DANIEL

• A Heart for God

• A Life of Truth,

• A Man of Prayer

• SERMON NOTES •

Set Free Ministries

Jesus... nothing more, nothing less!

DANIEL

A Heart for God, A Life of Truth, A Man of Prayer

BIBLE STUDY

Everything we do at Set Free Ministries is a direct result of God's influence in others, in us and many times through us. Much of what we prepare as Bible Studies, teachings and writings are a direct result of these great men and women of God and their influence in our lives.

What we do, teach, write and share is a reflection of the influences of other author's in and through us. Amen!

Our prayer is that through these Bible Studies, *you will find more hope and faith in the One Who is faithful, Jesus Christ*. He is the Giver and we are the receiver.

May God Bless you as you are a blessing to others…

Tim

Pastor Dr. Tim Parker and the team at Set Free!
www.SetFreeCollege.org

DANIEL

A Heart for God, A Life of Truth, A Man of Prayer

Table of Contents

Lesson 1 **A Heart For God**.....Page 6

Lesson 2 **A Life of Truth**.....Page 12

Lesson 3 **A Man of Prayer**.....Page 24

Study Guide 1 **A Heart For God** .....Page 40

Study Guide 2 **A Life of Truth** .....Page 42

Study Guide 3 **A Man of Prayer**.....Page 44

A Couple Questions.....Page 47

• Pastor Teaching Notes •

DANIEL

A Heart for God, A Life of Truth, A Man of Prayer

https://lifehopeandtruth.com/prophecy/understanding-the-book-of-daniel/

Pastor Dr. Tim Parker

• LESSON ONE •

A Heart for God

• Here is some interesting information about Daniel •

Roughly 2,600 years ago Daniel, a Judean teenager was taken captive by the Babylonian Empire. It was a government of unstoppable military power & strength, great wealth and technological advancement. Such an event of captivity normally led to a life of misery as a slave but God had something else in mind for Daniel.

• Now about the Book of Daniel •

The books of Daniel and Revelation contain end-time prophecy. Both books are written in a similar style, known as ***apocalyptic writing***.

A little-known fact about the book of Daniel is that approximately **one-half of it** was written in **Hebrew** (as were the other books of the Old Testament), and the **other half** was written in **Aramaic**, another language used only sparsely in the Bible. The book of Daniel has the largest collection of Scripture that was originally written in **Aramaic** in the entire Bible. (Jesus' language)

NOTES

• HERE IS WHAT WE WILL BE SEEING IN THIS STUDY •

1. We will be studying how Daniel demonstrated **God's superiority** over the pagan gods and pagan **people**.
2. We will also look at Daniel's legacy of faithful **obedience** to **God** in spite of huge trials and **difficulty**.

• Daniel and his Heart for God •

Daniels life was a life of NO COMPRONISE. Young or old, in Judah or Babylon COMPROMISE was never an option! Daniel was committed to God no matter where he was, what he was doing and no matter what the future might hold, good, bad or unknown!

***Compromise* as a Noun**:

- The act or practice of each side giving up something in order to reach an agreement
- Give-and-take negotiations
-

***Compromise* as a Verb**:

- To place in danger (compromise your safety)
- Jeopardize (future benefits or rewards)
- Threaten (peace)

• The word COMPROMISE is an interesting word. How we **define** it is what will make it **relevant** or make it **not** relevant in our life.

If we see ourselves as the great negotiator, then we will want it to be used as a NOUN meaning both sides have equally good points and the correct answer is in the *comingling* of the two sides, thus, we are the judge between right and wrong. We play god.

If we see the meaning of COMPROMISE as a point of *Danger* or a verb, then we will look for a *Savior* that will keep us *safe*. God is God!

Psalm 119:1-3 reads, *"Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths."*

When we have **no** distinct line drawn in our minds and on our *hearts* of what is **right** or **wrong**, we will think COMPROMISE is ok because we live in a life of **GRAY**.

Grey is a combination of black and white; taking the place of distinct right or wrong. On the other hand, if we believe that God is God and we are not god we will find that His ways are good and we will desire to be obedient under His full and complete

NOTES

direction. COMPROMISE will not be an option and COMPROMISE will represent sin… plain and simple.

Look at **Colossians 2:11**. The New Living Translation says, *"When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. **Christ** performed a **spiritual** circumcision—the cutting away of **your sinful nature**."*

We were born with a sinful nature and the only way for it to be removed is by Christ performing "*Spiritual Circumcision*." Once circumcision was performed, it could not be reversed! Daniel's *heart* had been circumcised for God!

