

Our Powerful God

Sensing God's Strength in a Strange Land

Introduction:

God has different paths and plans for His people.

Four Mega-Themes in Daniel

1. God is in control.

- Our faith is sure because our future is secure.

2. The power of purpose.

“A man lives by believing something; not by debating or arguing about many things.” - Thomas Carlyle

3. The challenge to be in, not of, the world.

- There is a major difference between the boat being in the water and the water being in the boat.

4. God is faithful.

“Anything less than God will let you down.” - E. Stanley Jones

Why did God allow His people to be carried into captivity?

1. Biblical Prophecy. See Isaiah

2. Biblical Principles.

God is faithful in His blessings and judgments. They are given to us according to our obedience or disobedience to His will.

The curses that God allows in our lives become a crisis. Our response will make us bitter or better.

Nebuchadnezzar's Plan: (Daniel 1:3-7)

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. Isolation | 2. Indoctrination |
| 3. Compromise | 4. Confusion |

Daniel's purposes: (Daniel 1:8-16)

Daniel models three character traits for all of us who are under pressure and temptation:

1. His decisiveness (v. 8)

- His decisiveness was personal.
- His decisiveness was immediate. The first time he was asked to compromise in the culture he took a stand.
- The second opportunity is always more difficult if the first has been refused.

2. His modesty (v. 12)

3. His expectation (v. 13)

- Daniel had within himself the seeds of strong convictions. He was not intimidated, he was willing to stand alone, he was willing to have his convictions tested, and he held those convictions with the right attitude.

God's Provisions: (Daniel 1:17-21)

Observations:

1. God's provisions were a result of their faithfulness.
2. Their faithfulness today prepared them for their promotions tomorrow.
3. Their faithfulness influenced the king and also future generations.

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