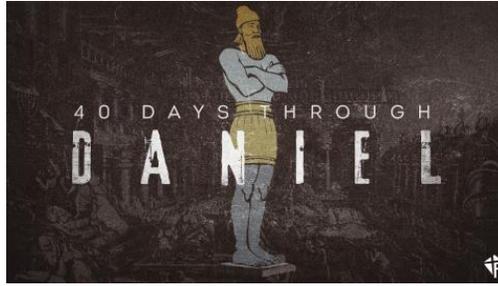


FELLOWSHIP NOTES – February 28th, 2021



Part 1: “Uncompromising in the Face of Death” Daniel 2

For Next Sunday:

Read and study Daniel 2:31 – 4:18 using the study notes found in the *40 Days Through Daniel* book. Don't have one? You can purchase one in Fellowship Café for a donation of \$10.

For Further Study – In Fellowship Café

Book: *The End Times in Chronological Order*

Introduction

This chapter is a textbook example of how to deal with the trials of life and how God blesses when we exercise the character qualities of an uncompromising life.

Part 1: A Dream, a Decree, and a Death Penalty (vs. 1-13).

1. This chapter is the first of three chapters (7 and 9) that specifically deal with future prophetic events. These sections of Scripture are so important that Jesus referred to them in his explanation of prophetic events in Matthew 24.
2. In the Bible, God often spoke to both the righteous and the unrighteous via dreams – when people were sleeping, and visions – when they were awake (Numbers 12:6; 1 Kings 3:5).

Does God speak through dreams and visions today? At that time there was no existing or completed revelation from God (Bible). Now we have God's full revelation of 66 books which in fact contain a warning that it should not be deleted from or added to (Rev. 22:81-19). Today God speaks to us by His Holy Spirit primarily through the Bible, but also through prayer, circumstances and the church.

3. The king's advisors:
 - 1.) Diviner-priests = magicians – men who were skilled in tricks and illusions and understood mysteries and black magic (using secret charms and spirits to make unnatural things happen).
 - 2.) Mediums = enchanters – chanters of evil spells and incantations (sets of words spoken as a magic charm).
 - 3.) Sorcerers – people who talked to the dead and practiced magic with the aid of evil spirits.
 - 4.) Chaldeans = astrologers – people who read horoscopes and studied the stars and other heavenly bodies to foretell the future.

Part 2: The Uncompromising Character Qualities of Daniel (vs. 14-49)

Uncompromising Character Quality #1: Daniel displayed _____ in
in the face of crisis (vs. 14-15).

Uncompromising Character Quality #2: Daniel displayed _____ in
approaching the king (vs. 16).

Uncompromising Character Quality #3: Daniel displayed _____ in
God by gathering prayer partners and
employing the spiritual weapon of prayer (vs.
17-18; James 5:16b; Matthew 18:20).

Uncompromising Character Quality #4: Daniel displayed _____ to
personally give God the glory and recognize His
sovereignty over the affairs of the world (vs. 19-23).

Uncompromising Character Quality #5. Daniel displayed _____ for
the welfare of others (vs. 24-25).

Uncompromising Character Quality #6. Daniel displayed _____ to
publicly give God the glory in deference to the false
gods of Babylon (vs. 26-28b).

Uncompromising Character Quality #7. Daniel displayed _____ in
sharing his rewards with those who helped him
(vs. 49).



Growth Group Notes

Getting Started

Group Discussion: How often do you dream? Are you able to remember your dreams after you wake up? Have you have had any recurring dreams or even nightmares?

Digging Deeper

1. Read Daniel 2:1-13. How do you think Daniel and his three friends first reacted on an emotional level when they heard they were going to be executed?

How do you think you would react if someone came to your house today and told you that you were about to be executed for something you hadn't even personally done?

2. Read verses 14-15. In these verses we see the first Uncompromising Character Quality Daniel displayed – complete composure in the face of extreme crisis. How is that composure revealed in the way Daniel responded to his surprising and alarming circumstances?

How do people (you can use yourself as an example if you want) usually respond when something unexpected and “earth-shattering” arises in their life?

Remember that at this point in his life Daniel was only approximately 18 or 19 years of age. What does this say about the spiritual and emotional maturity of this young man?

Do you find it hard to exercise composure when you are facing a crisis in life?

3. Read verses 17-18. These verses demonstrate the third Uncompromising Character Quality Daniel displayed in the face of great stress: remarkable confidence in God by gathering prayer partners and employing the spiritual weapon of prayer. What does this tell us about Daniel's understanding of God and the link we have to Him through prayer?

Though we don't know for sure, the indication we're given in this early life of Daniel of chapters 1 & 2 is that Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego may have been the only God-centered friends Daniel had. When facing the possibility of death, Daniel called them together for a prayer meeting. Read Acts 4:13-31. What did the early believers do when they faced similar circumstances and what was the result?

In seeing these biblical examples of the power and importance of prayer both personally and in relation to other believers, how important is it for this group to be in relationship with each other on an on-going basis so that when life's trials arise it will be the natural response to rely on each other for prayer and gather together to pray?

4. Read verses 19-23. List out the attributes of God mentioned in Daniel's prayer of praise:

What does this list reveal about the depth of Daniel's knowledge of and relationship to God?

5. Read verses 46-49. How was Daniel honored by King Nebuchadnezzar as a result of the way he handled this life-threatening situation in an uncompromising manner?

What does this say about how God viewed the way Daniel's handled this situation?

What is the danger in receiving human praise and reward?

How did Daniel handle the praise that was given him (Uncompromising Character Quality #7)?

Wrapping Up

There may be someone in this group who though you may not be going through a life-threatening trial, are nevertheless going through a trial of some kind. Don't be afraid to open to one another and share with the group what is going on in your life and how this group can pray for each other, then spend time in prayer together.