

Part 24 — “The Book of Daniel: Lessons for the Seasons of Life” — 27 November 2022

Introduction: The Structure and Themes of Daniel

Part 1 (Ch. 1-6)

Part 2 (Ch. 7-12)

Main Point: The accounts of Daniel and his friends during the various seasons of life serve to _____ and _____ us to trust in the personal presence and sovereign power of the Lord as we live our lives as His witnesses.

Lessons for the Young

1. Having been taken to Babylon, Daniel and his friends resolved to continue to _____ God with their choices. (Dan. 1:1-21)

Dan. 1:8—But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king’s food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

“resolved”

“defile”

Important Question: *Who is _____ of my life?*

2. Faced with a crisis, Daniel and his friends sought the Lord together in _____. (Dan. 2:1-49)

Dan. 2:17-18—¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸ and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Important Question: *Who are the people that _____ me the most?*

Key Point: In our youth, personal faithfulness is most clearly demonstrated in the _____ that we make and it is often enabled or hindered by the _____ that we surround ourselves with.

Lessons for the Middle-Aged

1. Faced with a demand that they both affirm and participate in _____, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah refused to dishonor the Lord. (Dan. 3:1-30)

Dan. 3:16-18—¹⁶ Shadrach, Mesbach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. ¹⁷ If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.”

Important Question: *What am I willing to _____?*

2. Daniel had enough concern for Nebuchadnezzar that he was willing to speak the _____ to him in love. (Dan. 4:1-37)

Dan. 4:19, 27—¹⁹ Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him...²⁷ Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

Important Question: *Am I willing to tell someone the truth even if it could be _____ to them?*

Key Point: In the middle of life when we often have the most to lose, the public bearing of witness to the truth can come at a real _____, both professionally and personally.

Lessons for the Aged

1. Having fallen out of a position of influence in the years following the death of Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel continued faithfully until he was once again _____ out for his counsel. (Dan. 5:1-30)

Dan. 5:11-12, 17—¹¹ There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, light and understanding and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods were found in him, and King Nebuchadnezzar, your father—your father the king—made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers, ¹² because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding... ¹⁷ Then Daniel answered and said before the king, “Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another. Nevertheless, I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation.

Important Question: *Am I _____ to serve even if I am no longer sought out?*

2. Being forbidden to pray to the Lord and facing the possibility of his own death, Daniel refused to be overcome by fear or discouragement and instead continued to confidently _____ God. (Dan. 6:1-28)

Dan. 6:10, 21-22—¹⁰ When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously... ²¹ Then Daniel said to the king, “O king, live forever! ²² My God sent his angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm.”

Important Question: *Do I remain confident and hopeful in the face of _____?*

Key Point: For those who have lived faithfully as God’s witnesses, there should be a desire to seal our testimony with a _____ death.

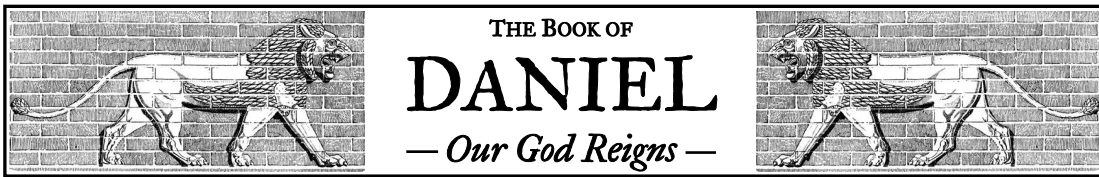
Living Faithfully in “Babylon”

- Throughout the seasons of life, we are called to _____ the Lord and to _____ Him together in the world!

1 Pet. 2:4-5—⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Important Imagery: *We are a _____!*

We are _____!



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