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Reading: Daniel 1:1-2

## A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

### 28. THE BOOK OF DANIEL

From May to September, 1787 the American Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia to develop a system of government for the new nation. By 28<sup>th</sup> June progress had been so slow that Benjamin Franklin stood and addressed George Washington president of the convention. Among other things he said, "*I have lived Sir, a long time and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men.*" He then moved that they invite some of the local ministers to come to the assembly to lead them in prayer for divine guidance. Though not a professed evangelical believer Benjamin Franklin believed in a God who is the Architect and Governor of the universe, a conviction that agrees with the testimony of Scripture.

Do you recall that Abraham called God "*the Judge of all the earth.*" (Gen 18:25 ) King Hezekiah prayed, "*Thou art God even Thou alone of all the kingdoms of the earth.*" ( 2 Kings 19:15 ) In Daniel's day King Nebuchadnezzar learned the hard way, that "*the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men and giveth it to whomsoever he will.*" ( 4:32 ) Graham Scroggie describes the book of Daniel as "*the greatest book in the Bible on godless kingdoms and the kingdom of*

*God.*" The godless kingdoms referred to are the Gentile nations and the kingdom of God is the millennial reign centred about Israel. The grand truth which applies to all kingdoms is summed up in four words, "*God rules the world.*" Heaven rules. Is this not the theme of the book of Daniel ? What ? The Universal Sovereignty of God. "*God is still on the throne,*" that's the message of the book of Daniel. Now Daniel whose name means "*God is my judge,*" is the fifth and final book of the Major Prophets. Jeremiah influenced the remnant at Jerusalem, Ezekiel influenced the Jews in captivity and Daniel influenced the kings in the palace at Babylon.

Now **Prophetically** Daniel deals with "*the times of the Gentiles,*" (Lk 21:24 ) that period of time that began in 606 B.C. with the fall of Jerusalem and political control of Jerusalem passed from Jewish to Gentile hands where it has remained ever since. For although the government of the modern reborn state of Israel is located in Jerusalem and the old city is now in the hands of the Jews, the Dome of the Rock a Muslim mosque still stands on the ancient site of Solomon's Temple. The "*times of the Gentiles,*" will end when Christ returns to establish his earthly kingdom.

**Practically,** Daniel encourages us to honour God in a ungodly environment, "*them that honour Me, I will honour,*" ( 1 Sam 2:30 ) is vividly illustrated in this book. **Personally,** Daniel stimulates us to rest on the absolute sovereignty of God, "*there is a God in heaven .... the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.*" ( 2:28 4:25 )

Gareth Crosssley states " *the prophecy of Daniel is a spiritual tonic to all believers of any nation or generation who are bewildered or distressed by national or international events.*" My .... does the state of the world concern you ? Do international events overwhelm you ? Will, let this book of Daniel minister to your soul for " *God is still on the throne.*" Now Daniel easily divides into two main sections. The first six chapters are ***Historical:*** the last six chapters are ***Prophetical.*** The first six chapters have to do with *Daniel and His Personal Friends* the last six chapters have to do with *Daniel and His People's Future*. Now as in all his studies we cannot be exhaustive but rather selective. However, as we seek to overview this book I trust we will grasp all the salient points.

### (1) THE BOOK OF DANIEL IS AUTHENTIC

I say that because no other book in the Bible has been subject to such criticism as the book of Daniel. Sir Robert Anderson wrote a book entitled "*Daniel in the Critic's Den,*" in which he defended the genuineness of this book. My .... no book of the Old Testament has been as mistreated and scorned by critics as the book of Daniel. W.A. Criswell says, " *There is not a liberal theologian in the world past or present who accepts the authenticity of the book of Daniel.*" Daniel has been under attack more than the book of Genesis. Critics believe that if they can discredit this book, then the entire Bible will come tumbling down like a pack of cards. Now what do they say ? They say, " *Daniel is a fictitious book, it was not written when it purports to have been written, that all of the events which the book*

*of Daniel prophesied were written after they had already come to pass.*" Now why do they say this ? Because the book of Daniel is a prophecy, God predicting ahead of time what was going to be. And the critic's say, " *there is no such thing as God predicting what is going to happen in the future.*"

According to Daniel's critics, prophecy is an impossibility. There is no such thing as foretelling events to come, therefore a book that contains predictions must have been written after the fact. They deny the supernatural, and that is why the liberals hit this book. Their attacks can be traced back to a man by the name of Porphyry who was born in A.D. 233 in Tyre, Syria.

