

**"Living with a New Normal"**

**Daniel 1**

**Part 3**

**Introduction:** Today we are returning to where we were two weeks ago in the book of Daniel. We were looking at

Daniel in Babylon after he was deported. He had been taken captive and moved to the city of Babylon and here in Daniel 1 we see that the Babylonians were doing what they could to transform him and his friends into Babylonians. The Babylonians had three means of seducing their captives.

**1. Isolation.**

Daniel was separated from his entire support structure. He was taken from his family and his friends, and they even attempted to separate him from his God. This was the plan of the Babylonians. They wanted to isolate their captives and separate them from their entire support structure.

**Application:**

**Ecclesiastes 1:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> *The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.*

<sup>10</sup> *Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.*

I show you these verses because the same tactics are used today by our enemy to get us to conform to the ways of the world. If this happens, we are then ineffective to impact the world for the Lord. We must guard against anything that might separate us from our support structure. **Our support structure is church, Bible reading and prayer.** These cannot be neglected. If they are then we are likely to give into the pressures of the world.

**2. Indoctrination.**

**Notice Daniel 1:3-4**

Once they isolated the Jews then they would indoctrinate them. They would teach them the knowledge and the language of the Chaldeans.

**Application:**

I can assure you that the enemy is doing the same thing today which he did in Daniel's day. He wants to conform us into worldly people so that we will act and think like the world. There is an indoctrination happening today and many do not even realize it.

**Psalm 1:1-4**

**Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.**

<sup>2</sup> *But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.*

<sup>3</sup> *And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*

<sup>4</sup> *The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*

I want to look a little closer at verse 1 by asking three questions.

**A. Where do you get your counsel?**

***"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly..."***

In our ever changing, deceptive world we must be very careful as to where we get our counsel. The last place we should look to counsel is from the ungodly. I have said it before and I will stand firm by it that my counsel should never come from people that advocate for abortion, same sex marriage, transgenderism, or anything else that is offensive to our God.

**Proverbs 14:7**

<sup>7</sup> *Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.*

**Proverbs 14:15**

<sup>15</sup> *The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.*

The word "SIMPLE" means "FOOLISH". The word "PRUDENT" means "CRAFTY" or "SENSIBLE".

**B. What path are you walking on?**

***"nor standeth in the way of sinners..."***

We are not to walk in the way of the unrighteous. We know that this is not the path which we belong on. But instead we are to trust in God's counsel.

**Psalm 16:11**

*<sup>11</sup> Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.*

**C. How high is your seat?**

*"nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful..."*

The ungodly place themselves on a high horse and they criticize those who want to walk by faith. They are critical of the righteous who walk in the counsel of the Word of God. If a believer is not careful, they too can get seated far too high. They may lack faith and when they see another believer who walks by faith they are convicted, and they respond with criticism.

**3. Changing their identity.**

**Notice Daniel 1:6-7**

The Babylonians stripped them of their Godly names and gave them names connected with the gods of Babylon. They desired to completely erase the past so that they could be converted to Babylonians.

**Application:**

The world is not changing our names today but they are doing their best to change our identity. They want us to forget who we are in Christ and that we are to live lives of holiness. They want us to accept the world's philosophies and become one of them.

**1 Thessalonians 4:7**

*<sup>7</sup> For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*

There are absolutely no situations that justify a believer who gives into the ways of the world. Let me support that with a verse.

**1 Peter 2:1**

*Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,*

**I. Daniel's Response**

**Notice Daniel 1:5, 8**

Daniel would not eat the king's food for several reasons. It was not slain in accordance with the Mosaic Law and it would have been meat that was offered to idols.

**Exodus 34:12-15**

*<sup>12</sup> Take heed to thyself, lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land whither thou goest, lest it be for a snare in the midst of thee:*

*<sup>13</sup> But ye shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves:*

*<sup>14</sup> For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:*

*<sup>15</sup> Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and one call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;*

Someone might say that Daniel was making a big deal out of a small matter. But with God even the small matters are important. Daniel had the conviction to remain faithful to God.