Has Yours?

COMPROMISE is what Satan uses to distract and detour us from God's will, God's direction and God's plan within us.

• Daniel was not going to be distracted nor would he COMPROMISE on what ***God had placed within him***. His obedience was to God and God alone.

QUESTION: What thing has God placed within you that Satan is trying to get COMPROMISE on? Money, Health, Marriage, Serving, Having Children, Moving? What is it and how do you fight the good fight and be obedient to God and God alone?

In our last Bible study series we focused on "Obedience to God" meaning seeking God always. **James 4:7** says it this way. "*Seek God and Resisting the Devil* meaning NO COMPROMISE. In being obedient to these two things, *Seeking God and Resisting the Devil, Satan (the Devil) will flee from you."* This is what we see in the life of Daniel…. His seeking God by continually praying to and relating with God resulting in doing what God had instructed, thus, Daniel resisted the Devil and his temptations, distractions, disturbances, fears, worries, and doubts! These things of the Devil had no hold on what God had placed within Daniel!

Daniel was also wise. He knew he could not do these things in his own strength; he did them in the strength of the Lord God Almighty. And that's what it takes for us to my friends to live a life of NO COMPROMISE.

NOTES

• Pastor Teaching Notes •

DANIEL

A Heart for God, A Life of Truth, A Man of Prayer

https://lifehopeandtruth.com/prophecy/understanding-the-book-of-daniel/

Pastor Dr. Tim Parker

• LESSON TWO •

A Life of Truth

Here is **LESSON TWO**: Live life as God has made it to be lived, in full surrender and commitment to Him and His will …. *and **His ways will become your ways!*** This is a Life of Truth. God is truth and as we love Him more our faith grows and our truth grows as well.

Yes, this means living a life different (but better and not always easier) than the rest of the world. Consider **1 John 2:15** and see what I mean.

In Lesson One we learned Daniel and his friends lived a life of "NO COMPROMISE".

Said another way…
Daniel lived a life of CONSISTENT COMMITMENT to God!

This week we are learning that a life of NO COMPROMISE will result in a life of NO REGRET!

The foundation for a life of NO REGRET is the belief and acceptance that this world (and all it has to offer) is not our home… Heaven is!

NOTES

Regret comes from wishing to have done something different than what you did.

REGRET: To feel sorry, disappointed, distressed, or remorseful about something. If we are living our life for this life and not the next eternally with Jesus Christ, we will experience a good amount of regret.

Here is an example… have any of you been divorced? Then I guarantee that you have experienced regret!

If there is anything in our life that might be considered similar to regret would be that we did not do more in the Name of Jesus Christ compared to what we did in our name for our purpose. Even that regret is a waste of time for it steals from time to share Christ with the lost today. The past is forgiven and even forgotten by God. **Isaiah 43:25** says *"I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins."*

And in **Psalm 103:12** NASB says, *"As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our wrongdoings from us."* And **1 John 1:9** says, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Including a life of regrets!

Now notice I did not say we would live a life of no sorrow…. I said, "**no regret**."

Sorrow came with sin and as long as there is sin in this world, there will be sorrow!

The sorrow of REGRET is different than tribulation & persecution.

We are told in Scripture to expect and even embrace persecution, hardships and calamities. DANIEL and his friends knew what this was.

2 Corinthians 12:10 *"For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

2 Timothy 3:12 ESV *"Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,*

John 15:18 *"If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before it hated you.*

1 Peter 4:12-14 *"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*

Matthew 5:44 *"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,*

NOTES

Romans 8:35 *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?*

Joshua 24:15 *"And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

2 Timothy 4:6-8 *"6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.*

So, what are we to do if we have been living a life filled with regret?

1. **Acknowledge** your regret(s) and **repent**. You can't repent from what you don't own so we must own them before we can present them to the Lord.
2. **Accept** God's full and complete **forgiveness**.
3. Realize the **difference** of living a life with tribulation and persecution for Christ verse a life of regret of what I could have done.
    a. Regret leads to trying to make up for the past
    b. Or, the past holds us hostage in the present. In both a & b, go back to #2 and accept Forgiveness!
4. **Regret** is directly linked to **expectations**.
    a. When our expectations line up with God's expectations we won't have regrets.
5. Finally, stop saying that I wouldn't change anything in my life because it has made me who I am today. God has made you who you are today… for His purpose. **1 Corinthians 15:10** says, "*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*
    a. Yes, God can and will use any decision we make for His purpose. He is God.
    b. Excuses for sin has never removed sin nor will it ever remove the affects of sin…. REGRET!

