

Oxford Baptist Church – January 21, 2018. Pastor Robin W. Pifer

Daniel Series: “Daring to Live by Faith.”

Message 1 – “Holy Living in Babylon” Scripture: Daniel 1

The Sovereign Lord has a plan for every individual and every Nation.

The Background of the Story...

To Thrive in this Life...

The Lord _____ Us. Daniel 1:1-7

- Hard Stuff, Trouble – To Depend on Him – 2Cor 1:8-11
- Change, Life’s Disruptions. Matt 6:34
- Conformer or Transformer? John 16:33

“But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.” Rom 8:35; James 5:13; 2Thess 1:6; 2Cor 4:17

The Lord gives _____ to live successfully. Daniel 1:8-16

- Be clear about what you believe.
- Be clear about God’s plan.
- Daniel did not want to dishonour the Lord.
- Daniel and his friends respect those in authority.

The Lord Blesses _____ . Daniel 1:17-21

- God gave them knowledge and understanding.
- Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.
- 10 X Better than all the magicians and enchanters in the kingdom.
- Daniel remained until King Cyrus. 17 to his 80’s
- Deuteronomy 6:1-9 - Follow the Lord.
- Go the Extra Mile with a Great Attitude.

The Bible Project Video on Daniel- <https://thebibleproject.com>

Life Group Questions

1. Do you believe that God has a plan and purpose for every individual and every nation? Discuss your answers.
2. What does the fact of God’s sovereignty mean to you in your everyday life?
3. How is the background of Daniel helpful to understand how God orchestrates the plans of people and nations?
4. Why does the Lord “exile” us or allow trouble or difficulties in our life? Read 2 Cor 1 and compare Paul’s response to trouble and Daniel’s response with his friends.
5. As Daniel and his friends face their first test as “students under the king”, take time to discuss how their “Biblical convictions” determine their response and a plan of action. What amazes you about their response to the king’s official?
6. Daniel and his friends had to determine which parts of the Babylonian culture they could live with and which parts they should stand against as followers of the Lord. How do we make that determination in our culture?
7. Why is it so essential for us to know what we believe in the growing secular society in which we live?
8. Can you think of examples today where God uses people or powers outside the church to cause followers of Christ or the unsaved to turn back to Him?
9. Describe a time in your life or someone else’s life where you had to stand up for your beliefs.
10. What impacted you personally about this message? What is the next step that the Lord wants you to take to live Biblically successful in our culture?