**Application:**

This is exactly what is needed in the church today. People who are faithful even in the little things. People who have convictions and are willing to stand by their convictions no matter the cost.

I had told you that Daniel refused to allow Babylon to dwell in him and the reason was that someone had poured into his life long before the captivity. Not all the Jews were this strong.

**Daniel 3:7-12**

*<sup>7</sup> Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up.*

*<sup>8</sup> Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.*

*<sup>9</sup> They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever.*

<sup>10</sup> *Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image:*

<sup>11</sup> *And whoso falleth not down and worshipping, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.*

<sup>12</sup> *There are certain Jews whom thou hast set over the affairs of the province of Babylon, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.*

When I read this, I see that only 3 Jews refused to bow. Daniel was most likely out of town. But there were tens of thousands of other Jews in Babylon and apparently, they chose to bow before the image. It takes a spiritually strong believer to stand when threatened with a fiery furnace.

### **1 Corinthians 10:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*

## **II. God's Blessings**

### **A. Favor**

#### **Notice Daniel 1:9-14**

Because Daniel stood for his convictions God brought him into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs. We must understand how unusual this is. For Daniel and his friends to be given permission to pass on the king's appointed portion would be a sure way for the prince of the eunuchs to be killed. David requested that he and his friends be given a 10-day trial and then be examined. God then moved the heart of Melzar, and the 10 days were consented to.

Consider the situation. The prince of the eunuchs and Melzar hardly know Daniel and his friends. They have no reason to cut to consent to their request and really should not have done so. They were endangering their own lives. But God moved their hearts and so they consented.

#### **Application:**

I can only imagine that when Daniel stood for his convictions he did not do so with an abrasive attitude. But he had discernment and he made his request with tact. He showed respect unto the prince of the eunuchs and to Melzar and because he did God moved the heart of both of these men.

**Proverbs 16:7**

<sup>7</sup> *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

**Esther 4:10-14**

<sup>10</sup> *Again Esther spake unto Hatach, and gave him commandment unto Mordecai;*

<sup>11</sup> *All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces, do know, that whosoever, whether man or women, shall come unto the king into the inner court, who is not called, there is one law of his to put him to death, except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre, that he may live: but I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days.*

<sup>12</sup> *And they told to Mordecai Esther's words.*

<sup>13</sup> *Then Mordecai commanded to answer Esther, Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape in the king's house, more than all the Jews.*

<sup>14</sup> *For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*

**Esther 5:1-3**

*Now it came to pass on the third day, that Esther put on her royal apparel, and stood in the inner court of the king's house, over against the king's house: and the king sat upon his royal throne in the royal house, over against the gate of the house.*

<sup>2</sup> *And it was so, when the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, that she obtained favour in his sight: and the king held out to Esther the golden sceptre that was in his hand. So Esther drew near, and touched the top of the sceptre.*

<sup>3</sup> *Then said the king unto her, What wilt thou, queen Esther? and what is thy request? it shall be even given thee to the half of the kingdom.*

**B. Wisdom**

**Notice Daniel 1:15-21**

God blessed Daniel and his friends in that He gave them wisdom that was ten times better than the wise men of the king. Let me explain the difference in knowledge and wisdom.

Knowledge can be gained from books and from the classroom, but knowledge without wisdom is of little value. You see wisdom is the ability to apply the knowledge that we have to our everyday lives.

**Application:**

We live in the INFORMATION AGE. The world today does not need another book. You do not need another book. Your greatest need is wisdom from God that teaches you how to live and apply what you have. There is a great difference in worldly wisdom and Godly wisdom.

**Conclusion:**

There is such a need for wisdom in God's people today. When we live to please God by standing for what is right then He blesses us and He equips us for what He has called us to do.

**Job 28:12-15, 23, 28**

*<sup>12</sup> But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding?*

*<sup>13</sup> Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.*

*<sup>14</sup> The depth saith, It is not in me: and the sea saith, It is not with me.*

*<sup>15</sup> It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof.*

*<sup>23</sup> God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof.*

*<sup>28</sup> And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.*