Am I Worthy of Love? VS. I AM Worthy of Love!

LET'S BEGIN IN THE STORY OF DANIEL!

NOTES

The story of Daniel starts when God gave the land of Judah, (where Daniel lived), over to King Nebuchadnezzer of Babylon and he took control of Judah. This King took items from the Temple back to Babylon but he also took something else; he took some young men.

This King moved these young men over 800 miles away from everything they knew; parents, family, home, friends, food, and life as they knew it. They were taken to a city and a way of life that was very different from their own. The city and people of Babylon worshiped other gods and had different ways of living life.

How do you thing Daniel and the other young men felt? Full of REGRET? How would you feel? Would you be full of fear and REGRET? Would you be saying to God, "Why are You letting this happen to me or us?"

Among the young men that were taken from Judah, were four in particular. Their Hebrew names were **Daniel**, **Hananiah**, **Mischael**, and **Azariah**. But to make them Babylonians, their new owners decided to give new names.

• Daniel meaning "***God is my Judge***" was given the name Belteshazzar meaning "**protect his life**"

• Hananiah meaning "***Gracious, God has favor***" was given the name Shadrach meaning "**command of Aku**", (the Babylonian moon god)

• Mishael meaning "***Who is like God?***" was given the name Meshach meaning "**who is what Aku is?**"

• Azariah meaning "***Yahweh will help***" was given the name Abednego meaning "***servant of Ishtar***" (the mother goddess… This goddess of fertility, of maternity, of sexual love, and of war was worshiped in very immoral ceremonies).

In **Daniel 1:8** we see that Daniel was determined not to **defile himself** meaning he was determined to keep his life **pure** no matter where home was… Judah or Babylon. *"But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. He asked the chief of staff for permission not to eat these unacceptable foods."* Daniel was not willing to COMPROMISE!

In the Old Testament, God had given His people certain food laws about what they could and could not eat and how foods were to be prepared. The foods that Daniel and his three other friends were being given did not meet God's standard and they were going to be **true** to their God thus, they request not to eat the Kings food.

SIDE NOT: It was the custom for the Babylonian King to first offer his food and drink to their gods before eating. For Daniel and the others to eat this food would mean that they believed in the worship of these other gods and that was just not

NOTES

going to happen. If their God had protected them this far, He would continue protecting them even when it related to their food. They trusted God over **time**.

What was at issue was the King wanted his savants to eat the best of foods showing how great he was and Daniel wanted to only eat vegetables and water as God had commanded under the Law.

The chief official placed in charge of the servants was afraid that if these four servants did not eat the "best food" they would look wimpy compared to the other servants. This would reflect "poorly" on him and he was afraid of loosing his head over it. Daniel gave a great solution to the problem. In **Daniel 1:11-16** a test is presented. ***11*** *"Daniel spoke with the attendant who had been appointed by the chief of staff to look after Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. (notice he uses their Hebrew names)* ***12*** *"Please test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water," Daniel said.* ***13*** *"At the end of the ten days, see how we look compared to the other young men who are eating the king's food. Then make your decision in light of what you see."* ***14*** *The attendant agreed to Daniel's suggestion and tested them for ten days.*

15 *At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his three friends looked healthier and better nourished than the young men who had been eating the food assigned by the king.* ***16*** *So after that, the attendant fed them only vegetables instead of the food and wine provided for the others."*

God had given Daniel favor to even have the chief official consider his request. God had given **trust** as it related to Daniel!

God blessed Daniel and his friends for their obedience. **Daniel 1:17-20** says, *"****17*** *God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom. And God gave Daniel the special ability to interpret the meanings of visions and dreams.*

God trusted in Daniel and his three friends because they were truthful over time, thus, trustworthy. He who is given little will be given even more!

Truth + Time = Trust

18 *When the training period ordered by the king was completed, the chief of staff brought all the young men to King Nebuchadnezzar.* ***19*** *The king talked with them, and no one impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah (again their Hebrew names). So they entered the royal service.* ***20*** *Whenever the king consulted them in any matter requiring wisdom and balanced judgment, he found* ***them ten times more capable*** *than any of the magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom."*

Daniel and his three friends had **accepted** the life that God had **put in them**.

NOTES

So here's your takeaway….
By living a life of NO COMPROMISE you will receive a life of NO REGRET!

WHY you might ask?
God Doesn't Make Mistakes and regret is based on mistakes!