He wrote fifteen books with the revealing title "*Against the Christians.*" Porphyry became a polytheist, which means he worshipped many gods. One of his favourite targets was Daniel. He did everything he could to prove that this book was written about 165 B.C. and that of all the events which the book of Daniel predicted were written after they had already come to pass. Now all of the modern critics have taken Porphyry's arguments and rehashed them. Now why do you and I not think like them ? Because of the authenticity of this book. Now the genuineness of this book,

### (a) IS AFFIRMED BY THE SCRIPTURES:

*This book is affirmed in the Old Testament:* Ezekiel mentions Daniel by name and regards him as such an outstanding person as to link his name with those of

Noah and Job. ( 14:14 28:3 ) If the critics do not believe Daniel then they have a problem with Ezekiel also.

*This book is affirmed in the New Testament:* by none other than the Lord Jesus Himself. ( Matt 24:15 ) The critic says that Daniel is a forgery, Christ says that Daniel is a prophecy, and we take our stand with the Lord Jesus. It always amazes me how the critics seem to think they tell God what He can and cannot do. The Lord Jesus says there was a Daniel and he was a prophet. That settles it. Indeed do you recall how our Lord Jesus proved His Messianic ministry out of the prophecies of the Old Testament ? *"And beginning at Moses and all the prophets he expounded unto them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."* ( Lk 24:27 )

*" And he said unto them, these are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses and in the prophets, and in the psalms concerning me. "* ( 24:44-45 ) This was Christ's way of proving that He was the true Messiah, namely that He was the fulfilment of prophecy. ( Lk 4:16-21) My .... is this not how the apostles preached ? Paul says, *" Having therefore obtained help of God I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come that Christ should suffer and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead .... King Agrippa believest thou the prophets ? I know that thou believest ?"* ( Acts 26:22 )

My .... if the prophecies are not true Christianity is not true, for to destroy the prophets is to destroy Christ. (a)

### ***(b) IS CONFIRMED BY THE SCIENTISTS:***

That is archaeology confirms the book of Daniel. For e.g.; the opening verses say that Nebuchadnezzar the ruler of Babylon, took vessels from the temple at Jerusalem and brought them into the treasury of his god. ) *"Never heard of such a thing,"* says the modernist. *" That was a completely unknown custom, we can't find any reference in ancient history to such a practice."* Can't they ? They have now discovered an inscription that proves Nebuchadnezzar always put his choicest spoils into his house of worship. Just one of those peculiar habits of the king.

In the first few verses there is a reference to a fellow by the name of Aspenaz, who was master of the eunuchs. The critic says, *"No one ever heard of this fellow, he was just another fictional character out of Daniel's fantasy."* Do you know something ? During the last quarter of a century, the name Aspenaz has been found on the monuments of ancient Babylon, which are now in the Berlin Museum. It says, ) *" Ashpenaz, master of eunuchs in the time of Nebuchadnezzar "* The Dead Sea Scrolls contain eight copies of Daniel, more than any other manuscript, which affirms the high esteem that was accorded the book by the strict Essenes who hid the scrolls. My .... what a Bible we have accurate to the very last detail. What a God we have able to predict the future. (1)

## (2) THE BOOK OF DANIEL IS HISTORIC

As a teenager Daniel was taken into Babylon where he spent the rest of his life. It's probable that the last thing it did was to prepare the papers authorizing the Jews to return to their own land to rebuild the temple in 539 B.C. No doubt he wrote this book shortly after that date. ( 8:15,27 9:2 10:2,7 12:4-5 ) Now as this book opens the drums of war are bearing in the Middle East. Egypt and Babylon the two superpowers of the late seventh century were competing with each other for control of that part of the world. In the early summer of 605 B.C. the Babylonian army under the leadership of Nebuchadnezzar attacked the Egyptian army at Carchemish on the upper Euphrates River and soundly defeated them. The Egyptians were forced to retreat south to their homeland and this opened Palestine to the control of the Babylonians. As a result, by August of 605 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar took control of the city of Jerusalem.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup> of the same month his father died in Babylon ( Naboplassar ) Nebuchadnezzar rushed home to claim the throne and on the trip home he carried captive with him some of the sacred vessels of the temple of Jehovah in Jerusalem and the cream of the Jewish young men. Daniel and his companions were among those captives. Now that's the background from a *secular point of view* but if you look at how the book opens in ( 1:1-2 ) you will see the background from a *spiritual point of view*. For as the book of Daniel opens, the Southern Kingdom of Judah is about to reap a bitter harvest for long years of disobedience to God's

Word. Judgement should not have come as any surprise, for as far back as Moses, the initial dynamic leader of the people sombre warnings had been clearly sounded ( Lev Ch 2 Deut Ch 28 ) regarding the price of departure from God. Now when judgement came, it was for two clear reasons. Notice in ( 1:1 )

### (a) *THE DEPARTURE IN JUDAH:*

Two particular sins caused Judah to be taken into captivity.

