



The Book of Daniel - Part 2

The Marks of a Shifting Culture

Daniel 1:1-6 (NIV) In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god. Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service. Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

Daniel 1:7 (NIV) The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

1. Confuse our _____.

_____ : "God is my judge"

_____ : "Lady, protect the King"

_____ : "Yahweh has been gracious"

_____ : "I am fearful of God"

_____ : "Who is what God is?"

_____ : "I am despised, contemptible & humiliated."

_____ : "Yahweh has helped"

_____ : "Servant of Nebo"

When culture shifts, we must know _____ .

Jeremiah 1:5 (NIV) "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart..."

Daniel 1:5 (NIV) The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table...

Daniel 1:8 (NIV) 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.

2. Compromise our _____.

When culture shifts, we must know what we _____ .

Joshua 24:14-15 (NIV) "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Daniel 1:9-14 (NIV) Now God had caused the official to show favor and sympathy to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you." Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." So, he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

3. Test our _____.

When culture shifts, we must _____ firm.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NIV) Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love.

Stand Firm

1. Stand in _____ .

Ephesians 6:11-14 (NIV) Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore, put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then...

2. Stand for the _____ of the Lord.

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3. Stand for _____ .

Matthew 10:32 (NIV) "Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven."

Matthew 10:32 (MSG) "Stand up for me against world opinion and I'll stand up for you before my Father in heaven."

Colossians 3:1 (NIV) ...where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Acts 7:55-56 (NIV) But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

When I stand, Jesus _____ with me.

Daniel 1:15-20 (NIV) At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So, the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead. To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. At the end of the time set by the king to bring them in, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.