• **Be willing** and even ask God to take you out of your comfort zone. *"As for me and my household we will serve the Lord."* **Joshua 24:15** (Read the whole verse/story)
• God's plan is **always right**.
- No matter what it involves, His plan is best for **your life**!
• God blesses **obedience**.
- When God is our **everything**… everything we do and have is **His** for **His** plan.
• When God has our **heart** He has our **mind** and **soul** as well.
- Home is where our heart is.
- Home is where we are **no matter** where we are. Just as we are is who we are **no matter** whom we are with.
- This world is not our home…. Heaven is! **Hebrews 13:14** NLT puts it this way, *"For this world **is not** our home; we are looking forward to our **everlasting** home in heaven."*

Psalm 119:11 comes to my mind when I think of Daniel. *"I have hidden Your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against You."*…. Thant I might not COMPROMISE against You!

• **Look** for and **see** where we have compromised **against** God! (Hint, look where there is regret in your life)
• **Confess** this compromise and **repent** from it… meaning don't do it **anymore**! (God's forgiveness should remove regret)
• **Share** this change in our life with **another** person…. Believer or not a believer is ok…. Just share it! (Sharing starts the new and distances us from the old)
• **Repeat** ….. *Look*, *Confess*, and *Share* so the temptation to revert is avoided.
• **Ask other believers** to speak truth into your life about what they see in you!
Remember… *Truth* + *Time* = *Trust…* Ask others to be truthful and loving about what they see in your life. You are asking them to walk alongside of you.
If you have been asked to walk alongside someone else, you then are in-turn asking them to walk alongside of you too.

NOTES

• Pastor Teaching Notes •

DANIEL

A Heart for God, A Life of Truth, A Man of Prayer

https://lifehopeandtruth.com/prophecy/understanding-the-book-of-daniel/

Pastor Dr. Tim Parker

• LESSON THREE •

A Man of Prayer

Daniel, the teenager who had been taken captive realized that God was miraculously working with and in him (within him), and not just to preserve his life. God was revealing through him major prophecies of future world-ruling empires. God had given Daniel the ability to interpret dreams when no one else could.

Daniels life was reflective of a NO COMPROMISE life and a life WITHOUT REGRET.

COMPROMISE is what Satan uses to distract and detour us from God's will. Daniel was not going to be distracted nor would he compromise on what God had placed within him, obedience to God.

Daniel did not do this in his own strength; he did it in the strength of the Lord God Almighty. And that's what it takes for us to live a life of no compromise as well today.

NOTES

• We start our study in the Book of Daniel, Chapter 6 verses 1-6 •

https://jesusplusnothing.com/series/post/Daniel6

In Daniel chapter 6 we've got an old godly man, hungry powerful big lions, corrupt jealous officials, supernatural preservation, and the bad guys getting what they deserve!

In **chapter 5** we see the end of the Babylonian empire. In a single day, the Medes and Persians took the city and killed the Babylonian king, Belshazzar. History records the date of this event as October 13, 539 B.C. In the chapter before us, Darius, the Mede, has been appointed by King Cyrus over Babylon and Daniel is now an old man in his early 80's. But, as we shall see, Daniel is still an extraordinary man... a fact that will raise the envy and jealousy levels amongst his peers and leave Daniel in a very dangerous position with some very hungry lions. Let's take a look.

Daniel 6:1-6 says, *"It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, to be in charge of the whole kingdom, 2 and over them, three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), so that these satraps would be accountable to them, and that the king would not [come to grief or] suffer loss. 3 Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself [above] among the commissioners and satraps because [there was in him] he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king intended to appoint him over the entire kingdom. 4 Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel regarding [the Kingdom] government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, because he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him. 5 Then these men said, "We will not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find it against him regarding the law of his God."*

6 Then these commissioners and satraps came [as a group] by agreement to the king and spoke to him as follows:

• A few things to remember •

• Daniel had an extraordinary **spirit** and favor with the **King**. (vs. 3)
• He was one of the **three** top men (commissioners) over the **120** straps. (vs. 1)
• Verse 3 tells us that the King intended to put Daniel over **everyone**.
• The rest of the commissioners and satraps were willing to do **anything** to get Daniel out of **power** over them.
• The only way they thought they could trap Daniel was regarding the **Law** of his **God**.

So what was this Law of Daniel's God?

