

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Did Daniel's family lineage have any bearing in his selection by the king? Explain.
2. What great lesson do we have in Daniel's choice of diet? What spiritual lesson?
3. Daniel kept himself from being defiled by not eating the king's meat. What must we as Christians keep ourselves from so that we do not become defiled?

SUMMARY:

Daniel descended from some of the better class of people, but probably not from royal blood. One thing is certain, he was taught the ways of the Lord early in life. He gave evidence that he wanted to be faithful to his God. As a result, when the tests came he resolved not to partake in the pleasurable things of this life, but rather to go in the ways that would please God. When he expressed this desire, God strengthened him and blessed him.

We too, first of all, must have the desire to live for God. When this is the earnest desire of our hearts God will strengthen us too, through His Son and by the Holy Spirit. Because Jesus Christ died for us we have a greater power available than even Daniel was able to experience.

NOTES:

APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Bible Lesson #7

May 19, 2013

Second Quarter

DANIEL'S WISE DECISION

LESSON TEXT: *Daniel 1:1-21*

LESSON SETTING: The children of Judah in Babylonian captivity.

TIME: Approximately 607 B.C.

I. A NOBLE EXAMPLE Daniel 1:1-10

- A. A Choice Lineage (vs. 3, 4)
- B. Resisting Temptation (vs. 8) Luke 4:5-8; Ephesians 6:13; 2 Peter 3:17
- C. Self-Denial (vs. 8) Matthew 16:24; Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:24

II. A WISE EXPERIMENT Daniel 1:11-16

- A. The Test (vs. 12)
- B. The Result (vs. 15)

III. A SUCCESSFUL EXAMINATION Daniel 1:17-21

- A. Blessed of God (vs. 17) Isaiah 56:4-5; Jeremiah 24:7
- B. Faithful Ones Exalted (vs. 19) Psalm 91:14; Daniel 12:3
- C. The Examination (vs. 20) Proverbs 3:13-14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Luke 21:15

GOLDEN TEXT: *DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART THAT HE WOULD NOT DEFILE HIMSELF WITH THE PORTION OF THE KING'S MEAT, NOR WITH THE WINE WHICH HE DRANK.*

Daniel 1:8

NEXT SUNDAY'S LESSON: Daniel 2:1-49

SUPPLEMENTAL REFERENCES: Matthew 24:1-51;
Revelation 11:14-19

QUARTERLY THEME: God's People in Captivity

TOPIC: DANIEL SHARES GOD'S SECRETS

INTRODUCTION:

It is common for people to become greatly alarmed and concerned at the events in today's world. The AIDS epidemic which still ravages the world, the previous collapse of the Soviet Union, the end of the cold war and the uncertainty of the times we live in, all cause men's hearts to faint and fear the future.

The Christian need not fear. Our faith can bring serenity and calm into our hearts just as Daniel's faith gave this to him in the face of the king's decree. We can compare the unconverted to today to the magicians and astrologers who had no hope and the Christian can be compared to Daniel who trusted in God.

God's Word reveals the history of all ages to us so that we can know that each passing event brings us closer to the day when Jesus Christ will return in power and glory to establish His kingdom. This is what we hope for and this is the reason we desire to live lives separated from the world.

We can be sure that the mills of time continue to grind exceedingly slow, but with assurance that God's plan for the world, set down centuries ago, will be fulfilled.

Man's only hope is to turn to God, become separate from the world, and live devotedly to Him.

CENTRAL TRUTH: Putting God first brings His approval and blessing.

GOLDEN TEXT: ***BUT THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN THAT REVEALETH SECRETS, . . .***

Daniel 2:28

When Daniel undertook the task of telling the king about his dream, he did it in the faith that God knows all things and that it was possible for Him to reveal not only Nebuchadnezzar's dream but also the meaning of it.

The dream had a meaning for the king but it had even more meaning for the forthcoming centuries because the history of the world was contained in it.

It has much meaning for us too, because we in North America are prone to think that we are a great nation, when actually we are counted among the many weaker nations. Also, the dream indicated we are in the end times because it is these many weaker nations that shall be destroyed and scattered by the rolling stone representing the kingdom of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Nothing will alter God's perfect plan and each day brings us closer to the end times.

We should ask ourselves if we are ready to meet our God. If not we had better make our calling and election sure.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF May 20 - 26

M. Messiah's Kingdom. Psalm 72:1-11

T. *The Forgotten Dream. Daniel 2:1-12

W. *The Dream Revealed. Daniel 2:13-23

T. *Daniel Informs the King. Daniel 2:24-35

F. *Daniel Interprets the Dream. Daniel 2:36-45

S. *Daniel Promoted. Daniel 2:46-49

S. A Vision of Future Events. Revelation 6:1-17

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