

Hunger & Thirst Devotions_ Denise_ #5

Hello, I'm Pastor Denise and I am so grateful that you have continued this journey with us as we have ventured to know Him and His ways even more in 2024. We are living in ever changing times and if we are not careful, instead of us being change agents in the world around us, we can find ourselves being changed by the world. As God's people we need to possess a resolve that empowers our love to be steadfast and true. The word of God features both men and women who in the face of adversity continued to walk righteously before the Lord.

In Daniel 6:3, it says... *Then this Daniel was distinguished above the presidents and the satraps because an excellent spirit was in him, and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.*

As a young man, Daniel's homeland was overtaken by those who had conquered the land. He was chosen amongst many children to be trained and tutored in the king's house. Even as a young man in a new world, he held tightly to his love for God and to his religious beliefs and cultural roots. As a result, the Lord's hand rested upon Daniel, and he grew in wisdom and favor. But it was Daniel's righteous character coupled with his giftings that positioned him for greatness even in a foreign land.

But, not all of Daniel's peers and co-workers were excited about Daniel rising to the top. They tried to find fault with him in his character and in his work and *they could not*. They tried to find fault with him in his faith. In their efforts they encouraged the king to establish a law that prohibited praying to any other but the king. *But Daniel's true character and faith was revealed in his darkest hour that brought light to the whole land.*

Daniel 6:4-10 *Even though Daniel knew that the new law had been written, he went to pray in an upstairs room in his house, which had windows that opened toward Jerusalem. Three times each day Daniel would kneel down to pray and thank God, just as he always had done.*

David, in a defining moment in his life made a decision to "forsake all to live righteously before the Lord. He chose to forsake all that the world had to offer to stay true to his God. He did not back off amid the challenge, although it could cost him his life. He simply committed to trust God during the trouble. David's confidence and trust in God did not fail him, as the Lord protected Daniel from the mouth of the lions. (Daniel 6:22)

Ultimately Daniel's decision not only impacted him but influenced the world around him.

Daniel 6:25-27 *Then King Darius wrote to all peoples, nations, and languages [in his realm] that dwelt in all the earth: May peace be multiplied to you!*

I make a decree that in all my royal dominion men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for He is the living God, enduring and steadfast forever, and His kingdom

shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall be even to the end [of the world]. He is a Savior and Deliverer, and He works signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth—He Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

We are living in a defining hour. Let us arise in the midst of opposition and become a people who possess the spirit of Daniel. Let us be a people whose righteous decisions define the moment, while influencing the world around us. If we do, then we will be a people willing to “*forsake all*” because we trust Him.

Heavenly Father, strengthen us as we choose in the midst of an unrighteous world to live righteously loyal to you and your ways. Grant us the character and integrity of Daniel who did not hide his love in the midst of adversity. Cause our lives, to reflect you and your greatness in a loving yet courageous manner, so that all men will be drawn to you and your redemptive love. In Jesus Name Amen