Verse 6 says that the means to deposing Daniel will be to force him to do something that conflicts with the law they want the king to sign, because it will also conflict

NOTES

with the "Law" of Daniel's God. And when he does what they know he'll do (obey the Law of his God over the law of the king), they'll have cause to get rid of him. What "Law of Daniel's God" are they talking about? The Law of Moses, the Torah Law. *"Thou shall have no other gods before me."* **Exodus 20:3**. Now we shouldn't think that theses chiefs knew much if anything about the Law of Moses. Rather this is meant in the sense that all god-systems have their own unique set of laws, and they were well aware that perhaps the most unique and visible law among the Jews was that *they only had one God to worship; and that God didn't allow the worship of any other gods.* This reality was especially highlighted in Nebuchadnezzar's era when ***Shadrakh, Meshakh and Aved-N'go*** refused to bow down the golden statue, and they wound up in the fiery furnace because of it. In the bible when the term "the Law" is applied to the Hebrew people or in a Hebrew context, it is only ever speaking about one thing: the Law of Moses: the Torah.

In **verse 7** we find the commissioners and satraps have included prefects, high officials and governors to the group trying to take Daniel out. WOW!

What had Daniel done to deserve this kind of hatred and ill treatment from these officials?

• Daniel was **different** and the **evidence** of God's presence **in** his life was **evident** for **all** to see.
• Daniel soon found himself in a position of **authority** within the Medo-Persian kingdom, just as he **had** within the Babylonian kingdom.
• **Jealousy** happened. People often don't like people who are **different**... especially if they can't be controlled. And even more so if they are **godly**!
• The new King Darius was now thinking of placing Daniel over the **entire** kingdom. So Daniel had some pretty powerful enemies.
• Search as they could, *'they could find **no** corruption in him, because he was **trustworthy** and neither corrupt nor negligent.'* What an awesome **testimony**!

Truth + Time = Trust

• The plan is hatched •

Daniel 6:5-9 *Finally these men said, 'We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless it has something to do with the law of his God.' So the administrators and the satraps went as a group to the king and said: 'O King Darius, live forever! The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, **except to you**, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den. 'Now, O king, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered - in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.' So King Darius put the decree in writing.*

NOTES

They knew they could get him if they put his devotion to God at odds with his devotion to the king and laws of the land. They would force him to have to choose which he would obey. To disobey God would ruin his testimony and integrity. To disobey the laws of the land would get him prosecuted as one who would not be fully loyal to the king. Again... this is not just something that happened 2600 years ago. This is the tactic of today as well where Christian businesses and believers are specifically targeted to try and cause persecution and prosecution.

So here was Daniel... a man who's integrity and faith in his God was so bright, others were jealous and decided to try and put that light out. So off to the king they went, saying that 'all' of the king's governors had agreed that for 30 days no one could pray to any other god then the King. Of course, the 'all' didn't include Daniel himself who was strangely left out of this decision! And the king bought it! He made a quick, foolish decision without any consultation with Daniel that he would live to regret very soon. So a foolproof plan was hatched... they thought!

• Daniel does not changes his ways •

Daniel 6:10-17 *Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, **just as he had done before**. Then these men went as **a group** and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: 'Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or man except to you, O king, would be thrown into the lions' den?' The king answered, 'The decree stands - in accordance with the laws of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.' Then they said to the king, 'Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.' When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; he was determined to rescue Daniel and made every effort until sundown to save him. Then the men went as a group to the king and said to him, 'Remember, O king, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues*

NOTES

can be changed.' So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. ***The king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!'*** *A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.*

Upon hearing of the new decree, Daniel immediately goes home and purposefully disobeys it! Not because he's a rebel... far from it. But God came first in his life and there was nothing that he would let come before or between his relationship with the Lord. Note also that he doesn't go home to moan and groan at God about his predicament. No, he kneels and gives thanks (**PRAYS**) to God! He also asks (**PRAYS**) God for His help. We need to remember that Daniel was in his early eighties at this time of life and as such he was a man with a lifetime of experiencing the faithfulness of his Lord. **Truth + Time = Trust!** Because of this, Daniel wasn't flipped-out! D.L. Moody said *that 'character is what you are in the dark.*' Well we see from this verse where Daniel's strength lay and *who he was when no one was looking*. He is unshakeable because of the firm foundation beneath him that held him up... and that is the Lord!

Nonetheless he was caught red handed, practicing that oh so terrible crime of **PRAYING** to God.

The plan had been hatched, the trap had been set, the bait was laid and taken and it had now sprung on God's servant Daniel.

What the planners had not counted on was Daniel being God's bait taking the satraps and the whole gang directly to the King as traitors. They were not going to win this war!

And although the king now realized that he had now been tricked, there was nothing that he could do about it. A decree was a decree and it must be acted upon! So, even though the king is sorrowful when he realizes that the law that he agreed to is now being used to condemn Daniel, the law of the Medes and Persians must be upheld and thus Daniel was thrown into the lion's den!

