

GOD'S BELOVED MAN

I. Daniel purposed to follow God (1:8).

- A. Daniel was one of a group of young men taken from Jerusalem who were made eunuchs and then taught by the best teachers Babylon had to offer.
 - 1. In his commentary on Daniel, Rex Turner Sr. wrote that Nebuchadnezzar was one of the most learned kings the earth ever knew.
 - 2. He was a driven man wanted to succeed in everything he did and was very varied in his activities.
 - 3. I say all that to say this: Daniel's training was the best the world had to offer at the time.
- B. This group of young men were placed on a diet that included food that was unclean according to the Mosaic Law.
 - 1. As it appears, most of the Jewish men did not have a problem with the diet.
 - 2. However, we read that Daniel purposed in his heart to not be defiled by the unclean food.
- C. Here Daniel was, in a strange, idolatrous nation, before a king that was known to be cruel to the disobedient and he refused to obey (vs. 10).
 - 1. The reason for this was, to Daniel, purity with God was more important than promotion from the king.
 - 2. Daniel was willing to risk his life to be obedient to God.
- D. This could not have been something Daniel decided to do on the spur of the moment.
 - 1. This decision had been made long before the temptation was presented to him.
 - 2. If we hope to be beloved of God, we must purpose in our hearts to follow all of God's commands no matter the circumstances.

II. Daniel prayed for God's guidance (2:14-18).

- A. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream one night and wanted to know what it meant because it troubled him greatly.
 - 1. He asked his astrologers and wise men to give him the interpretation.
 - 2. However, the problem was he could not remember it.
- B. The wise men told him they could not interpret it without knowing what the dream was.
 - 1. The king responded by saying if they could not tell the dream and interpretation all the wise men would die.
 - 2. It went so far as the decree was made to kill all of them.
- C. At this point, Daniel went and asked for time to learn the dream.
- D. The very first thing Daniel did was get together his friends and ask them to pray with and for him so their lives would be spared.
- E. In a dangerous circumstance, Daniel turned to God in prayer.
 - 1. It was not unusual for Daniel to pray.
 - 2. In fact it was his custom to pray three times a day (6:10).

- F. Christians need to learn to rely on God in prayer.
 - 1. He is the giver of wisdom (James 1:5).
 - 2. He wants us to come to Him in prayer to show our reliance on Him and He will bless us when we do so.
- G. If we hope to be beloved of God we need to pray to Him for guidance.

III. **Daniel praised God for His power (2:26-28).**

- A. God granted the request of Daniel and his friends and revealed the dream and interpretation to Daniel.
- B. When he came before the king, Nebuchadnezzar asked Daniel if he was able to tell him the dream and the interpretation.
 - 1. Earlier, the king had offered a reward to the one who did.
 - 2. It would have been very easy for Daniel to take all the credit and say that he was able to do so.
- C. Notice what Daniel said recorded in verses 27-28.
 - 1. None of the men surrounding the king could do it.
 - 2. Without God, Daniel could not have done it.
- D. Daniel gave God all the praise and glory for having the power to reveal the information to Daniel.
- E. How many of us would have done this?
- F. How many of us do this today when we do something and are praised by others when it is done?
 - 1. Many times, we may simply say thank you.
 - 2. Other times we praise ourselves.
 - 3. Most times we forget to give God any praise at all.
- G. Daniel didn't make that mistake and if we want to be beloved of God, we must praise God for His power that allows us to do what we do.

IV. **Daniel preached God's message (ch. 4-5).**

- A. Daniel never shunned from telling the king's he advised what God's message to them was.
 - 1. In chapter 4, it is recorded that Nebuchadnezzar had another dream and needed it interpreted.
 - 2. Daniel came to him after all the others had failed and God allowed him to interpret the dream.
 - 3. It was a dream that spelled out great trouble for the king (vs. 19).
 - 4. Notice what Daniel counseled him to do in verse 27.
- B. Here is Daniel, a Jew in a hostile country, telling the king he needs to repent and change his life.
 - 1. Think of the courage that took.
 - 2. Daniel preached the message of God no matter what.
- C. In chapter 5, Nebuchadnezzar's son, Belshazzar is now ruling.
 - 1. This man was not the king his father was.
 - 2. Because of his lack of forethought and unwillingness to honor God, God visited him and his court.
 - 3. Daniel had to come in, now much older, and give the interpretation of the handwriting on the wall.
 - 4. He did not hesitate to condemn the king for his attitude (vs. 17-24)

- or give the interpretation of the writing.
 - D. No matter the situation, Daniel just preached God's message.
 - 1. It was not his to change, neither is it ours to change.
 - 2. I noticed where Pat Robertson said we could leave our spouses if they had Alzheimers.
 - E. If we want to be beloved of God, we must preach His message.
- V. **Daniel pleased God with his life (6:22).**
 - A. Daniel was an older man, probably close to 70 years old if not older when the events of chapter 6 took place.
 - 1. There were those jealous of his power and position.
 - 2. The only way they could come up with anything on Daniel was to devise a trap involving his dedication to God.
 - 3. They got the king, now King Darius the Mede, to pass a law that no prayers were to be offered except to him.
 - 4. They knew Daniel would pray anyway, which he did.
 - B. They brought this before the king and he had to throw Daniel to the lions.
 - 1. We know God saved him but notice why.
 - 2. Verse 22 - Daniel was innocent of any wrongdoing.
 - C. Daniel lived in such a way that God saw him as righteous, thus he was found innocent in God's eyes.
 - D. If we want to be beloved of God, we must live lives that please God.