



Series: Daniel, Living for God in a Pagan World

Passage: Daniel 1:1-8

Title: Introduction: Purpose of Heart

Speaker: Pastor David Menard, 06/16/2024

Discussion Starter – What did you learn about the dramatic prophecies given in the Book of Daniel? Why do you think God provides so many detailed predictions of future events in His word?

- 1) Why do biblical critics insist that Daniel was written much later than 605-535 BC as claimed in the text?
- 2) Read Isaiah 46:9-10. What does God say about making prophetic predictions in His Word?
- 3) How is our faith and confidence in God strengthened by understanding His remarkable prophetic predictions?
- 4) Read Daniel 1:1-4. How did Daniel and other young Jewish men come to be held in King Nebuchadnezzar's court?
- 5) How is God's justice served by a pagan king conquering God's chosen people?
 - a) Does the church face a similar threat today? Are we threatened by "carnal Christianity" in our midst?
- 6) Why were Daniel and his companions selected for Nebuchadnezzar's court? What was Nebuchadnezzar's purpose in taking these young men captive?
 - b) Why were young people a target for cultural conversion during Daniel's day? How is it similar today?
- 7) Read Daniel 1:5-7. What is the meaning of the Hebrew names Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah?
- 8) What is the meaning of the Babylonian names, Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego?
- 9) What is the significance of changing the names of these young men? What was the purpose?
 - c) How is the identity of our youth being challenged today? What alternate identities are being presented to them?
- 10) Read Daniel 1:8-10. Where did Daniel gain the strength to stand against the planned change to his identity?
- 11) What steps did Daniel take because of his purposed heart?
 - d) What actual life changes is God asking you to make that reflect your strong commitment to do His will in this pagan world?