

Daniel 1 gives us a glimpse a peak into living in a decaying culture and yet to still stand strong

Daniel a teenager brought into captivity in Babylon whose king was Nebuchadnezzar transported from Gods place to Babylon a pagan environment. A place of all kinds of debauchery and wickedness of false Idol worship and sexual perversion. He was there because of Israel's rebellion. – BUT HE WAS THERE FOR A REASON

4 boys caught up in the Judgement of God upon the nation of Israel (2 types of judgement of God 1.across nations and 2.Individuals) So they find themselves in this secular culture a culture that was foreign to them

The boys understood their God, the God of Israel hated everything Babylon stood for its idol worship and sexual perversion everything was in this place called Babylon. AND IN THE MIDST OF IT GOD WILL HAVE A HOLY REMNANT – WHO WILL LEAD A PEOPLE BY REMINDING THEM OF THE LOVE AND THE POWER OF THEIR GOD!

Because nations and individuals can experience Gods Hand of blessing and His covering lift if they keep continuing in what God Hates—

Rom1v18 –31

:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Rom 1:21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

*Rom 1:24 **Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness**, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,*

Rom 1:25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

*Rom 1:26 For this reason **God gave them up to vile passions**. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.*

Rom 1:27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

*Rom 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a debased mind**, to do those things which are not fitting;*

Rom 1:29 being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers,

Rom 1:30 backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

Rom 1:31 undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

Rom 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.

God gave them up! - its slide is progressive v24 uncleanness , uncleanness to vile passions—last of all a debased mind

So this society began to impose their cultural values and passions upon them and began to try and indoctrinate them by BRAINWASHING THEM KEEPING IN THE FRONT OF THEIR EYES IDOLS BY DOING SO DESENSITISING THEM – THEY OFFERED THEM DELICACIES OFFERED TO IDOLS - OFFERED THEM PROMOTION TO LET GO OF THEIR HERITAGE AND THEIR GOD.

*Dan 1:8&9 But Daniel **purposed in his heart** that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. V9 **Now God** had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs. (God never acted till Daniel made a stand and his intent known)*

THE 4 BOYS DREW A LINE IN THE SAND AND REFUSED TO BOW TO THE PRESSURE FROM PEOPLE, GOVERNMENT OF THE DAY AND THE TEMPTATIONS PRESENTED AND STAYED COMMITTED TO THE GOD OF ISRAEL. AND MADE STAND!

SOMETHING HAD GRIPPED THEIR HEARTS – THAT SOMETHING IS CALLED LOVE AND THE FEAR OF GOD. **SOMEONE HAD TAUGHT THEM AND DISCIPLINED THEM TO RESIST AND STAND** – SOMEONE HAD DEPOSITED WORD IN THEM THAT CAUSED THEIR HEARTS TO BE FULLY PERSUADED.

SO WHEN GOD SEE'S A PEOPLE MAKE A STAND GOD HONOURS THE STAND - WHEN GOD SEE'S PEOPLE OPEN THE DOOR OF THEIR HEARTS HE OPENS A DOOR IN HEAVEN
(REV3V20 - REV4V1)

FOR DANIEL IT WAS FAVOR – FOR THE 3 BOYS IT WAS ANOTHER MAN STANDING WITH THEM IN THE MIDST OF THEIR FIRE!

THESE LIKE Abraham -Noah - Joseph - Moses – Hannah - Elijah – David – Job -John the baptiser –Steven – then the rest of the cloud of witness before us Have 1 thing in common

GOD HAD THEIR WHOLE HEARTS – THEY DIDN'T SHARE THEIR HEART WITH ANOTHER

Mk12v30-31 - YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART WITH ALL YOUR SOUL WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH -AND THEN JESUS ADDED AND YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF.

JESUS HAD JUST QUOTED WHAT HIS FATHER HAD SAID IN QUOTED DEUT CH6

*Deut6v1-6 READ****

*GOD ASKS THIS OF US BECAUSE THIS IS HOW GOD LOVES US.
HE LOVES ME WITH ALL HIS HEART - HE LOVES ME WITH ALL HIS SOUL - HE LOVES ME WITH ALL HIS
STRENGTH*

SO WE HAVE TO BUILD ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

TEACH HIS CHILDREN TO UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH GOD LOVES THEM SO THEY IN TURN CAN GIVE HIM THEIR WHOLE HEARTS.

- HE COMMANDED FATHERS TO TEACH THEM IN YOUR HOUSE - THE LOVE AND THE WAYS OF GOD
- AS YOU WALK – DOING LIFE TOGETHER
- CONNECTED WITH THEM WHETHER THEIR UP OR DOWN
- OUR FAITH IS SEEN NOT JUST HEARD (BIND THEM ON YOUR HAND)
- OUR WALK IS DISPLAYED AS ONE WHO FOLLOWS THE LORD (BETWEEN YOUR EYES – YOU CANT SEE THEM BUT OTHERS CAN A RENEWED MIND)

- SO THIS DISCIPLESHIP WASN'T DONE IN THE TEMPLE OR THE TABERNACLE BUT AT HOME!
- TO MAKE THEM DISCIPLES THROUGH LIFE GROUPS (OPEN DOORS)—THESE MUST BECOME THE CENTREPOINT OF OUR GATHERING AND MINISTERING AND OUTREACHING – NOT JUST SOMETHING TO GO TO BUT THE PLACE WE COMMIT AND INVEST IN. SO WE BECOME DISCIPLLED AND IN TURN DISCIPLERS TO MAKE OTHER DISCIPLES .

THIS PATTERN IS NOT NEW THIS PATTERN - IF IT IS BUILT ACCORDING TO HIS PATTERN NO FLOOD CAN EFFECT IT AND ITS INFLUENCE WILL BE FELT IN YOUR GENERATIONS...

IT WILL REQUIRE –A SACRIFICE- TRAINING - PLANNING -DEVELOPING -ADJUSTING BUT IN DOING SO WE BECOME LIKE HE IS SHARING HIS LOVE & DEMONSTRATING HIS LIFE

A PLACE WHERE DISCIPLES ARE DEVELOPED - LOVE IS EXPRESSED - PEOPLE ARE REACHED - DISCIPLES BECOME DISCIPLERS