

October 16-17, 2021

Title: The Book of Daniel 1-3: Courageous Character Pt 1, "The Giver Gets the Glory" – Daniel 1:1-21

Big Idea: The Giver gets the glory.

What in the message stood out to you?

Read Daniel 1. What questions do you have?

1. News report from the City of God

Read Daniel 1:1-2. In the Bible, Jerusalem represents the city of God and Babylon represents the city of man. Look up the references to Babylon (Rev. 14:8, 16:19, 17:5, 18:2, 18:10, 18:21) and Jerusalem (Rev. 3:12, 21:2, 21:10) in the Book of Revelation. What are the differences between the two cities?

Daniel 1:1 reads like a news report from the city of man. Daniel 1:2 reads like a news report from the city of God. What is the difference?

Look up some of the news reports from this week. How would these reports be different if they were reported from God's perspective?

2. The Lord gives and takes away

The first chapter of Daniel is built around the phrases "the Lord gave" (1:2) and "God gave" (1:9, 1:17). What do these three verses say God gave?

Read Daniel 1:1-7. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar takes the best and brightest of Judah to educate them in the ways of Babylon? What is he hoping to accomplish?

What are some ways that our culture is trying to "educate" believers today? What are their goals?

Everything happening in Daniel 1 was prophesied a hundred years earlier by the prophet Isaiah. Read Isaiah 39:6-7. How does it help you to realize that all these events were foreknown and planned by God? In what ways is it challenging to know this?

The truth is that "The Lord gave" Judah into the hands of Babylon (Dan. 1:2). What are some of the biblical reasons that God allows and/or plans trials for His people? (see Hebrews 12:5-11, James 1:2-4, 1 Peter 1:6-9, Romans 5:3-5, Philippians 1:12-14, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

Read Job 1:21. Why was Job able to respond to his trials this way?

3. The Lord gives favor

Read Daniel 1:8-16. Why does Daniel refuse the king's food and drink?

Read Romans 14:23. This verse (and the whole chapter of Romans 14) makes clear that violating your conscience in issues that are unclear in the Bible is a sin against God. What are some modern issues that are matters of conscience that believers may disagree about?

Daniel 1:9 says the God gave Daniel favor with his captors when it came to his resolve not to defile himself with the king's food and drink. Why should knowing this about God give you courage when it comes to issues of sin and conscience in your own life?

Read Matthew 6:31-33. In what areas of your life are you currently finding it difficult to "seek first the Kingdom" because of anxiety over the possible consequences from people around you? How does Jesus' promise in Matthew 6 help you?

4. The Lord gives wisdom

Read Daniel 1:17-21. Why do you think God gives such learning, skill, wisdom and understanding to Daniel? What is God's purpose for this?

Read James 1:5. In what areas of life do you currently need wisdom and understanding? How does James 1:5 encourage you?

One of the ways God gave Daniel wisdom is in how he interacted with his captors. What are some of the characteristics of Daniel's interaction with them? What can we learn from this about how to interact with unbelievers?

Read 1 Peter 2:23. Why should we be patient with unbelievers, even when they mistreat us?

Are there any people God wants you to treat with patience and respect even though they are mistreating you? How will this help both them and you?

Oneness & Witness Takeaways:

- Let's practice hearing news reports from the City of God instead of the city of man.
- Let's ask God every day for favor and wisdom to represent Him to the lost world around us.