Pure Living in a Pagan Land

(The Convictions of Daniel)

Daniel 1:1-21

12/3/2008

INTRODUCTION: Verses 1-4

***We need to purpose in our hearts not to bend on our Bible convictions (v. 8).**



I. Obedience Will Always be <u>TESTED</u> (v. 5-7)
(The <u>Test</u> of Daniel's Convictions)

II. Obedience Should Always be <u>GRACIOUS</u> (v. 8b-9)
(The <u>Attitude</u> of Daniel's Convictions)

III. Obedience Will Always Require <u>FAITH</u> (v. 10-14)
(The <u>Faith</u> of Daniel's Convictions)

IV. Obedience Will Always be <u>REWARDED</u> (v. 9, 15-21)
(The <u>REWARD</u> of Daniel's Convictions)

THE GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

(The King's Dream is Revealed)
Daniel 2:1-30



INTRODUCTION:

***Put your faith in the God of the impossible!**

Two good reasons why:

I. <u>MAN</u> CANNOT DO WHAT ONLY GOD CAN DO (v. 1-13)

A. The Impossible <u>DEMAND</u> of the King (v. 1-6)

B. The Impossible <u>DILEMMA</u> of the Wise Men (v. 7-13)

II. <u>GOD</u> CAN DO WHAT MAN CANNOT DO (v. 14-30)

A. When Daniel Needed Wisdom:
HE PUT HIS <u>FAITH</u> IN GOD (v. 14-19)

1. Daniel's faith gave him:
<u>DISCERNMENT</u> from God (v. 14-15)

2. Daniel's faith gave him:
<u>DEPENDENCE</u> on God (v. 16-19)

B. When Daniel Received Wisdom:
HE GAVE THE <u>CREDIT</u> TO GOD (v. 20-30)

1. He was <u>THANKFUL</u> to God (v. 20-23)

2. He was <u>HUMBLE</u> before God (v. 24-30)

"THE KING OF KINGS IS IN CONTROL"

(The King's Dream is Interpreted)
Daniel 2:31-49



INTRODUCTION: Verses 31-36

***The LORD is sovereign over this world's kingdoms.**
(God is in control!)

Four evidences of God's sovereignty:

I. The LORD <u>ESTABLISHES</u> the power of this world's kingdoms (v. 37-38)

II. The LORD <u>PREDICTS</u> the future of this world's kingdoms (v. 39-43)

III. The LORD will <u>DESTROY</u> this world's kingdoms (v. 44-45; cp. 34-35)

IV. The LORD will <u>REPLACE</u> this world's kingdoms (v. 44-45)
"Thy Kingdom come" - Mt. 6:10

A. Christ's Kingdom will come <u>personally</u> (v. 44a, 45a)

B. Christ's Kingdom will come <u>permanently</u> (v. 44b)

C. Christ's Kingdom will come <u>positively</u> (v. 45b)

CONCLUSION: Verses 46-49

"FAITH THROUGH THE FIRE"

Daniel 3:1-30

INTRODUCTION: Verses 1-7

I. True Faith Will Always be <u>TESTED</u> by the World (v. 8-15)
(The <u>Test</u> of Faith)

II. True Faith Will Always be <u>OBEDIENT</u> to the Word (v. 16-23)
(The <u>Tenacity</u> of Faith)

III. True Faith Will Always be <u>REWARDED</u> by the Lord (v. 24-27, 30)
(The <u>Triumph</u> of Faith)

God rewards the <u>faithful</u> with:

A. His <u>Presence</u> (v. 24-25)

B. His <u>Protection</u> (v. 26-27)

C. His <u>Promotion</u> (v. 26-27)

IV. True Faith Will Always Bring <u>Glory</u> to God (v. 28-29)
(The <u>Testimony</u> of Faith)

CONCLUSION:

"PRIDE, YOUR # 1 ENEMY"

Daniel 4:1-37

***Pride must be defeated in the Christian's life!**

How? By understanding three truths about pride.

I. PRIDE CAN BE DEFEATED BY UNDERSTANDING THE MARKS OF PRIDE (v. 30)

A. PRIDE OF SELF-ACHIEVEMENT (V. 30a)

B. PRIDE OF SELF-STRENGTH (V. 30b)

C. PRIDE OF SELF-GLORIFICATION (V. 30c)

II. PRIDE CAN BE DEFEATED BY UNDERSTANDING THE PENALTY FOR PRIDE (v. 31-33)

A. LOSS OF POSSESSIONS (v. 31)

B. LOSS OF POSITION

C. LOSS OF PERSONAGE (v. 33b)

III. PRIDE CAN BE DEFEATED BY UNDERSTANDING THE RESTORATION FROM PRIDE (v. 34-37)

A. LOOKING UP TO THE SAVIOR (V. 34)

B. LIFTING UP THE SAVIOR (v. 34b-35)

1. Eternality of God - God is everlasting

2. Sovereignty of God (v. 35)

"THE PARTY IS OVER!"

