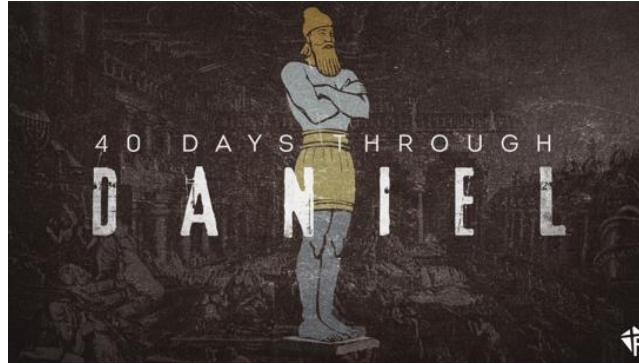


Fellowship Notes



Introduction – Daniel 1:1-7

Introduction

The book of Daniel is the only apocalyptic book in the entire Old Testament. The word “apocalyptic” means *revelation or uncovering of something hidden*. Daniel is the Old Testament equivalent of Revelation (The book of Revelation is the only apocalyptic book in the N.T.). Studying these two books helps us get a clearer understanding of end-times events.

Keys to Understanding the Book of Daniel:

1. The theme of the book: the _____ of God (Dan. 1:2, 4:25).
Definition: “the exercise or rule of His creation”. All things are under God’s rule and control and nothing happens without His direction or permission.
2. Some things in the book are _____ (hidden away).
3. Daniel’s main focus is _____. In his day the church is still hundreds of years in the future.
4. What Daniel prophesies about the end times is often explained by other books in the Bible, particularly _____.

Background:

King David Rules over Israel	Temple is dedicated under Solomon	Kingdom divided into North & South	Isaiah warns of God’s judgment against His people	Fall of Northern Kingdom	Jeremiah warns of God’s judgment against Judah	Daniel taken captive	Fall of Southern Kingdom	Daniel dies
1010-970 B.C.	966 B.C.	930 B. C.	740-681 B. C.	722 B. C.	626-585 B. C.	605 B.C.	586 B. C.	530 B.C.
			Assyria reigns as the dominant world power		Babylon defeats Assyria and assumes power (612)	Babylon besieges Jerusalem	Jerusalem destroyed	

God made a covenant with the Israelites when Moses led them out of Egypt. If they would obey and serve Him, He would bless them; if they failed to follow Him they would be destroyed as a nation. By Daniel’s day only a few people were obeying God in spite of multiple prophets sent by God to remind them and warn them to repent (See Exodus 19:5-8; Jer. 25:8-11; 36:30-31). The book of Daniel begins around 605 B.C. when Daniel and his friends are forcibly taken as refugees to live in Babylon. Daniel was a member of the royal family and was approximately 15 at the time of his capture.

When Coming Face-to-Face With Compromise (1:1-7)

“Uncompromising” - *making no concessions; unyielding; showing an unwillingness to change one’s ways or opinions.*

Like Daniel...

1. Be uncompromising when facing the pressure to change your _____ (1:4).
2. Be uncompromising when facing the pressure to change your _____ (1:5, 8).
3. Be uncompromising when facing the pressure to change your _____ (1:6-7).

For Next Sunday:

Read and study Daniel 1:1 – 2:30 using the study notes found in the *40 Days Through Daniel* book. Don’t have one? You can purchase one in Fellowship Café for a donation of \$10.

For Further Study – In the Tower at the Welcome Center

Understanding the Times Newsletter: The Great Reset: Hiding in Plain Sight



Growth Group Notes

Getting Started

Quick Review: Look back over the Sunday morning sermon notes. What did you learn about the historical background and setting for the book of Daniel?

Daniel lived uncompromisingly in the midst of an evil Babylonian culture. What are some pressures we face in today's world that can make it hard to live a faithful Christian life?

Digging Deeper

1. Let's discuss further the current events of Daniel's day and the situation he found himself in. Read 1:1-2 then discuss the following...

What do we learn has happened to Jerusalem and the temple? What's the significance of the temple and how would these events have impacted Daniel and all the Jews of his day?

What would be the practical conclusion of people in that day when they realized the sacred articles of God's temple were being transferred to a temple in Babylon? In other words, what would they be thinking about God?

Could it be true that according to verse 2 God seemingly engineered His own defeat and the defeat of the capital city of His people, the Jews? (Read Isaiah 39:6-7; Jeremiah 25:8-11)

Why did this happen to God's people? (Jer. 25:8)

Read Daniel 1:7.

Daniel and his three friends had their names changed. Here's a chart detailing their old names and their new names and the meanings of both:

<u>Hebrew Name</u>	<u>Hebrew Meaning</u>	<u>Babylonian Name</u>	<u>Babylonian Meaning</u>
Daniel	God is my judge	Beltshazzar	Keeper of the treasures of Bel (the Babylonian god)
Hananiah	God is gracious	Shadrach	Illuminated by Shad (a sun god)
Mishael	Who is like God?	Meshach	Who is like Shach? (a love goddess)
Azariah	God is my helper	Abednego	The servant of Nego (a fire god)

What was the purpose of their original names? Of their new names?

What was the purpose of changing their names?

2. Living an uncompromising life in the midst of a culture that every day is taunting us and tempting us to compromise our biblical beliefs and standards can be daunting and maybe even fearful.

Jesus recognized that the twelve disciples would face some serious fears after He was gone. What hope did Jesus give them in the following verses?

John 14:1, 26-27

John 16:33

What hope does Paul also give us in Romans 8:38-39 to live an uncompromising life?

3. What are some things found in the following verses that can help us when it comes to not letting the world's pressure change our thinking, our way of living and our worship?

Psalm 119:9-11

Romans 12:1-2

James 1:22-24

Wrapping Up

Looking back at this first study in our Daniel Series, what point or verse is most important for you to remember in order for you to continue to live an uncompromising life for Jesus Christ?