. The seduction of Babylon: (*vs. 1-7*)

- 1. Physical isolation: (*v. 6*)
- 2. Mental indoctrination: (*v. 3*)
- 3. Identity Alteration: (*v. 7*)
 - Daniel ("God is my judge") became Belteshazzar ("Bel protect his life")
 - Hananiah ("The Lord is gracious") became Shadrach ("Command of Aku")
 - Mishaël ("Who is what God is?") became Meshach ("Who is what Aku is?")
 - Azariah ("The Lord helps") became Abednego ("Servant of Nego")
- 4. Physical Alteration

B. Daniel's resolve and conviction: (*v. 8*)

- 1. Inward conviction: He purposed in his heart
- 2. Spiritual definition: A view of delicacies as defilement
- 3. Daniel's response to his authority: He asked permission
- 4. Daniel's devotion: A life of integrity that didn't take in account who was watching

C. Daniel's faithfulness rewarded: (*vs. 9-21*)

- 1. Influence: (*v. 9*)
- 2. Insight: (*vs. 17-21*)
- 3. Interpretation: (*chapter 2*)
- 4. Would serve multiple kingdoms: (*v. 21*)

II. APPLICATIONS:

- A. Develop the conviction to say no so that you will have the occasion to say yes, whenever you close the door of defilement, you open the door of development.
- B. When we understand that God is with us in every situation and we have a genuine relationship with Him then we have no double life where we live one way in private and a whole other way in public, which we could call religion over relationship.

I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.

My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudit, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer and labor by power.

My pace is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road is narrow. My way is rough. My companions few. My guide is reliable and my mission is clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I've stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give 'till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He'll have no problem recognizing me. My banner will be clear!

“Written by a missionary to Zimbabwe who was martyred for his faith”