Overview of Daniel

he was balanced in

four areas

Daniel 1:8 is a key verse; "Daniel purposed in his heart" He was not intimidated or changed by difficult circumstances

His relationship with God spilled out on people around him He was given a key political position He was involved in his culture Like Jesus, Daniel was balanced in his worship and work

HOW TO LIVE A BALANCED LIFE-THE DANIEL WAY There are other notable people who lived their life this way John Wesley, an evangelist who took up social causes William Wilberforce, an English politician Mission is the human responsibility to the divine commission Daniel was both salt and light---leading people out of spiritual darkness

Daniel Stood <u>Alone</u> but He <u>Walked</u> with Others

Impressed that Daniel was never afraid to stand alone---to stand up for his convictions He wasn't an island, he stood with his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah

We need fellowship, koinónia Fellowship is stimulating spiritual growth in one another Old Jewish proverb, "A friendless man is like a left hand bereft of the right hand"

Albert Speer was Adolph Hitler's closest associate, he said that Hitler had no friends.

Daniel Saw into the <u>Future</u> But Lived in the <u>Present</u>

To Daniel everything is in the future---yet to come

He was similar to John in the New Testament, they both had apocalyptic visions King Nebuchadnezzar saw the vision first, then Daniel saw the vision; but as four beast

Daniel saw it from <u>God's</u> viewpoint Man looks at the outward appearance, God

looks at the heart (see 1 Samuel 16)

Daniel lived <u>responsibly</u> in the present

Benefits From Knowing Prophecy

- It will make you <u>confident</u> in God---He knows the future
- He knows all about you, the very hairs on your head are numbered (see Matthew 10:30)
 It will help <u>clean</u> up your life---change the way you live; "What manner of persons aught you to be?" (see 2 Peter 3:11)

Benefits From Knowing Prophecy

It will <u>comfort</u> you in your sorrow It will <u>motivate</u> you to serve the Lord (see Matthew 25:23)

Studying the future gives you a solid foundation to live in the present

Daniel Aged Gracefully, but He Influenced Mightily

Applying Today's Message

As Christians, we should know who we are, what we are about, and our lives should be lived in balance

Applying Today's Message

Daniel had a purpose statement "He pursued the God who is passionately pursuing a lost world" Upreach--- He had a dynamic vibrant, personal worship and un-compromised obedience Inreach---"He explain the relevance of Scriptures to daily living"; he got involved personally

Applying Today's Message

Outreach----"He extend the love of God to a hurting world"

Daniel was all about upreach, inreach, and outreach

Take the challenge to lead a <u>balanced</u> life