

Nov 20th 2005 OT Review: Daniel: Living For God In A Secular World: 1:1-21

Daniel.....another book.....exile

Daniel himself.....taken from Jerusalem to.....in 605.....

He was just 16.....From 1:4 we know that he would have been...v4.....

He never left Babylon

Daniel speaks to his fellow Jews living in.....NOT just by words.....esp by actions

And the major message.....Sovereignty of Almighty God

Now when you are prisoners in a foreign land.....That's what you need to hear

That your God is still in control.....Sovereign over all enemies

The wonderful thing in the book of Daniel IS THAT GOD DOES HIS PART

In a truly amazing way

GOD in all His power.....Constantly backs up.....statements and actions of

• **Look with me at chapter 2**

It seems that Nebuchadnezzar had a dream again and.....which was complex and
He decided that the only way he could get a true answer from.....was if they could

The wise.....thought at first they had heard him wrong

And with the penalty for not doing what he asked.....being....cut in pieces/houses

So they asked him just to tell him the dream and they would.....

The king got violently angry.....and ordered.....**THIS included**

Daniel.... has such a trust in God that he offers.....Then with his 3 friends...prays

AND GOD GIVES HIM THE DREAM.....Look at Daniel's reaction 2:19-23

Then look at the kings.....2:47.....

Another time when God backed up Daniel's message with action.....found in 4

Nebuchadnezzar had a vision.....scared the living daylights out of him
He asked all his magicians, enchanters, astrologers, clairvoyants etc.....

Then Daniel....by the power of Godgave him the answer(**which was...)**
And it happened exactly as Daniel said.....Hear what the king said→34-35

For yet another example of GOD proving His Sovereignty....chp 5...writing

BUT AS WELL AS THAT MESSAGE OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY...so import for
This book also gives us some tips.....ABOUT living for GOD in a secular world

For those Jews in exile.....Babylon was indeed a secular world
When they were in Jerusalem.....the people were not walking as close to God....but++
In Babylon God was not even part of the way of life.....(Australia)

So how did they live out their Faith in God

- **FIRST: By recognizing that Small Things Do Matter**

In chapter one you find Daniel and his friends.....16yrs....being made ready
This involved a diet that was contrary to what they believed
Should they stay quite.....it was just a small thing

They stood up for what they knew was right.....Believing that God would honour...
And God did

What about you? Do you sometimes let the Lord down with the small things??
Are you conscious.....how your behaviour changes.....with non-Xtians rather than with
Consumption of alcohol....gambling....language.....temper.....gossip

It's often the small things.....that derail.....a Christian's witness

- **SECOND: By believing that the Fiery Furnace Can Be Overcome**

The story in Daniel chapter 3.....is poss familiar to many of us
Nebuchadnezzar built this massive image.....When the music played everyone had to...
Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego...on the basis of their commitment
Refused to do so

So before the furious king....had to go.....THE next move was into the furnace....
But they believed that God was greater than the furnace
Listen to what they said.....3:16-18.....Even if He does not.....THINGS in hand

And God did not only save them.....3:26 has the king saying.....

There are still furnaces that Xtians face.....For a diff reason to that of
But they can be just as scary Health scare.....Loss of Job.....Family
breakdown

God may not always take you out of.....But He is always with you in it

- **THIRD: By standing firm when your faith is targeted**

The story of Daniel in the lion's den.....chpt 6.....must be one of the most well known

What is not always realised.....that the reason Daniel found himself with lions
Was because other officials.....jealous of his position.....
Set him up for the kings judgment

They knew that the king would never turn against Daniel
And that the only chink.....Was his devotion.....and his prayer life
So they deliberately targeted his Faith

They led the king to make this proclamation.....worshipped other than him 30days
And when Daniel heard of it.....He went and prayed 3 times...giving thanks....just

Of course he was thrown.....But God rescued him....& blessed his testimony

If you are a Christian.....then expect your faith to be targeted

People will deliberately try to embarrass you.....*won't like that*...a Xtian
Or....you call yourself a Xtian.....yet you.....

How do you react???

Do you suddenly lay aside your Xtian standards
Or do you smile in an embarrassed way.....and try to hide

Or do you say.....Yes I am a Christian....pleased to be one:

And so thankful that being a Xtian is not about being perfect.....but forgiven

FOURTH: By speaking the Prophetic Word

Daniel truly did that

In chapter 2 when Daniel told the king what his dream was.....He shared a prophecy
That we find repeated....in a different form in Dan 7

But each time the meaning was the same

That the Babylonian.....would fall to the Medo-Persian...which would in turn fall Greek
Which would split into 4.....before falling to the Roman Empire

Daniel wrote this in about 600 BC.....The Roman Empire.....63 BC...just as
Daniel said.....**Then there are other Prophecies=====**

What we need to understand.....Prophecy was never restricted.....to ..future

Prophecy is speaking God's Word by His Spirit directly into another's heart

(Last Tuesday.....home group.....You fulfil the Prophetic role....)

**In our secular world.....are you open to those times.....when the Holy Spirit
will speak through you.....a challenge to the heart of another.**

AS I was thinking this week.....about Living for God in our secular world

I read this quote ==>The Most Powerful Argument for Christianity is

A Life You Can't Explain without God.

**In the book of Daniel.....you find people living lives.....that only their belief in God
Could explain.....That is the Challenge of this book for us**

Before I close.....There is one last thing.....draw out of this book

We know that there are those who cast doubt on what we believe
They say that the Bible is just made up stories.....That our Faith is based on myth

Consider this prophetic statement in Dan 7:13-14.....

In Mark 14:62 Jesus said to the High Priest.....

Then in Dan 9.....given this info....angel Gabriel → 9:25.....

7 sevens plus 62 sevens = 69 seven year periods which is 483 years

Now because we know the exact date of the decree-→ March 4th 444BC

And we know that a prophetic year was 360 days

Scholars have been able to work out the exact day when this period would be up

The exact day when the anointed one.....Messiah....would proclaim Himself

**That day was March 29th AD33.....the date of the triumphant
entry.....**

This is God's Word.....What we proclaim is true

If you don't know Jesusthen you need to accept Him today

For Daniel also talks of the last days.....when our Lord will return

He been right so far.....You can count on Him being right again....

.So are you ready

