

Daniel – Introduction and Chapter 1 (13 Jan 2013)

Introduction –The Book of Daniel will teach us 3 things about the purpose for having a chosen people called Israel from looking at their past, present and their future.

1. The 1st thing to learn about their purpose is learned by looking at Israel's past.

a. Why did God establish Israel, a nation, a chosen people for Himself?

- i. To bring the Bible (His standard, His love, His purpose)
- ii. To bring the Savior, the perfect God-man.
- iii. To become examples for all people to learn from.

b. They were chosen by the election of grace

- i. Romans 11:5
- ii. Just like Noah was chosen, just like we were chosen.

c. General History of Israel Outline

d. Manna – Why did God establish you?

- i. To bring the Bible to a lost world
- ii. To bring the Savior to a lost world
- iii. To be an example to a lost world.

2. The 2nd thing to learn about their purpose is learned by looking at Israel's present circumstances.

a. Why is God now expelling them from the land & blessing?

- i. For Idolatry
 - 1. II Kings 17:7-20
 - 2. II Chr 36:14-16

- ii. For not letting the land have its rest.
 - 1. II Chr 36:16:21
 - 2. Lev 25:2-7, 26:33-36
- b. Still servants of God in Israel, but nation as a whole will suffer b/c of their leaders.
 - i. Daniel will be bless and become a president.
 - ii. Jesus called Daniel a prophet.
 - iii. **Manna** – We can still be blessed of God even if our leaders bring us as a nation under God’s judgment.
- c. **Manna** - Why would God expel you or me from our land of blessings?
 - i. For Idolatry
 - 1. Do I have idols? What is the master passion of my life?
 - 2. What if we have to decide between this or that? Who wins?
 - ii. For not letting our land have its rest
 - 1. Are we letting God work at His whim or is it only our plans that matter?
 - 2. Nothing in our Christian lives should be like earning our way to God. The path is complete already.
 - a. Don’t have to keep Bible reading at YOUR pace just b/ YOU’VE set it that way.
 - b. Don’t have to come to church, b/c if you don’t that person will notice and give you hard time.

3. The 3rd thing to learn about their purpose is learned by looking at Israel's future thru the eyes of Daniel.

a. What will God do with this sinful nation of His?

i. He will continue to use those who turn back to Him to show forth His grace, truth and love.

1. Rom 11:1-7

ii. He will continue to use them to show forth His global plan for the ages.

1. Use 'Daniel, Revelation Comparison Timeline'

b. Manna – What will God do with us sinful people of His?

i. He will continue to use those who turn back to Him.

1. Read I Peter 2:9

2. Read Jam 4:8-10

ii. He will continue to use them to show forth His global plan for the ages.

1. Read I Peter 2:9

2. Read Eph 3:20-21

Conclusion – So the Book of Daniel will teach us 3 things about the purpose for having a chosen people called Israel, **and maybe something about ourselves**, from looking at:

1. Why God established a nation

2. Why He expelled that nation

3. What great future He has planned for this sinful nation

Daniel Chapter 1 - presents to us 5 steps to allowing God to use us in a sinful society.

1. Vs 1

- a. Nebuchadnezzar sent by his father Nebopolassar.
 - i. Sent to destroy Egypt at Carchemish.
 - ii. Called back at the death of his father.
- b. 3 sieges and deportations; 605BC, 597BC and 586BC
- c. This one is the first in 605BC when Daniel is taken.

2. Vs 2

- a. Usually took their enemies gods...but Israel had none.
- b. Read 2 Kings 20:12-21, repeated in Isa 39:1-8
 - i. God never fails on His promises.
 - ii. **1st Step: Don't let your relationships be too close with unbelievers. Don't be unequally yoked.**

3. Vs 3-4

- a. Eunuch – could mean one who is castrated or just an official in general.
- b. Intentional indoctrination – by the bad guys targeting the children.
 - i. This is still Satan's plan today
 - ii. *"So I would teach evolution very early in childhood. I don't think it's all that difficult to do. It's a very simple idea. One could do it with the aid of computer games and things like that. I think it needs serious attention, that children should be taught where they come from, what life is all about, how it started, why it's there, why there's such diversity of it, why it looks designed. These are all things that can easily be explained to a pretty young child. I'd start at the age of about 7 or 8."*
 - iii. Ah, but Satan is messin' with someone a bit different
 - 1. 7 times this book speaks of Daniel's wisdom.

2. He's sold out to God

4. Vs 5-8

- a. Purposed in his heart to not defile himself (vs 8)
 - i. Israel had laws about foods (not to eat, how to eat from Leviticus 11) Why?
 - 1. To keep a national / religious identity
 - 2. To distinguish between clean and unclean.
 - a. For health - don't eat the blood – cook it out.
 - b. To be a picture of Jews and Gentiles
 - i. Jesus had the Spirit solve this in Acts 10.
- b. **2nd Step: Take a stand when God presents an opportunity to you, don't defile yourself.**
 - i. **We say, "Oh I haven't defiled myself", but...**
 - 1. **Have we dined at the TV table of sex or worldly allure as we flip thru the channels?**
 - 2. **Have we dined at the materialism table to fit into this world?**
- c. Daniel Purposed in his heart to bring God into everything.
 - i. The world may treat you well...but at what cost.
 - 1. Gain the whole world and loss your own soul?
 - 2. Have everyone love you and never be a servant to God?

5. Vs 9-10

- a. Notice the wisdom of Daniel....he 'requested of the prince' in vs 8.

i. He didn't demand and yell, "I'm serving God and you can die for all I care."

ii. **3rd Step: Be likeable; don't treat them as 2nd class.**

1. **Daniel stood for his beliefs AND was likeable.**

a. **Sometime we might think we can only have one or the other...not so.**

b. Daniel had a great relationship with this unbeliever.

i. **4th Step: Build relationships; be Christ to them**

1. **How many unbelievers do we have in our lives that we're showing a Christian example to? How's our relationship with them.**

c. Endanger my head – vs 10 – in the original Hebrew this is the word cccccuuuuuullllllccc!

i. He such a good relationship with Daniel that he was trying to work this out with him.

6. Vs 11-16

a. Pulse – Things grown from seeds, vegetables.

b. Daniel had faith that God's law and ways and God Himself wouldn't let them down.

i. This is what it means to live as a believer in an unbelieving world.

ii. **5th Step: Be a person who walks by faith**

1. **It was needed by Daniel and it's needed by us!**

7. Vs 17-21

a. God gave them... in the vs 17

i. Notice also in vs 9 'God brought Daniel into favour...'

- ii. We have to remember to speak this way.
 - 1. Give the glory to God.
 - 2. We are not self-made people, God made us into who we are.
 - a. Eph 2:10 – *'poema'*
 - b. Joseph said, "It's not in me, but God will give you an answer."
- iii. **Manna – We can have a horribly corrupt nation around us, but still be being blessed by God individually.**
 - 1. **We can only decide for ourselves...but that's what makes all the different.**

So here are the 5 steps to allowing God to use us in a sinful society:

- 1. Don't let your relationships be too close with unbelievers.
- 2. Take a stand when God presents a change, don't defile yourself.
- 3. Be likeable; don't treat them like 2nd class citizens.
- 4. Build relationships; be Christ to them.
- 5. Be a person who walks by faith.