



THE DEVOTED LIFE OF DANIEL **“The Development of Character” Daniel 1:1-21**

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Some scholars say “Daniel” was written in the 6th Century B.C., others the 2nd Century B.C. Either way, the people of God were living in perilous times. They needed to know how to conduct themselves, and the stories of Daniel showed how. We can learn from them.

I. The Days that Demand Character.

A. In Daniel’s case:

1. The moral and spiritual collapse of Judah. Jeremiah 25:1-7
2. The reaction of the Lord. v. 2, Jeremiah 25:8-12; 2 Chronicles 36:15-23
3. The destruction of Jerusalem, temple and religious structures. v. 2
4. The call to live faithfully in an alien culture. Jeremiah 24:1-7; 29:4-14

B. In our case:

The challenge to live:

1. In this world.
2. Not of this world.
3. Sent to this world. John 17

II. The Principles that Develop Character.

A. In Daniel’s case:

1. A willingness to explore opportunities. vv. 3-5
 - a. His natural abilities.
 - b. His willingness to be trained.
2. A readiness to cooperate where possible. vv. 6-7, 17
3. A refusal to engage in defiling activities. vv. 8-14
 - a. The need for distinctiveness.
 - b. The importance of difference.
4. A recognition that principles can be costly.
5. A conviction that God is in control. See vv. 2, 9, 17

B. In our case:

1. To know what we believe and why.
2. To accept the consequences of what we believe with steadfastness.
3. To know when to draw the line and where.
4. To trust God to do what He has said He will do.

III. The People Who Benefit from Character.

A. In Daniel’s case:

1. Nebuchadnezzar who benefited from Daniel’s spiritual wisdom.
2. Daniel’s friends who were strengthened by his resolve.
3. The court officials who saw faith in action.

B. In our case:

1. Those who need to understand conviction and constancy.
2. Those who need to be exposed to grace and truth.
3. Those who need to experience faith in action.

Point to Ponder: What does it take to “dare to be a Daniel”?