#### 1. There was a Departure from the WORD of GOD:

You see, the Mosaic Law specified that every seventh year the land was not to be farmed since it was a sabbatic year, a year of rest for the land, symbolising that " *the earth is the Lord's.*" ( Lev 25:1-4 26:32-35 ) This was God's Word to the nation, but they disregarded it and for 490 years the land had no rest. How long will it take us to learn that we cannot disobey God's Word and escape ? My .... God is not playing games with us in the Bible. When God tells us to do something we must do it or pay the price. Think of it .... 490 years and no sabbatic years, that is 70 sabbatic years ignored. So what did God do ?

He sent them into captivity for 70 years.

( 2 Chron 36:21 Jer 25:11 ) Think of the patience of God lasting for nearly 500 years, a patience which had all but run out. For the Northern Kingdom of Israel, that divine patience was exhausted in 722 BC when the Assyrians besieged Israel's capital, Samaria and

carried away captives its leading citizens. Now more than 100 years later Babylon came as God's instrument of judgement on Jerusalem. God's patience has limits because He is also a God of justice and He must judge sin. And any nation or individual is foolish to imagine that God will never intervene to judge. 1.

## **2. There was a Departure from the WORSHIP of GOD:**

Idolatry had become an accepted lifestyle. Do you recall that Israel the Northern Kingdom had been swallowed up by Jeroboam's calf worship and the worship of Baal ? Now in Judah, the Southern Kingdom the same sordid story was repeated. No wonder we read in ( 1:2 ) "*And the Lord gave Jehoiakim .... into his hand.*" ( 2 Kings 23:5 ) Now Babylon was the centre of idol worship. Indeed, idolatrous religion had its origin there. ( 1:2 ) refers to the land of Shinar, the old word for the land of Babylon. Nimrod the tyrant, comes to mind, and visions of the tower of Babel. ( Gen 10:10 11:2 )

You see, when God allowed them to be taken into captivity to Babylon, He was sending them back to the capital city of idolatry and for 70 years they experienced those idols that they wanted to serve. I want to tell you that after their years of captivity in Babylon they had no more desire for idol worship. To this day the Jewish people the Jewish people only worship one God, Jehovah. Do you see what happened to them ? God put them in the land of Babylon to hate the false idols that they had once loved. Do you know

something ? We also had better be careful to what we attach ourselves, for God may let us have our fill of it. So there was (a) Consequently there was,

## ***(b) THE DEPORTATION OF JUDAH:***

### **Look at the PERIOD of it:**

(1:1) Now keep in that this deportation took place in 3 stages. The first attack took place in 605 B.C. the one spoken of in our text at which time the first group of captives among whom were Daniel and his friends were taken. The second invasion was in 597 B.C. when Ezekiel and a much larger number of people were taken. The third and final invasion was in 586 BC when the temple was destroyed and the city was burned. ( 2 Kings 24: 6-16 )

### **Look at the PURPOSE of it:**

( 1:4 ) By removing " *the cream of the nation,*" Nebuchadnezzar was impoverishing that nation of its future leaders, and at the same time recruiting young men for Babylon. Its probable that Daniel and his three friends were of royal descent.

### **Look at the PLACE of it:**

( 1:2 ) Babylon at this time in history was number one superpower. This was a ruthless and evil empire. Nebuchadnezzar was the Hitler of the ancient world. Babylon was an awful place to try and live for God, yet it was here that Daniel was taken as a teenager, and it was here he remained until the end of his life. So often I hear believers saying, "*its so difficult to live for the Lord where I work, I think I'll change my job.*" Did you

ever think of Daniel ? As a teenager, in the midst of idolatry, immorality, indecency, for seventy plus years maintaining a testimony for God. (1) (2)

### **(3) THE BOOK OF DANIEL IS THEOCRATIC**

You see, Israel were a theocracy, they were ruled by the Lord and in this book of Daniel we meet some temporal rulers but only one eternal ruler. I mean is this not what the book of Daniel is all about ? The rule of God. And is this not a timely message for our age ? We live in a time of instability, insecurity, and self sufficiency. The rejection of God's rule which started for man in the Garden of Eden seems to be reaching a frenzied pitch. Because man rejects the rule of God his pride drives him to do things opposite to what God has ordained. As Renald Showers reminds us,

