

## **GOD'S BELOVED MAN**

### **I. Daniel purposed to follow God (1:8).**

- A. Daniel was one of a group of young men taken from Jerusalem who were made eunuchs and then taught by the best teachers Babylon had to offer.
  - 1. In his commentary on Daniel, Rex Turner Sr. wrote that Nebuchadnezzar was one of the most learned kings the earth ever knew.
  - 2. He was a driven man wanted to succeed in everything he did and was very varied in his activities.
  - 3. I say all that to say this: Daniel's training was the best the world had to offer at the time.
- B. This group of young men were placed on a diet that included food that was unclean according to the Mosaic Law.
  - 1. As it appears, most of the Jewish men did not have a problem with the diet.
  - 2. However, we read that Daniel purposed in his heart to not be defiled by the unclean food.
- C. Here Daniel was, in a strange, idolatrous nation, before a king that was known to be cruel to the disobedient and he refused to obey (vs. 10).
  - 1. The reason for this was, to Daniel, purity with God was more important than promotion from the king.
  - 2. Daniel was willing to risk his life to be obedient to God.
- D. This could not have been something Daniel decided to do on the spur of the moment.
  - 1. This decision had been made long before the temptation was presented to him.
  - 2. If we hope to be beloved of God, we must purpose in our hearts to follow all of God's commands no matter the circumstances.

### **II. Daniel prayed for God's guidance (2:14-18).**

- A. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream one night and wanted to know what it meant because it troubled him greatly.
  - 1. He asked his astrologers and wise men to give him the interpretation.
  - 2. However, the problem was he could not remember it.
- B. The wise men told him they could not interpret it without knowing what the dream was.
  - 1. The king responded by saying if they could not tell the dream and interpretation all the wise men would die.
  - 2. It went so far as the decree was made to kill all of them.
- C. At this point, Daniel went and asked for time to learn the dream.
- D. The very first thing Daniel did was get together his friends and ask them to pray with and for him so their lives would be spared.
- E. In a dangerous circumstance, Daniel turned to God in prayer.
  - 1. It was not unusual for Daniel to pray.
  - 2. In fact it was his custom to pray three times a day (6:10).

- F. Christians need to learn to rely on God in prayer.
  1. He is the giver of wisdom (James 1:5).
  2. He wants us to come to Him in prayer to show our reliance on Him and He will bless us when we do so.
- G. If we hope to be beloved of God we need to pray to Him for guidance.

### III. **Daniel praised God for His power (2:26-28).**

- A. God granted the request of Daniel and his friends and revealed the dream and interpretation to Daniel.
- B. When he came before the king, Nebuchadnezzar asked Daniel if he was able to tell him the dream and the interpretation.
  1. Earlier, the king had offered a reward to the one who did.
  2. It would have been very easy for Daniel to take all the credit and say that he was able to do so.
- C. Notice what Daniel said recorded in verses 27-28.
  1. None of the men surrounding the king could do it.
  2. Without God, Daniel could not have done it.
- D. Daniel gave God all the praise and glory for having the power to reveal the information to Daniel.
- E. How many of us would have done this?
- F. How many of us do this today when we do something and are praised by others when it is done?
  1. Many times, we may simply say thank you.
  2. Other times we praise ourselves.
  3. Most times we forget to give God any praise at all.
- G. Daniel didn't make that mistake and if we want to be beloved of God, we must praise God for His power that allows us to do what we do.

### IV. **Daniel preached God's message (ch. 4-5).**

- A. Daniel never shunned from telling the king's he advised what God's message to them was.
  1. In chapter 4, it is recorded that Nebuchadnezzar had another dream and needed it interpreted.
  2. Daniel came to him after all the others had failed and God allowed him to interpret the dream.
  3. It was a dream that spelled out great trouble for the king (vs. 19).
  4. Notice what Daniel counseled him to do in verse 27.
- B. Here is Daniel, a Jew in a hostile country, telling the king he needs to repent and change his life.
  1. Think of the courage that took.
  2. Daniel preached the message of God no matter what.
- C. In chapter 5, Nebuchadnezzar's son, Belshazzar is now ruling.
  1. This man was not the king his father was.
  2. Because of his lack of forethought and unwillingness to honor God, God visited him and his court.
  3. Daniel had to come in, now much older, and give the interpretation of the handwriting on the wall.
  4. He did not hesitate to condemn the king for his attitude (vs. 17-24)

- or give the interpretation of the writing.
  - D. No matter the situation, Daniel just preached God's message.
    - 1. It was not his to change, neither is it ours to change.
    - 2. I noticed where Pat Robertson said we could leave our spouses if they had Alzheimers.
  - E. If we want to be beloved of God, we must preach His message.
- V. **Daniel pleased God with his life (6:22).**
  - A. Daniel was an older man, probably close to 70 years old if not older when the events of chapter 6 took place.
    - 1. There were those jealous of his power and position.
    - 2. The only way they could come up with anything on Daniel was to devise a trap involving his dedication to God.
    - 3. They got the king, now King Darius the Mede, to pass a law that no prayers were to be offered except to him.
    - 4. They knew Daniel would pray anyway, which he did.
  - B. They brought this before the king and he had to throw Daniel to the lions.
    - 1. We know God saved him but notice why.
    - 2. Verse 22 - Daniel was innocent of any wrongdoing.
  - C. Daniel lived in such a way that God saw him as righteous, thus he was found innocent in God's eyes.
  - D. If we want to be beloved of God, we must live lives that please God.