

Daniel, the Man who Purposed against Proposed (Daniel 1:3-21)

Introduction

Is it possible to live a life that is pleasing to God and serve Him when all the circumstances go against us?

- The life of Daniel shows us the way.
- Daniel was a man who purposed to follow God's will against a system that wanted the otherwise.
- As a result, God did wondrous things through his life, and blessed the church through magnificent prophetic revelations, spanning till the end of the world.
- God can do so much with one consecrated heart.

A Man Brought-up Well-favored (vv 3-7)

Daniel was a well brought up Hebrew lad while in Jerusalem. He knew the Hebrew Scripture, especially the instructions given by God through His servant Moses in the Mosaic Law.

- He knew exactly what the Lord required of him to please Him and honor His name.
- It is important that we bring our children in the fear of the Lord.
- Solomon instructs us in Proverbs 4:20-27.

Daniel and his other friends were with very good character and wisdom.

- Nebuchadnezzar wanted to train them with the Chaldean culture and language in order to use them in his court.
- Later the king tried to change their names in order to give them a Babylonian identity, but he could not change their character.

A Man of Resolution (v 8)

While facing trying time, Daniel purposed in his heart to uphold godly principles and honor God and not to defile himself.

- This was a decision for righteousness.
- The meat and wine were probably first offered unto idols. Daniel did not want any question raised concerning his faith and testimony.

Three things are to be noted here:

1. A resolution made deliberately: Rash resolutions often both foolish and dangerous. Daniel thought before purposing in his heart.
2. A resolution directed to what is right: A resolution should be to purpose a right course. Daniel resolved to do what he saw and believed to be his duty.
3. Made in dependence of divine assistance: To make a right resolution we need the Lord's help; much more to keep it. Resolution is to be linked with prayer. Daniel was a man of prayer as well as purpose.

A Man whose Fidelity to God Rewarded (vv 9-21)

What we see here is nothing but Daniel's deep faith in God. He said, "prove thy servants" (v 12). It means to put them through a test.

- Daniel recognized that God was responsible for his selection and that of the 3 other friends, and the same God would see them through.
- God's sovereignty is at work in **verse 9**, "Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs."

God finally rewarded Daniel for his faith and fidelity.

- God not only preserved the health of them, but their health and appearance improved (v 15).
- God also gave them "knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom" (v 17).
- The king realized that these Hebrew children were 10 times better than all the magicians and astrologers anywhere in his empire (v 20).
- God rewarded Daniel that He sustained Daniel throughout the 70 years, and even up to the time of Cyrus (v 21; 10:1).

Conclusion

This world has so much to propose to us, but whosoever stands against the proposals of this world will be saved.

- In deep crisis in life, if we honor God, He will honor us.
- True piety to God is the frequent path to success in this life.
- Isaiah 40:30-31