

## I. Note the Kinds of Material That Make Up the Book of Daniel

- A. Large portion of dreams and visions
  - 1. Some outline the future of the nations
  - 2. Some outline the future for Israel
- B. Large portion devoted to biographical material - all with a similar message

## II. Daniel: Living for God in the Time of the Gentiles

- A. God's plan for Israel up to this point
  - 1. Israel has been able to live as a separate people in their own land
  - 2. Through God's blessing in that land they could testify to God
- B. The developing new situation
  - 1. During the times of the Gentiles, God will be calling out a people for Himself - *in the midst of those lands*
  - 2. Daniel becomes a prototype of that experience
- C. Two seemingly contradictory facts about Daniel's experience
  - 1. Daniel was man greatly honored by God
  - 2. Daniel was the prime minister of an idolatrous nation
    - a. Babylon in scripture pictures the pride of man opposing God
- D. Four key stories to understand how this can be
  - 1. Daniel made up his mind (Chapter 1)
    - a. Daniel is only a slave
    - b. Daniel made up his mind
      - (1) Essence of Daniel's decision - *It is more important to please God than to live*
    - c. Daniel and his friends are given capacities and favor after the decision

### Assignment:

Read and compare Nebuchadnezzar's Dream in chapter 3 to Daniel's vision in chapter 7. Both relate information about the history following Babylon.

How are the visions similar? How do they differ?

2. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Chapter 2)
  - a. Daniel accepted the circumstance as opportunity
  - b. Daniel pointed to God as the source of all his capacity
3. Nebuchadnezzar's Image (Chapter 3)
  - a. As a test of loyalty, the king sets up a massive image
  - b. The response of the three friends
    - (1) Refused to bow
    - (2) Refused Nebuchadnezzar's offer for a second chance
    - (3) ***To please God is more important than to live***
    - (4) God could deliver. But even if we suffer it is better to serve Him.
4. The Lion's Den (Chapter 6)
  - a. Daniel is an old man
  - b. Daniel has a reputation for his loyalty to God
    - (1) Integrity
    - (2) Loyalty to God
  - c. The only way to get Daniel is to make his religion illegal
  - d. Daniel's response
    - (1) Daniel goes back to the place of prayer
    - (2) ***To please God is more important than to live***
5. God's testimony about Daniel
  - a. Daniel - greatly beloved, highly esteemed by God