

## **Lesson 8: Daniel**

Standing Firm in Babylon: Living with Courageous Faith in a Godless Culture

### **Lesson 8 Summary:**

Lesson 8 explores the life of Daniel as a model for Christians living in a culture that opposes God's values. Drawing from Daniel chapter 1, Benyon emphasizes how Daniel maintained his faith while in exile in Babylon, a godless nation. This lesson highlights three key patterns in Daniel's life: fully depending on God, faithfully following through obedience, and finding favor as a result. Benyon draws parallels between Babylon and modern culture, showing how Satan strategically attacks believers' identity through education, customs, and cultural pressure. Despite being taken captive as a teenager, Daniel refused to compromise his faith even in small matters like dietary laws, which positioned him for greater influence later. This lesson challenges believers to remain faithful regardless of their circumstances, recognizing that their citizenship is in God's kingdom, not this world. Daniel's unwavering commitment in private moments of testing prepared him for public displays of faith that would glorify God before entire nations.

### **Key Points:**

- God is sovereign over kings, nations, and all human plans
- Daniel lived as a citizen of God's kingdom while in exile, remaining set apart yet influential
- Satan's strategy is to alter our identity to destroy our eternity, just as he changed the names and customs of Daniel and his friends
- The name changes represented attacks on their worship, masculinity, self-worth, and allegiance to God
- Daniel drew his first line in the sand over food because it represented partnering with false gods and compromising his purity
- Faithfulness in small, private moments positions us for greater kingdom impact in public moments
- Daniel fully depended on God for protection, provision, and satisfaction
- Obedience in seemingly small matters led to Daniel being ten times more capable than others and gaining royal favor

- We are called to use our God-given favor and gifts for His kingdom, regardless of the size of our platform
- The pattern of depending on God, faithfully following, and finding favor repeated throughout Daniel's entire life

### **Scripture Reference:**

- Daniel 1:1-21 (primary focus)
- Hebrews 13:14
- 1 John 2:16
- John 10:10
- Luke 16:10

### **Stories:**

- The historical account of Daniel and his three friends (Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah) being taken captive by Babylon around 605 BC
- Daniel's refusal to eat the king's food and his request for a ten-day test with vegetables and water
- The name changes imposed on Daniel (to Belteshazzar), Hananiah (to Shadrach), Mishael (to Meshach), and Azariah (to Abednego) and their significance
- Reference to the movie "Hook" (1991) as an illustration of how the enemy tries to steal affection and change identity
- Brief references to other Daniel stories: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3), Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6), and the writing on the wall (Daniel 5)
- Daniel's continued faithful service from King Nebuchadnezzar through King Cyrus, spanning his entire lifetime