Daniel 6:18-23 *Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep. At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, 'Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God,* ***whom you serve continually****, been able to rescue you from the lions?' Daniel answered, 'O king, live forever! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because* ***I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king****. 'The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.*

NOTES

The king was obviously really concerned for Daniel, and, as someone has once said, fasted for the night hoping the lions would do likewise! There is a very real sense in which this is a picture for us. The New Testament tells us that '*your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.*' **1 Peter 5:8.** We, like Daniel, need to remain strong in our faith (NO COMPROMISE) in the midst of our difficulties. It is also important to not give the enemy reason to justifiably condemn us (NO REGRETS). We read above that Daniel was delivered from the lion because "*he was found innocent in God's eyes*!"

• An amazing testimony of God to all the people •

Daniel 6:24-28 *At the king's command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones. Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations and men of every language throughout the land:*

'May you prosper greatly!' I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. 'For He is the living God and He endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed, His dominion will never end. He rescues and He saves; He performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.'

So Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. During Daniel's life he served 6 kings.

Something usually missing from the Sunday school versions of this story is the judgment that was carried out upon the men (and their families!) who had falsely accused Daniel. They got to spend a little bit of time with the lions themselves. The scary thing about this is that there were no angels to guard and protect those that didn't fear the Lord! They had been snared in their own trap!

Now the greatest example of a trap devised, prepared and executed but fatally failing came on the day Jesus was nailed to the cross. How Satan must have rejoiced as he turned the masses against Jesus. Just like the satraps and Governors, he would have been beside himself as darkness covered the land and the Son of God died a slow and agonizing death upon that cross! 'I've done it' he would have proclaimed. 'I have killed the Son of God! My plan has worked. I have stopped God!' And yet as Jesus last breath came, the curtain in the temple was torn from top to bottom! The way into the Holy of Holies was opened **to all** and Satan's plan had backfired! That cross, the same cross that was meant to seal the Son of God's fate, would be the very thing that God used to seal Satan's fate and set the captives free! Remember in Daniel's story the Nobles used their ring seals on the opening of the lion's den so that no one could take Daniel out of his punishment for disobeying the king's order. What a plan... what a magnificent plan of God!

NOTES

But look also at the result of this trial from a personal point of view. **We can see that the strength of a person's testimony is proportional to the depth of the trial and the extent of the deliverance.** God knows what He is doing if we are asked to endure such a trial. Daniel, as we have heard, was required to go through such a trial... But what a result! Not only had Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon issued an earlier personal testimony to all of the then known world praising the God of Israel (see Daniel 4), but now king Darius of the Medo-Persian kingdom has also issued a decree to all peoples that the God of Daniel must be feared and revered! Awesome! When we are down and are wondering what is happening, let us remember these words of Darius. For he reminds us, as does this whole chapter, that:

God is a LIVING God.
God endures FOREVER.
God RESCUES and SAVES.
God performs WONDERS on our behalf.

1. Q - What was so significant about Daniel and his life?
A – Daniel's life reflected a life of No Compromise and No Regret. He remained loyal to God.

How can you be like Daniel?

1. **Accept Jesus Christ** as your personal Savior, Lord, Master and Friend.
2. **Decide To Pray**. A life of prayer comes by making the decision to spend time in prayer.
3. **Make a Schedule**. Daniel prayed to God three times a day every day (**Daniel 6:10**).
4. **Be Consistent**. Don't Compromise.
5. **Know Your Identity**. You are Jesus Christ's.
6. **Stand Firm In The Faith**. Grow in your knowledge and application of God's Word.
7. **Look to Jesus**. Don't be distracted by the world and what it has to offer.
8. **Be Humble**. Daily examine your thoughts and goals and make sure they align with God's.
9. **Confess Your Sins** Regularly. Repenting, Reconcile and Restore.

• HERE ARE 15 QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS •

1. How did King Darius organize his empire and why did he plan to promote Daniel (1-3)?
2. How did the other administrators respond (4-5)?
3. What was the "Law of Daniel's God" that Daniel would not break?
4. What decree was the king persuaded to issue (6-9)?
5. Why could he be persuaded to issue such a decree and what made it so serious?
6. What did Daniel do (10)?

NOTES

7. How was his uncompromising stand consistent with previous decisions (1:8; 2:28; 4:27; 5:22)?
8. What was his prayer topic (10-11)?
9. When Daniel's enemies reported his disobedience, how did the king react (11-14)?
10. Why could he not change the law (15)?
11. How did he deal with the situation (16-20)?
12. What did Daniel experience and testify (21-23)?
13. What happened to his enemies (24)?
14. How was God proclaimed (25-27)?
15. What can we learn about prayer?

