

Series: Daniel: Life in Exile

Text: Daniel 1:1-21

Main Idea: God is faithful, so live faithfully.

Title/Hook: The Bible Hero

Date: 1/8/23

Purpose: To exhort Christians to live faithfully in the world because God is sovereign over all things and is faithful to give grace and mercy and help in the time of need.

FCF/COR: We live in this world as exiles, strangers, and aliens, longing for our true home but called to live faithfully in exile, knowing God is faithful.

Christ Trajectory: Where is God in the evil and the exile? He is in all of it, sovereignly working out his redemptive plan, which culminated in Christ's saving work. (Acts 4:27-31). We have not lived faithfully like Daniel, not perfectly, but Jesus did and His righteousness has been credited to us (2 Cor. 5:21), so because of His faithfulness we now strive to live faithfully by His strength.

Structure: Deductive (half at beginning, full at end)

Outline:

Main Idea:

Subject (What is the passage about?): What happened when Daniel resolved to not defile himself with the king's food?

Complement (What does the passage say about the subject?): God gave Daniel favor with the chief eunuch and with the king.

Exegetical Main Idea: As Daniel resolved to not defile himself with the king's food God was faithful to give him favor with the chief eunuch and the king.

Theological Main Idea: God is faithful to his people as they obey Him in the face of opposing cultures and customs.

Homiletical Main Idea: God is faithful, so live faithfully.

Outline:

Text: Daniel 1:1-21

Main Idea: God is faithful...

- 1. God gave his people over to Nebuchadnezzar because of their sin (vv. 1-2)**

Deuteronomy 28:47-50 - ⁴⁷ Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joyfulness and gladness of heart, because of the abundance of all things, ⁴⁸ therefore you shall serve your enemies whom the Lord will send against you, in hunger and thirst, in nakedness, and lacking everything. And he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until he has destroyed you. ⁴⁹ The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, a nation whose language you do not understand, ⁵⁰ a hard-faced nation who shall not respect the old or show mercy to the young.

Jeremiah 25:8-9 - ⁸ “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: Because you have not obeyed my words, ⁹ behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the Lord, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation.

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- 2. God gave Daniel favor with Ashpenaz and blessed his obedience (vv. 3-16)**

All of these names on one slide please!

Daniel – “God is my judge”
Belteshazzar – “Bel, protect his life!”

Hananiah - “Yahweh is gracious”
Shadrach – “Command of Aku” (moon god)

Mishael – “who is what God is?”
Meshach – “Who is what Aku is?”

Azariah – “Yahweh has helped.”
Abednego – “Servant of Nebo”

Main Idea: God is faithful...

3. God gave Daniel and his friends wisdom and skill and favor with Nebuchadnezzar (vv. 8-21)

Main Idea: God is faithful...

Acts 4:27-28 - ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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Romans 12:1-2 - ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

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Quote – Iain Duguid – “If the Lord could keep these young men faithful to him in their situation, then he is surely able to keep us faithful to him in our much lesser trials and difficulties. No matter how overwhelming our situation may seem, God is able to keep us through it. It is his work from beginning to end, and he will do it.”

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