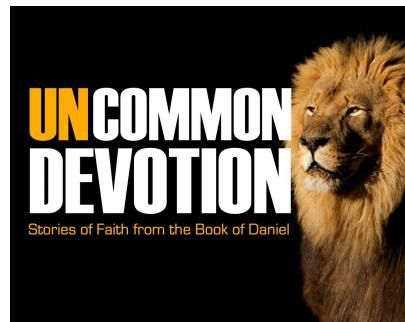


# SEQUOIA NOTES

## Today's Sequoia Message...

### Devoted to the God Who Gives Life

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor  
January 11, 2026



**How do you remain faithful when you're living in a world that doesn't honour God as King & even pressures you to abandon Him?**

Daniel 1:1-21

**What do you go to for satisfaction? Where do you look for fulfillment?**

- **Devotion begins with a decision.**

v.8 "But Daniel was determined not to defile himself..."

Jesus says, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again." (John 6:35)

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NASB) "...let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

- **God works for those who are devoted to Him.**

v. 15 "At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king."

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NLT) "The eyes of the LORD search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him."

- **God empowers those devoted to Him with gifts & opportunity.**

v. 17 "God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams."

v. 20 "Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found them ten times more capable than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom."

**Big Idea: Devotion is rooted in a settled decision about who will sustain your life.**

- **Identify what you are tempted to rely on for satisfaction.**

- **Make a clear decision about who you will trust to sustain you.**

- **Practice spiritual rhythms to re-orient your hunger towards Jesus.**

Jesus says, "I am the Bread of Life."



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we live out our identity as a Family of Servants on Mission.**  
To get plugged in email:  
[impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org](mailto:impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org)

**Devoted to the God Who Gives Life**  
**#1 of 7 - January 11, 2026**

### **Context**

- 1) Daniel and his friends are living in exile, immersed in a culture designed to reshape their identity and loyalty. What kinds of pressures do you notice Babylon placing on these young men (education, names, food, future)? Where do you see similar pressures at work in our culture today?
- 2) Daniel 1:2 says *“The Lord gave him victory...”* even though Jerusalem was defeated. What does this verse tell us about God’s rule when circumstances seem to say otherwise?

### **Observation**

- 3) Verse 8 says, “Daniel was determined not to defile himself...” What stands out to you about the timing of Daniel’s decision? What does the text suggest about how conviction is formed before pressure intensifies?
- 4) Daniel doesn’t protest loudly; he proposes a test. What do you observe about Daniel’s posture toward authority, conflict, and faithfulness?

### **Meaning**

- 5) Devotion begins with a decision about who will sustain you. How does this connect to Jesus’ words, *“I am the Bread of Life”* (John 6:35)?
- 6) Verses 9, 17, and 20 repeatedly show God acting on behalf of Daniel and his friends. What does this passage teach us about the relationship between human devotion and God’s empowering work?

### **Application**

- 7) The sermon asks: What do you go to for satisfaction? What are some subtle or socially acceptable “Babylonian foods” we are tempted to rely on for fulfillment today?
- 8) Daniel didn’t decide under pressure—he decided beforehand. What is one area of your life where God may be inviting you to make a settled decision rather than a situational one?
- 9) Hebrews 12 calls us to fix our eyes on Jesus and run with endurance. What spiritual rhythms or practices help you re-orient your hunger toward Jesus when culture pulls you in another direction?



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