NOTES

• Study Notes •

DANIEL

A Heart for God, A Life of Truth, A Man of Prayer

https://lifehopeandtruth.com/prophecy/understanding-the-book-of-daniel/

Pastor Dr. Tim Parker

• LESSON ONE •

A Heart for God

• Here is some interesting information about Daniel •

Roughly 2,600 years ago Daniel, a Judean teenager was taken captive by the Babylonian Empire. It was a government of unstoppable military power & strength, great wealth and technological advancement. Such an event of captivity normally led to a life of misery as a slave but God had something else in mind for Daniel.

• Now about the Book of Daniel •

The books of Daniel and Revelation contain end-time prophecy. Both books are written in a similar style, known as ***apocalyptic writing***.

A little-known fact about the book of Daniel is that approximately _____was written in _____ (as were the other books of the Old Testament), and the _____ was written in _____, another language used only sparsely in the Bible. The book of Daniel has the largest collection of Scripture that was originally written in _____ in the entire Bible. (Jesus' language)

• Here is what we will be seeing in this study •

1. We will be studying how Daniel demonstrated _____ _____ over the pagan gods and pagan _____.
2. We will also look at Daniel's legacy of faithful _____ to _____ in spite of huge trials and _____.

• The word COMPROMISE is an interesting word. How we _____ it is what will make it _____ or make it _____ relevant in our life.

Psalm 119:1-3 reads, *"Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the LORD. Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. They **do not** compromise with **evil**, and they walk only in **his** paths."*

When we have _____ distinct line drawn in our minds and on our *hearts* of what is _____ or _____, we will think COMPROMISE is ok because we live in a life of _____.

Look at **Colossians 2:11**. The New Living Translation says, *"When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. **Christ** performed a **spiritual** circumcision—the cutting away of **your sinful nature**."*

• Daniel was not going to be distracted nor would he COMPROMISE on what *God had placed within him*. His obedience was to God and God alone.

QUESTION: What thing has God placed within you that Satan is trying to get COMPROMISE on? Money, Health, Marriage, Serving, Having Children, Moving? What is it and how do you fight the good fight and be obedient to God and God alone?

• NOTES •

• Study Notes •

DANIEL

A Heart for God, A Life of Truth, A Man of Prayer

https://lifehopeandtruth.com/prophecy/understanding-the-book-of-daniel/

Pastor Dr. Tim Parker

• LESSON TWO •

A Life of Truth

Here is **LESSON TWO**: Live life as God has made it to be lived, in full surrender and commitment to Him and His will …. *and **His ways will become your ways!*** This is a Life of Truth. God is truth and as we love Him more our faith grows and our truth grows as well.

Yes, this means living a life different (but better and not always easier) than the rest of the world. Consider **1 John 2:15** and see what I mean.

In Lesson One we learned Daniel and his friends lived a life of "NO COMPROMISE".

Said another way…
Daniel lived a life of CONSISTENT COMMITMENT to God!

This week we are learning that a life of NO COMPROMISE will result in a life of NO REGRET!

The foundation for a life of NO REGRET is the belief and acceptance that this world (and all it has to offer) is not our home… Heaven is!

Regret comes from wishing to have done something different than what you did.

REGRET: To feel sorry, disappointed, distressed, or remorseful about something. If we are living our life for this life and not the next eternally with Jesus Christ, we will experience a good amount of regret.

Here is an example… have any of you been divorced? Then I guarantee that you have experienced regret!

So, what are we to do if we have been living a life filled with regret?

1. _____ your regret(s) and _____. You can't repent from what you don't own so we must own them before we can present them to the Lord.
2. _____ God's full and complete _____.
3. Realize the _____ of living a life with tribulation and persecution for Christ verse a life of regret of what I could have done.
    a. Regret leads to trying to make up for the past
    b. Or, the past holds us hostage in the present. In both a & b, go back to #2 and accept Forgiveness!
4. _____ is directly linked to _____.
    a. When our expectations line up with God's expectations we won't have regrets.
5. Finally, stop saying that I wouldn't change anything in my life because it has made me who I am today. God has made you who you are today… for His purpose. **1 Corinthians 15:10** says, "*But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.*
    a. Yes, God can and will use any decision we make for His purpose. He is God.
    b. Excuses for sin has never removed sin nor will it ever remove the affects of sin…. REGRET!

Am I Worthy of Love? VS. I AM Worthy of Love!