Daniel 5:1-31

INTRODUCTION: (verses 1 - 4)

***No one can mock God and get away with it!**

Three unexpected intrusions that ended Belshazzar's sinful party:

I. THE WORD OF GOD (v. 5-9)
(God's Message of Doom Appears)

II. THE MAN OF GOD (v. 10-29)
(God's Message of Doom is Interpreted)

III. THE JUDGMENT OF GOD (v. 30-31)
(God's Message of Doom is Fulfilled)

CONCLUSION:

"DANIEL - A MAN OF FAITHFULNESS"

Daniel 6:1-28

INTRODUCTION:

***Let Daniel's example inspire you to be <u>faithful</u>!**

I. THE PROOF OF DANIEL'S FAITHFULNESS (v. 1-20)

DANIEL HAD:

A. A Faithful <u>Testimony</u> (v. 1-9)

1. He was known for his "excellent spirit" (v. 3)
2. He was known for his spotless character (v. 4-9)
3. He was known for his "continual service" (v. 16, 20)

B. A Faithful <u>Devotional Life</u> (v. 10-11)

He was consistent in spending time alone with God:

1. Daniel didn't care what it might <u>cost</u> him ("knew that the writing was signed")
2. Daniel let nothing <u>interfere</u> or <u>change</u> his habit ("windows open. . . toward Jerusalem")
3. Daniel had set apart <u>specific times</u> to spend with God ("three times a day")
4. Daniel spent time with God <u>consistently</u> ("as he had done aforetime")

II. THE PRICE OF DANIEL'S FAITHFULNESS (v. 21-28)

CONCLUSION:

"FOUR KINGDOMS AND THE KINGDOM TO COME"

(Daniel's Night Vision)
Daniel 7:1-28

INTRODUCTION:

***The kingdoms of this world will one day be replaced by the kingdom of our Lord!**

Two Evidences:

I. The <u>MESSAGE</u> of Daniel's Night Vision (v. 1-15)
(Daniel's Dream Described)

A. The Four Beasts From the Sea (v. 1-7)

1. Lion = Babylon

2. Bear = Medo-Persia

3. Leopard = Greece

4. Beast with Iron Teeth = Rome

B. The Little Horn With the Big Mouth (v. 8-11)

1. Ten Horns = ten end-time kings that will reign simultaneously (v. 24; Rev. 13:1; 17:12-17)

2. Little Horn = the Antichrist (v. 24b-25; Rev. 13:6-7)

C. The Son of Man and His Kingdom (v. 12-15)

1. Son of Man = Jesus Christ

2. Ancient of Days = God the Father

II. The <u>MEANING</u> of Daniel's Night Vision (v. 16-28)
(Daniel's Dream Interpreted)

CONCLUSION:

"LEARN FROM THE PAST TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE"

(Daniel's Vision of the Ram, Goat, and Little Horn)
Daniel 8:1-27

INTRODUCTION:

I. The SUBSTANCE of Daniel's Vision (v. 1-14)
(Prophecy Fulfilled in the Past)

A. The Conquest of the Ram (Medo-Persia) (v. 1-4, 20)

B. The Conquest of the Goat (Greece) (v. 5-14, 21a-23)

1. The Great Horn of Greece (Alexander the Great) (v. 4, 8, 21b)

2. The Four Horns of Greece (Greece's four generals) (v. 8, 22)

3. The Little Horn of Greece (Antiochus Epiphanes) (v. 9-14, 23)
   a. He invades Israel (v. 9)
   b. He torments Israel (v. 10)
   c. He exalts himself against God (v. 11)
   d. He desecrates the Temple (v. 11-14)

II. The SIGNIFICANCE of Daniel's Vision (v. 15-27)
(Prophecy Foreshadowing the Future)

A. Daniel's Vision has End-Time Significance (v. 15-22)

B. Daniel's Vision of Antiochus is a Foreshadowing of Antichrist (v. 23-25)

Characteristics of a man who does not fear God - Antiochus Epiphanes, like the future Antichrist, is characterized by:

1. Fearless contempt for that which is holy (v. 11-14)

2. Satanic power to accomplish wickedness (v. 24)

3. Bitter opposition to God's people (v. 10, 24b)

4. Deceitful trickery to lead astray those who don't know the Bible
   a. Magical signs and wonders (v. 23b, 25a)
   b. False promise of peace (v. 25b)

5. Blasphemous pride against God (v. 11a, 25c)

*6. Personal destruction by God (v. 25d)
(Pay day some day!)

