

Faith Under Fire

Daniel 1:1-21

How do you respond when your world seems to be falling apart?

Daniel is a book of real life stories and prophecies that show us how to keep our faith during difficult times.

I. God is in Control – Daniel 1:1-2

- The belief was that the God of a country that defeats another country has the most powerful God. Therefore, Babylon had the greatest God.
- God gave the country of Judah to Babylon.
- Isaiah 39:6-7 predicts that Judah would be invaded by Babylon

II. Pressure to Compromise Your Faith – Daniel 1:3-7

How was Daniel pressured in his faith?

- Removed from their Comfort Zone and support system.
- Taught a new way to think. Indoctrination...
- Seduction – Offered the good life.
- Confusion – Attempted to change their identities and who they believe in..

How are you pressured to compromise your faith?

III. Standing Up For Your Faith – Daniel 1:8-16

Why would Daniel not eat Meat?

1. Babylonians would not follow the rules for clean and unclean animals.
2. Most of the meat was offered to idols.
3. Would not follow the Hebrew practice for preparing the meat. For instance, how to drain the blood.

Overall, the meat was considered unclean.

- Seek to follow God, not public opinion
- Your long-term health will be improved when following God's commands. (Physically, Emotional, and Spiritually)
Disclaimer – I am not saying that you will not be sick or ever have disease.

IV. Results of Daniels Faith - Daniel 1:17-21

1. God provided Wisdom and gift of interpretation
2. God provided a way to be faithful and safe
3. Daniel Experienced Victory

V. Review – This Story is Not About Daniel, but about God

1. God is in Control of all things. (Sovereign God)
V2. "God gave..." Babylon victory.
2. God is always at work around you. (Circumstances and relationships)
V9. "God gave..." Chief of staff both respect and affection for Daniel.
3. God will provide
V17 "God gave..." Wisdom and the ability to interpret visions and dreams.

Conclusion: An obedient heart is the key to living for God vs. following the worlds wisdom.