

Keeping Pure in the Face of Adversity



MEMORY VERSE: “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Romans 12:2

DAY 1

DANIEL 1:1-4 — Nebuchadnezzar Conquers Jerusalem

1. Who wins the battle between Judah and Babylon? Why? vv.1-2

2. Why would God allow His chosen people, the Israelites, to be taken captive by their enemies? Refer to Deuteronomy 28:1,7,15, 25.

3. Read verse 2. Why do you think God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to take sacred objects from the temple to Babylon?

4. Whom did King Nebuchadnezzar order brought to him? What were these young men to be taught? vv. 3-4

DAY 2

DANIEL 2:5-7 — Daniel’s Training in Babylon

5. What did the king assign them a daily ration of? How long were these teenagers to be trained/educated? v. 5

6. Name the four main young men (14-16 year-old-teenagers) and the new name that was given to each. vv. 6-7 Why do you think the king changed their names?

7. All of the young men's lives dramatically changed through no fault of their own. How might these captives felt towards Babylon and even towards God?

DAY 3 DANIEL 2:8-16 — Daniel's Decision to Be Faithful

8. What does Daniel ask permission for? Why? v. 8

9. What does God grant Daniel? What was the chief of staff afraid of? vv. 9-10

10. What did Daniel ask him to do? What happened after 10 days? vv. 11-15
Why do you think they were healthier?

11. How do you handle the pressure to compromise? Do you think it is easier to say no to temptation if you have already committed to say no? Why?

DAY 4 DANIEL 1:17-21 — Daniel in King Nebuchadnezzar's Court

12. What did God give these four young men? v. 17

13. What happened when they were presented to King Nebuchadnezzar? What happened when the king consulted them? vv. 18-20

14. Instead of being changed, Daniel and his friends did the changing! What can you learn from this?

DAY 5 DANIEL 1 – Wrap Up

15. Give some examples of how you are pressured by your culture in ways that oppose God.

16. Daniel found a way to live by God's standards in a culture that did not honor God. What can you learn from the way Daniel handled the situation?

17. What does Romans 12:1-2 reveal about resisting the pressures to conform to the world?

TAKE AWAY

Don't allow your values to be shaped by the culture. Make a list of temptations you are determined and committed to not compromise. Pray, as Daniel did, that our God will provide exactly what you need when you need it. Trust Him!

BLESSING

Daniel dared to be different. Dare to be like Daniel! God is with you. Stand for the truths in His Word.

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Daniel, along with a number of other Hebrew teenagers, were captives held hostage in Babylon.

We are not told about the attitudes and actions of any of the other Hebrew hostages, but it is probably safe to assume they did not respond the way Daniel and his friends did.

For Daniel and his friends, it required commitment and perseverance along with . divine strength and supernatural motivation.

As a result of their actions, Daniel and his three friends are given wisdom which far surpasses that of all the others in Babylon, whether Jew or Gentile.

Daniel is a great example of integrity and witness among a culture that does not honor God. As you study Daniel, consider how God will use you each day as He did Daniel, miraculously and boldly in your culture.

Notes
