

Daniel: A Man Ready For Life's Challenges

Daniel 1:8

Introduction:

- A. Daniel:
 - 1. A familiar story to most - especially the lion's den.
 - 2. A young man carried to Babylon.
 - a. Grew in spirit, reputation, and influence for 70 years.
 - b. Shows one can live godly in ungodly society.
- B. Daniel was blessed by God because his commitment met God's *expectations*:

Discussion:

- I. **Daniel's Commitment to God Was *Early*. (v. 4).**
 - A. A young man who remembered his creator. (cf. Ecc. 12:1).
 - 1. Like Joseph before him. (Gen. 39).
 - 2. Like Timothy after him. (2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15).
 - B. A young man who stood by his godly convictions. (vv. 8-16)
 - 1. Did not leave God when he left home.
 - 2. Did not try to blend in with Babylonian life-style. (cf. Rom. 12:1,2)
 - C. A young man with more worthwhile years to give to God.
 - 1. While young give energy.
 - 2. When old give wisdom.
- II. **Daniel's Commitment to God Was *Deep*. ("in his heart"—v. 8)**
 - A. Reflected in all of his outward conduct. (cf. Prov. 4:23; 23:7).
 - 1. Had a deeper motive than merely to impress other young men.
 - 2. Had a deeper motive than merely to show defiance toward his captors.
 - B. Reflected in his being unmoved by pomp and power of royal palace.
 - C. Reflected in his accepting the risks of not conforming to Babylonian practices.
 - 1. Risked special training and treatment of select group.
 - 2. Risked life—life cheap to pagan kings.
 - 3. Risked less than would have if had compromised.
 - a. Would have faded into crowd of historical unknowns.
 - b. Would have never known “good, perfect and acceptable will of God,”
- III. **Daniel's Commitment to God Was *Lasting*. (v. 21).**
 - A. As an old man (about 90), he was still faithful and strong in the Lord.
 - 1. Years of struggle had not worn him down.
 - 2. Years of service had helped prepare for the lion's den. (ch. 6).
 - a. His reaction to Darius' decree. (6:10) - Why not just wait out the 30 days?
 - b. His deliverance by God. (6:18-23).
 - c. His life after the lion's den. (6:24-28).
 - B. As an old man, he could look back over a life-time of spiritual growth.
 - 1. By the time he needed to *refuse king's food*, he had **character** needed.
 - 2. By the time he needed to *interpret Neb.'s dream* had added **wisdom** needed. (2:14).
 - 3. By the time he needed to interpret the *handwriting*, he had gained **reputation** needed. (5:10-12).
 - 4. By the time he needed to face the *lion's den*, he had developed **courage** needed.
 - 5. By the time he needed to *help deliver the Jews* had developed **influence** needed.
 - a. Daniel prospered in the reign of Cyrus. (6:28)
 - b. Cyrus emancipated Jews. (2 Chron. 36:22,23).
 - c. Cyrus knew about “Lord God of heaven...”, likely Daniel's influence.

Conclusion:

- A. Remember our commitment to God needs to be: Early, Deep and Lasting.
- B. By doing this Dan. had all one needs to succeed: Character, wisdom, reputation, courage and influence.
- C. Why not begin your commitment by beginning to obey God today?