

Daniel Purposed in His Heart

Daniel 1:1-21

I. Daniel's Circumstances – v.3-5

- a. Israelite at time of Babylonian captivity
- b. Young – generally thought to be 14-18 years of age
- c. Carried away from home
- d. To be trained and schooled to serve the king of Babylon

II. Daniel Tested

- a. King had appointed daily provision of his delicacies and wine – v.5
- b. Punishment possible if did not follow – v.10
- c. Peers followed the king – v.15
- d. Not under the eyes of parents and relatives
- e. Daniel has a decision to make
- f. Could rationalize conformity to king's orders
 - i. Romans 13:1-2; Acts 5:29
 - ii. Luke 12:4-5
 - iii. Exodus 23:2; Proverbs 1:10
 - iv. Hebrews 4:13
 - v. James 2:10-11

III. Daniel Demonstrates

- a. Purpose
 - i. Verse 8 – “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself...”
 - ii. Purpose involves decision and determination; a conscious choosing of a thing and a determined will to bring it to be accomplished
 - iii. Purpose is the opposite of things happening accidentally, by chance, or flippantly
 - iv. 2 Timothy 3:10 – Paul had an aim in life set before him which he chose and willed to accomplish
- b. Respect for God's law
 - i. Leviticus 11; Exodus 34:15
 - ii. James 1:25, 2:12; Colossians 3:17
- c. Great faith
 - i. Hebrews 11:6
 - ii. Esther 4:16
- d. Courage
 - i. 2 Peter 1:5; Hebrews 13:6

IV. Christians need to purpose in their heart like Daniel

- a. Purpose involves both “I will” and “I will not”
- b. Purpose needed in order to continue with the Lord – “cleave unto the Lord” (KJV)

- i. Acts 11:23; 14:22; Matthew 10:22
- c. Purpose needed in order to lead our children in the ways of the Lord
 - i. Ephesians 6:4; Titus 2:4; 1 Timothy 3:4
- d. Purpose needed in order to control our tongues
 - i. Psalm 17:3; 39:1
 - ii. Ephesians 5:4; 4:25, 29, 31; Colossians 4:6
 - iii. 1 Peter 2:21-23
- e. Purpose needed in order to keep ourselves pure
 - i. Matthew 5:8
 - ii. James 1:27
 - iii. Job 31:1
 - iv. 1 Corinthians 6:18
 - v. Genesis 39:8-10
- f. Purpose needed in order to have the right companions
 - i. 1 Corinthians 15:33
- g. Purpose need in order to shun the use of drugs and alcohol
 - i. 1 Corinthians 6:12
- h. Purpose needed in our giving on the first day of the week
 - i. 2 Corinthians 9:7; 8:10-11
 - ii. Malachi 1:7-8

V. Conclusion

- a. Daniel stands out as an example to follow – to purpose in our heart.
- b. If you are not a Christian, then purpose within your heart to become a Christian no matter the cost to you personally, and then become one.
- c. If you are Christian, then purpose within your heart to continue with the Lord and to keep yourself pure in thought, in speech, and in deed.