• NOTES •

• Study Notes •

DANIEL

A Heart for God, A Life of Truth, A Man of Prayer

https://lifehopeandtruth.com/prophecy/understanding-the-book-of-daniel/

Pastor Dr. Tim Parker

• LESSON THREE •

A Man of Prayer

• A few things to remember •

• Daniel had an extraordinary **spirit** and favor with the **King**. (vs. 3)
• He was one of the **three** top men (commissioners) over the **120** straps. (vs. 1)
• Verse 3 tells us that the King intended to put Daniel over **everyone**.
• The rest of the commissioners and satraps were willing to do **anything** to get Daniel out of **power** over them.
• The only way they thought they could trap Daniel was regarding the **Law** of his **God**.

What had Daniel done to deserve this kind of hatred and ill treatment from these officials?

• Daniel was **different** and the **evidence** of God's presence **in** his life was **evident** for **all** to see.
• Daniel soon found himself in a position of **authority** within the Medo-Persian kingdom, just as he **had** within the Babylonian kingdom.
• **Jealousy** happened. People often don't like people who are **different**... especially if they can't be controlled. And even more so if they are **godly**!

• The new King Darius was now thinking of placing Daniel over the **entire** kingdom. So Daniel had some pretty powerful enemies.
• Search as they could, *'they could find **no** corruption in him, because he was **trustworthy** and neither corrupt nor negligent.'* What an awesome **testimony**!

God is a LIVING God.
God endures FOREVER.
God RESCUES and SAVES.
God performs WONDERS on our behalf.

How can we be like Daniel?

1. **Accept Jesus Christ** as your personal Savior, Lord, Master and Friend.
2. **Decide To Pray**. A life of prayer comes by making the decision to spend time in prayer.
3. **Make a Schedule**. Daniel prayed to God three times a day every day (**Daniel 6:10**).
4. **Be Consistent**. Don't Compromise.
5. **Know Your Identity**. You are Jesus Christ's.
6. **Stand Firm In The Faith**. Grow in your knowledge and application of God's Word.
7. **Look to Jesus**. Don't be distracted by the world and what it has to offer.
8. **Be Humble**. Daily examine your thoughts and goals and make sure they align with God's.
9. **Confess Your Sins** Regularly. Repenting, Reconcile and Restore.

• NOTES •

• HERE ARE 15 QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS •

1. How did King Darius organize his empire and why did he plan to promote Daniel (1-3)?
2. How did the other administrators respond (4-5)?
3. What was the "Law of Daniel's God" that Daniel would not break?
4. What decree was the king persuaded to issue (6-9)?
5. Why could he be persuaded to issue such a decree and what made it so serious?
6. What did Daniel do (10)?
7. How was his uncompromising stand consistent with previous decisions (1:8; 2:28; 4:27; 5:22)?
8. What was his prayer topic (10-11)?
9. When Daniel's enemies reported his disobedience, how did the king react (11-14)?
10. Why could he not change the law (15)?
11. How did he deal with the situation (16-20)?
12. What did Daniel experience and testify (21-23)?
13. What happened to his enemies (24)?
14. How was God proclaimed (25-27)?
15. What can we learn about prayer?

A Couple Questions…

Did you find this Bible Study helped you?

- Grow your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ Yes: _____ No: _____
- Helped you better relate to life's challenges Yes: _____ No: _____
- Changed your life to trust God more Yes: _____ No: _____
- Grew your knowledge and understanding Yes: _____ No: _____

What part of your life did this Bible Study effect? (Please checkmark all that apply)

- Prayer ____
- Forgiveness ____
- Trust ____
- Faith ____
- Growing in the Bible ____
- Family ____
- Work ____

The practicality of the Bible Study

Please score the following questions from 1-10, with 1 being the least and 10 being the most.

1. Was I able to understand what was taught? _____
2. Am I willing to act on what I have learned? _____
3. Am I looking for and desiring Life Change? _____
4. Was this Bible Study clear in what the Bible is instructing us to do with what we have been taught? _____

Thank you for allowing us to share what God is teaching us and through us!

If you have found this Bible Study changed your Christian walk with the Lord for the better, Please consider making a donation today. Any amount will help!

If it did not help your walk with the Lord, please let us know why not!!

Donations can be made online at www.SetFreeCenter.org or www.InItForTheCause.org or mail your donation to:

Set Free Ministries
Jesus… nothing more, nothing less!
116 N. Cortez Street • Prescott, Arizona • 86301 • (480) 353-1125
(Tax ID Number • EIN 32-0363396)