

**DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN**

Daniel 1:12-16

## INTRODUCTION

- A. Daniel was a great man, one from whom we can learn many lessons.
- B. Daniel played an important role in the Babylonian and Medo-Persian empires, both world kingdoms.
- C. We shall approach this study from Daniel's youth; some of his accomplishments; and Daniel's experience in the lion's den. Daniel chapters one, two, five and six shall be our primary focus.

## DISCUSSION

## I. DANIEL THE YOUTH.

- A. Daniel possessed great conviction. DA 1:12-16
  - 1. V. 12 Daniel proposes a 10 day controlled experiment.
  - 2. V. 13 His request was fair and reasonable from a human standpoint. This was a direct expression of Daniel's trust and devotion to the Living God.
  - 3. V. 14 Ten days are granted.
  - 4. V. 15 In this matter God's providential intervention is seen, otherwise 10 days on a simple vegetable diet would not likely bring forth such observable appearances in physical growth and development of these 4 young men.
  - 5. V. 16 For the believer in God there are 3 areas of morality.
    - a. That which is always right.
    - b. That which is always wrong.
    - c. That which is a matter of opinion – which the believer is at liberty to choose, guided by love for God and his fellowman.
    - d. Daniel was called upon to act in all of these realms.
      - 1. It is always right to be kind and courteous to one's fellowman, Daniel did so.
      - 2. It is a matter of opinion about learning from the literature and cultures of the world; Daniel did so and used it to serve God and man.
      - 3. It is always wrong to blaspheme God by worshipping idols, Daniel refused.
    - e. The only way the believer knows a proper action or expression of love is by direction of the revealed will of God.
    - f. A believer does not live by practicing any ethic or molding himself on any ideal, but by a faith in God which finally ascribes all good to God and seeks His will as it has been revealed through His prophets and His Son as recorded in the Bible.
    - g. Daniel abstains from that which is wrong but he does not break off all contact with the heathen court, but is willing to learn what it can teach him.
- B. Daniel was very exceptional. DA 1:19-21.
  - 1. V. 19 Among all that had completed the 3 year program of study and training, none were like these 4.
  - 2. V. 20 The king's men were depending upon human wisdom and trickery.

## II. DANIEL'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

- A. DA 2 and 4 record Nebuchadnezzar's dreams and Daniel's interpretations.

1. Chapter 2 introduces God's plan of the coming spiritual kingdom that will be made up of the saved, the Messianic kingdom – the church. 2:44; MT 16:18; HE 12:28.
  2. Chapter 4 Nebuchadnezzar is humbled before God. He learns that it is God who is in charge of the kingdoms of men. The pride of the king is brought low, so he can look to the power of God and trust in Him. PR 16:18 – “Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
- B. Daniel was primarily an interpreter of dreams – DA 2; 4.
- III. DANIEL'S EXPERIENCE IN THE LION'S DEN.
- A. The writing on the wall affords Daniel another opportunity to be used by God and God glorified. Chronological order 7, 8, 5 and 6.
  - B. The writing on the wall:
    1. Daniel is mentioned as being able to interpret the writing – DA 5: 10-12.
    2. Daniel speaks – DA 5: 17-29.
    3. God's sovereignty – DA 5: 18, 21.
    4. Daniel's rebuke – DA 5: 22, 23.
  - C. Darius is now King (Medo-Persian, Dan. 6: 6).
    1. Darius makes Daniel chief president (Dan. 6: 12).
    2. Attendant to success is often the matter of incurring the envy and hatred of others.
  - D. Daniel thrown to the lions:
    1. Envy behind Daniel's mistreatment – DA 6: 3, 4.
    2. The cunning of Daniel's enemies – DA 6: 5-9.
    3. Daniel's conviction – DA 6: 10-14.
    4. Daniel cast into den and the den is sealed – DA 6: 16, 17.
  - E. Divine providence intervened:
    1. God sent His angel – DA 6: 22.
    2. I CO 10: 13, I PE 3: 12.
  - F. All ended well with Daniel:
    1. Daniel's accusers given to the lions – DA 6: 24f.
    2. The King's decree – DA 6: 25, 26-28.

#### CONCLUSION

- A. As a young person, you will face difficulties, but all can end well!
- B. As an adult, you will face difficulties, but all can end well!
- C. No matter what a faithful Christian faces in life, all can end well!
- D. Are you a Christian?