

**Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 2005 OT Review: Daniel: Living For God In A Secular World: 1:1-21**

**Daniel.....another book.....exile**

**Daniel himself.....taken from Jerusalem to.....in 605.....**

**He was just 16.....From 1:4 we know that he would have been...v4.....**

He never left Babylon

**Daniel speaks to his fellow Jews living in.....NOT just by words.....esp by actions**

**And the major message.....Sovereignty of Almighty God**

*Now when you are prisoners in a foreign land.....That's what you need to hear*

*That your God is still in control.....Sovereign over all enemies*

**The wonderful thing in the book of Daniel IS THAT GOD DOES HIS PART**

In a truly amazing way

**GOD in all His power.....Constantly backs up.....statements and actions of**

• **Look with me at chapter 2**

**It seems** that Nebuchadnezzar had a dream again and.....which was complex and  
**He decided** that the only way he could get a true answer from.....was if they could

**The wise.....thought** at first they had heard him wrong

And with the penalty for not doing what he asked.....being....cut in pieces/houses

**So they asked him just to tell him the dream and they would.....**

The king got violently angry.....and ordered.....**THIS included**

**Daniel.... has such a trust in God that he offers.....Then with his 3 friends...prays**

**AND GOD GIVES HIM THE DREAM.....Look at Daniel's reaction 2:19-23**

Then look at the kings.....2:47.....

**Another time when God backed up Daniel's message with action.....found in 4**

**Nebuchadnezzar had a vision.....scared the living daylights out of him**  
He asked all his magicians, enchanters, astrologers, clairvoyants etc.....

**Then Daniel....by the power of God ....gave him the answer( **which was...**)**  
**And it happened exactly as Daniel said.....Hear what the king said→34-35**

**For yet another example of GOD proving His Sovereignty....chp 5...writing**

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**BUT AS WELL AS THAT MESSAGE OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY...so import for**  
**This book also gives us some tips.....ABOUT living for GOD in a secular world**

**For those Jews in exile.....Babylon was indeed a secular world**  
When they were in Jerusalem.....the people were not walking as close to God....but++  
**In Babylon God** was not even part of the way of life.....( Australia )

**So how did they live out their Faith in God**

- **FIRST: By recognizing that Small Things Do Matter**

**In chapter one you find Daniel and his friends.....16yrs....being made ready**  
This involved a diet that was contrary to what they believed  
*Should they stay quite.....it was just a small thing*

**They stood up for what they knew was right.....Believing that God would honour...**  
And God did

**What about you? Do you sometimes let the Lord down with the small things??**  
**Are you conscious.....how your behaviour changes.....with non-Xtians rather than with**  
Consumption of alcohol....gambling....language.....temper.....gossip

**It's often the small things.....that derail.....a Christian's witness**

- **SECOND: By believing that the Fiery Furnace Can Be Overcome**

**The story in Daniel chapter 3**.....is poss familiar to many of us  
Nebuchadnezzar built this massive image.....When the music played everyone had to...  
**Meshach, Shadrach, and Abednego...on the basis of their commitment .....**  
Refused to do so

**So before the furious king**....had to go.....THE next move was into the furnace....  
But they believed that God was greater than the furnace  
**Listen to what they said.....3:16-18.....**Even if He does not.....THINGS in hand

**And God did not only save them**.....3:26 has the king saying.....

*There are still furnaces that Xtians face.....For a diff reason to that of .....*  
*But they can be just as scary           Health scare.....Loss of Job.....Family*  
*breakdown*

*God may not always take you out of.....But He is always with you in it*

- **THIRD: By standing firm when your faith is targeted**

The story of Daniel in the lion's den.....chpt 6.....must be one of the most well known

**What is not always realised**.....that the reason Daniel   found himself with lions  
Was because other officials.....jealous of his position.....  
**Set him up for the kings judgment**

**They knew that the king would never turn against Daniel**  
And that the only chink.....Was his devotion.....and his prayer life  
**So they deliberately targeted his Faith**

**They led the king to make this proclamation**.....worshipped other than him 30days  
And when Daniel heard of it.....He went and prayed 3 times...giving thanks....just

**Of course he was thrown**.....But God rescued him....& blessed his testimony

**If you are a Christian.....then expect your faith to be targeted**

People will deliberately try to embarrass you.....*won't like that*...a Xtian  
Or....you call yourself a Xtian.....yet you.....

**How do you react???**

Do you suddenly lay aside your Xtian standards  
Or do you smile in an embarrassed way.....and try to hide

**Or do you say.....Yes I am a Christian....pleased to be one:**

And so thankful that being a Xtian is not about being perfect.....but forgiven

**FOURTH: By speaking the Prophetic Word**

**Daniel truly did that**

**In chapter 2** when Daniel told the king what his dream was.....He shared a prophecy  
That we find repeated....in a different form in Dan 7

**But each time the meaning was the same**

That the Babylonian.....would fall to the Medo-Persian...which would in turn fall Greek  
Which would split into 4.....before falling to the Roman Empire

**Daniel wrote this in about 600 BC.....The Roman Empire.....63 BC...just as**  
Daniel said.....**Then there are other Prophecies=====**

**What we need to understand.....Prophecy was never restricted.....to ..future**

**Prophecy is speaking God's Word by His Spirit directly into another's heart**

(Last Tuesday.....home group.....You fulfil the Prophetic role....)

**In our secular world.....are you open to those times.....when the Holy Spirit  
will speak through you.....a challenge to the heart of another.**

**AS I was thinking this week.....about Living for God in our secular world**

**I read this quote ==>The Most Powerful Argument for Christianity is**

**A Life You Can't Explain without God.**

**In the book of Daniel.....you find people living lives.....that only their belief in God  
Could explain.....That is the Challenge of this book for us**

**Before I close.....There is one last thing.....draw out of this book**

We know that there are those who cast doubt on what we believe  
They say that the Bible is just made up stories.....That our Faith is based on myth

**Consider this prophetic statement in Dan 7:13-14.....**

In Mark 14:62 Jesus said to the High Priest.....

**Then in Dan 9.....given this info....angel Gabriel → 9:25.....**

*7 sevens plus 62 sevens = 69 seven year periods which is 483 years*

**Now because we know the exact date of the decree-→ March 4<sup>th</sup> 444BC**

And we know that a prophetic year was 360 days

**Scholars** have been able to work out the exact day when this period would be up

**The exact day when the anointed one.....Messiah....would proclaim Himself**

**That day was March 29<sup>th</sup> AD33.....the date of the triumphant  
entry.....**

**This is God's Word.....What we proclaim is true**

**If you don't know Jesus** .....then you need to accept Him today

For Daniel also talks of the last days.....when our Lord will return

**He been right so far.....You can count on Him being right again....**

**.So are you ready**

