

Daniel 1 and Why We Need God

11-7-21

Daniel 1 tells us the story of a young man from the king's household named Daniel. He is a descendant of the king of Judah, and was no doubt destined for great things. Until the Babylonians came. They took him away from his home and homeland and made him a servant of Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon. It is inferred that Daniel is made a eunuch, and his very name is taken from him, and instead he is named for a Babylonian god, Belteshazzar.

Daniel's situation was horrible. As a eunuch, he could never marry, and could never again enter to the temple to worship (Lev. 21:20). He would never again go to his homeland, but live as an exile far from the worship of God. Many of us might have given up. But the Scriptures say that Daniel "purposed in his heart" a dedication to God even in this moment. That purposing led to divine blessings on his situation, and in his life in general. Daniel would become one of the greatest men in the Babylonian empire AND the Persian empire. But that is nothing compared to the importance he plays as a prophet of God pertaining to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

If there is one important lesson from the first chapter of Daniel it is that life is unpredictable. This is a message repeated often in the Scriptures. Solomon tells us this in Ecclesiastes 9:11-12; James tells us this in James 4:13-15. The only certainty in life is that our future is uncertain. Daniel no doubt had plans for his life, but things change. Life does not go as planned, and we have to find a new path. This is why we need God on our side.

Why commit yourself to God? First, because **your** life will NOT go as you plan. NOTHING you do guarantees success; time and chance happen to all. This is not a possibility, this is a certainty. You need a partnership with God in life because of that uncertainty. You need God on your side because of this. Paul declared that if we have God with us, nothing can be against us (Romans 8:31-39). Consider the many who have done so; throughout the Bible we read of the lives of people who were suddenly changed, and how it is that God was with them (e.g. Hebrews 11:32-38). Making God our companion in life promises that we will overcome all things.

The LORD is on my side; I will not fear. What can man do to me? The LORD is for me among those who help me; Therefore I shall see my desire on those who hate me. Psalm 118:6-7

Life will not go as you predict. But there is always a choice as to how we face it. Daniel & his friends created choices at the dinner table. They will continue to do so in Daniel, whether it is in the fiery furnace or in the lion's den. We too always have a choice (Deuteronomy 30:19-20) . *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.* 1 Corinthians 10:13