

## Lessons From the Life of Daniel

While the book of Daniel is known as a book of prophecy, there is much about the life of Daniel, from which we can learn practical and valuable lessons as believers today, that will help us in our daily walk and testimony.

### *Profile*

Daniel was taken captive and carried to Babylon when king Nebuchadnezzar invaded the land of Israel (ch. 1:1-3). Daniel was of the king's seed; or we might say that he was part of the royal family of Israel. He, along with his fellow countrymen, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, were considered to be without blemish, well favoured and skilful in wisdom (ch. 1:3-6).

You, too, dear child of God are of the *King's seed*. As one who has received the Lord Jesus, you have been given the right to be called a son of God (Jn. 1:12). In the book of Romans, Paul tells us that all who have the Holy Spirit dwelling within them are the children of God and, as such, are joint-heirs with the Lord Jesus (Rom. 8:11-17).

Like Daniel and his companions, you too, are without blemish, having received the righteousness of God through faith in the Lord Jesus (Rom. 3:23). Because the Holy Spirit dwells within you, you know all things (1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 2:20) and through His wisdom and teaching can discern spiritual things (1<sup>st</sup> Cor. 2:13).

It was a very wicked, immoral and ungodly environment that Daniel was brought into. Dear child of God, you also live in a hostile world that has rejected Christ and God and His holy Word. In the book of Romans, Paul describes the attitude of the world towards God and His ways. They have rejected the message of God, have rebelled against the morals of God and even repress the memory or mention of God (Rom. 1:21-32).

### *Pressure*

Daniel and his friends were pressured to become like the ungodly world around them. Babylon looked for those that they could teach the learning and tongue and ways of the Chaldeans (Dan. 1:4). O, precious child of God, the world hates you as it hated the Lord Jesus (Jn. 15:18-19) and would pressure you into becoming like the ungodly around you. Peer pressure is a real threat to the child of God in the world today. Put on the whole armour of God, beloved one, and you will be able to withstand in an evil day (Eph. 6:10-18).

### *Purpose*

Daniel was offered the delicacies and dainties and diet of Babylon, the meat and the wine. But Daniel would not take it but purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself (Dan. 1:5-8). Dear beloved of the Lord, the world offers you its pleasures and pursuits. In a passionate plea for the preservation of his son in the faith, the apostle Paul appealed to Timothy, "*But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness*" (1<sup>st</sup> Tim. 6:11).

When Joseph was enticed to lie with his master's wife, he refused and got out, saying, "*how can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?*" (Gen. 39:7-9). The writer of the book of Hebrews says about Moses, "*By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward*" (Heb. 11:24-26).

The apostle John warned, *“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world”* (1<sup>st</sup> Jn. 2: 15-16).

The apostle Paul encouraged the believers at Rome, *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”* (Rom. 12:2).

### *Practice*

Even when they threatened to throw him into a den of lions, Daniel continued his daily practice of praying to God (Dan. 6:7-10). O, beloved child of God, how necessary and vital daily prayer and communion with God is! It will strengthen and sustain you in the daily conflict. Isaiah wrote, *“But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”* (Isa. 40:31).

Prayer is also necessary for guidance to walk in ways pleasing to the Lord. The psalmist wrote, *“Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine the desires of thine heart”* (Ps. 35:4). This doesn't mean that the Lord will give you whatever your heart desires, but that He will place right desires in your heart.

Besides the fact that communion with God brings great joy (Ps. 16:11), in communion with God, you will find grace for every need. The writer of the book of Hebrews invites, *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need”* (Heb. 4:16).

*Purpose* in your heart today, dear redeemed one of the Lord, as Daniel did, not to defile yourself with the things of this ungodly world. *Prepare* your heart, as Ezra did, to seek the law of the Lord and to do it (Ez. 7:10). *Ponder* in your heart, as Mary did, the wonders of the Saviour (Luke 2:19). *Pray* in your heart as David did and sit before the Lord and thank Him for all that He has done for you and for all that He has planned for you (2<sup>nd</sup> Sam. 7:18).

*Just as I am, thine own to be,  
Friend of the young, who lovest me  
To consecrate myself to thee,  
O Jesus Christ, I come.*

*In the glad morning of my day,  
My life to give, my vows to pay,  
With no reserve and no delay,  
With all my heart, I come.*

*And for thy sake to win renown,  
And then to take the victor's crown  
And at thy feet to cast it down,  
O, Master, Lord, I come.*