CONCLUSION: V. 26-27

***A Message to Israel:**
Learn from the past to prepare for your future!

"APPROACHING THE THRONE OF MERCY"

(The Prayer of Daniel)
Daniel 9:1-23

INTRODUCTION:

In order to experience revival in our lives,
***We need to rightly approach God's throne of mercy!**

How did Daniel approach God's throne? He prayed to God with:

I. Whole-Hearted <u>SERIOUSNESS</u> (v. 3)

II. Holy <u>REVERENCE</u> (v. 4)

III. Honest <u>CONFESSION</u> (v. 5-14)

What is honest confession of sin?

A. <u>Call sin</u> what it is (v. 5-10)

B. Take <u>personal responsibility</u> (v. 11-14)

IV. Humble <u>PETITION</u> (v. 15-19)

Daniel petitions the Lord for mercy based on:

A. God's <u>righteousness</u> (v. 16a; cp. v. 2)

B. God's <u>glory and honor</u> (v. 16b-17)

C. God's <u>desire and ability to forgive</u> (v. 18-19; cp. v. 9)

CONCLUSION: V. 20-23

God is quicker to answer prayer than we are to pray.

"THE PROPHECY OF SEVENTY WEEKS"

(The Duration of Israel's Sentencing)
Daniel 9:24-27

INTRODUCTION:

***The sovereign LORD decrees Israel's future.**

I. HOW LONG UNTIL <u>UTOPIA</u>?

70 sevens (490 years) of judgment are decreed against Daniel's people (Israel) and Daniel's city (Jerusalem) (v. 24).

II. HOW LONG UNTIL <u>MESSIAH</u>?

69 sevens (483 years) would pass <u>before</u> Messiah was to come (v. 25-26).

A. After 69 sevens Messiah would die (v. 26a)

B. After 69 sevens Jerusalem would be destroyed (v. 26b)

III. HOW LONG UNTIL THE <u>END</u>?

1 seven (7 years) under the tyranny of Antichrist is still to come (v. 27).

CONCLUSION: God's promises never fail!

"THE UNSEEN, YET REAL, SPIRIT WORLD"

Daniel 10:1-21

INTRODUCTION: There is more to life than what you see with your eyes.

Three truths about the unseen spirit world:

I. DANIEL SAW A VISION OF THE SPIRIT WORLD (v. 1-9)
(Daniel sees a vision of an awesome Heavenly Messenger)

A. The Occasion for the Vision (v. 1-4)

B. The Substance of the Vision (v. 5-6)

C. The Result of the Vision (v. 7-9)

II. DANIEL RECEIVED HELP FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD (v. 10-19)
(Daniel is touched three times by a Heavenly Messenger)

A. A Touch to Stand (v. 10- 15)

B. A Touch to Speak (v. 16-17)

C. A Touch of Strength (v. 18-19)

III. DANIEL LEARNED OF CONFLICT IN THE SPIRIT WORLD (v. 13, 20-21)
(Daniel is taught of battles that rage among good and evil angels)

"WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST"

Daniel 11:2-45

INTRODUCTION: Why is there war? (James 4:1-2)



***Sinful man will always war to selfishly get more!**

I. THE WARS OF THE <u>GRECIANS</u> (v. 2-20)

II. THE WARS OF <u>A SINFUL MAN</u> (Antiochus Epiphanes) (v. 21-35)

III. THE WARS OF "<u>THE MAN OF SIN</u>" (Antichrist) (v. 36-45)

A. His <u>Arrogance</u> (v. 36)

B. His <u>god</u> (v. 37-39)

C. His <u>Conflicts</u> (v. 40-44)

D. His <u>Palace</u> (v. 45a)

E. His <u>End</u> (v. 45b)

CONCLUSION:

"WISDOM IN THE LAST DAYS"

Daniel 12:1-13

INTRODUCTION:

***Be wise in these last days!**

I. THE WISE SHALL BE "DELIVERED" (v. 1-2)
(End-Time Deliverance)

A. Deliverance from Satan's Grip (v. 1)

B. Deliverance from Death's Sting (v. 2)

II. THE "WISE SHALL SHINE" (v. 3)
(End-Time Harvesting)

III. THE "WISE SHALL UNDERSTAND" (v. 4-10; *v. 10)
(End-Time Comprehension)

IV. THE WISE SHALL BE "BLESSED" (v. 11-13)
(End-Time Inheritance)

CONCLUSION: