

*DANIEL: LIVING
COURAGEOUSLY IN
TURBULENT TIMES*

THE STORY

READ THE STORY. EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE.

Week 18

Daniel in Exile



WHY STUDY DANIEL?

- 1. Daniel's situation parallels our own**
- 2. Daniel's prophecies may soon be fulfilled**
- 3. Daniel's God is our God too**
- 4. Daniel is a book every teenager should read**

WHY STUDY DANIEL?

Daniel lived 400 years after David and 600 years before Jesus

The Book covers the period 605 B.C. to about 530 B.C.

In the beginning Daniel is a teenager

When the book closes he is about 90 years old.

DANIEL IN EXILE

Psalm 137:1-4

By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when
we remembered Zion.

There on the poplars we hung our harps, for
there our captors asked us for songs,

Our tormentors demanded songs of joy; they
said, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

How can we sing the songs of the LORD while
in a foreign land?

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

1. Resist the World's Pressure

Daniel 1:3-8

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility ⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome showing aptitude for every kind of learning well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace.

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table they were to be trained for three years and after that they were to enter the king's service

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

⁸ But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

The Pressure to Conform

1. Intellectual
2. Religious
3. Identity

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

Romans 12:1-2

12 Therefore, I urge you brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

Ephesians 4:17-24

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

Ephesians 4:17-24

¹⁹ Having lost all sensitivity they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

Ephesians 4:17-24

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds ²⁴ and to put on the new self-created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

2. Resist the World's philosophy

The Test

⁹ Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰ but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

2. Resist the World's philosophy

¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹² “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

2. Resist the World's philosophy

¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

2. Resist the World's philosophy

The Results of the Test

¹⁷ To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

2. Resist the World's philosophy

¹⁸ At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

2. Resist the World's philosophy

²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

“The reason we must have good philosophy is because there is bad philosophy” C.S. Lewis

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Lessons from Daniel in Exile

2. Resist the World's philosophy

I Corinthians 2:6

We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

2. Resist the World's philosophy

I Corinthians 2:6

⁷ No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory

Lessons from Daniel in Exile

2. Resist the World's philosophy

I Corinthians 2:6

However, as it is written:

“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,

and what no human mind has conceived”

the things God has prepared for those who love
him¹⁰ these are the things God has revealed to us
by his Spirit

Some Present Day Babylonian pressures to conform to our culture

Don't say the sin of homosexuality, say alternative lifestyle

Don't call it fornication-
call it freedom of sexual expression

Don't say dishonest, say ethically challenged

Don't say killing babies-
call it a woman's right to choose

Some Present Day Babylonian pressures to conform to our culture

Don't 'say infanticide call it family planning

Don't say euthanasia call it quality of life

Don't say sin, call it a psychological illness

Don't say obscenity call it freedom of speech

Don't call it adultery-call it a mid life crisis

Some Present Day Babylonian pressures to conform to our culture

The Big Idea- Chapter 18

Dare to be a Daniel

Dare to stand alone

Dare to be a Daniel

Dare to make it known