*The Lord regards human life as sacred but man destroys it by abortion. God instituted marriage to be permanent but man divorces and suggests that marriage be abolished. God says that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, but man forbids any reference to God in the classroom. God established sex to be used within the bonds of marriage but man perverts sex through pornography, fornication, adultery and homosexuality. Man reels from one crisis to another but instead of admitting that his rebellion against God is the cause of his problem he stands unbowed before the God of the universe.*

Now is this not the problem that all of us battle with ? Do you recall the words of Frank Sinatra's song ? " I

*did it my way.* " Do you recall the words of A.A. Pollards hymn ? "*Have Thine own way Lord,*" Which is it for you ? Your way or God's way ? Now this message of God's rule over the realm of man is conveyed to us in two ways. Here is a book that stress's,

#### **(a) *THE REIGN OF THE LORD:***

Look at the two key phrases in the book of Daniel. (2:28 4:25 ) Now if you bring these two phrases together you have the key to the book. " *There is a God in heaven .... the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men.* " The whole point is that the God of the Bible, who is the Christians God is sovereign over the affairs of men and of nations. Now here is something we can trace throughout this book. Look at God's rule,

**I. In relation to JEHOIAKIN:** ( 1:2 ) Who gave ? " *The Lord gave .... ,*" Nebuchadnezzar thought he captured the city. The Babylonian Daily News probably had the headline, "*Nebuchadnezzar conquers King of Judah.*" No, he didn't God gave it to him. The Sovereignty of God in the affairs of men.

**2. In relation to NEBUCHADNEZZAR:** ( 2:37 ) Do you see it ? Old Neb said, " *I have got all this, is this not great Babylon which I have built ?*" ( 4:30 ) How did Nebuchadnezzar, a wicked, despotic king come to the throne of Babylon ? It is simple. The God of Heaven gave it to him.

**3. In relation to BELSHAZZAR:** ( 5:18, 22, 23 )

What is this book teaching us ? But that the kingdoms of this world are passing away and the Kingdom of the Most High is going to abide and through all the running centuries, through all that is taking place, the Most High rules. Now does that not thrill your soul ? We all know about despots. We call them by different names Hitler, Mussolini, Saddam Hussein, Kadafi, but Daniel shows us God's sovereignty in dealing with despots, for under the sovereign rule of God, the biggest of men will be humbled and brought to the dust. Do you know why ? **Heaven Rules, God Rules.** Look at Eastern Europe. Did you ever think you would live to see the Berlin Wall down ? Communism reeling ? What about what's happening in the Middle East ? How will history interpret these events ? People pressure ? How will believers interpret these events ? God ruling. (a)

#### **(b) THE NAME OF THE LORD:**

What is the name that is most frequently used of God in this book ? " *The Most High.*" ( 3:26 4:2 17, 24, 25, 32, 34, 7:18 22, 25, 27) Do you know when that was first used ? Lot had been taken captive. Abraham set out in pursuit and Lot was rescued, the enemies goods were taken. The King of Sodom tried to do a deal with Abraham and Abraham said, "*I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth.*" (Gen 14:22 ) Now the phrase, "*the most High God,*" is the translation of the Hebrew name "*EL ELYON,*" "*the possessor of heaven and earth.*" My .... God can dispose of His property as He pleases. Now this is the message of the book of Daniel,

" *the Most High ruleth.*" Thank God behind the political intrigue, the rise and fall of nations, the emergence and disappearance of despots, there is Hand that is shaping, a Heart that is planning, a Sovereign God who is accomplishing His will for Heaven Rules.

#### **(4) THE BOOK OF DANIEL IS PROPHETIC**

Now when we talk about prophecy what do we mean ? Well, prophecy is history written in advance. We live in an age in which men like to pry into the future. A lot of money is spent on fortune tellers, consulting the horoscopes and listening to quack prophets. Yet God claims to be the only One able to foretell the future. He says, "*I am God and there is none like me declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times the things that are not yet done.*" ( Is 46:9-10 ) Only God could possess such knowledge. Is this not exactly what Daniel declared to Nebuchadnezzar ? " *The great God hath made know to the king what shall come to pass hereafter*" ( 2:45 ) God alone could reveal such a secret. Now prophets had a two-fold function. **They were both forth-tellers and foretellers. They possessed both insight and foresight.**

Their predictions were not the deductions of reason but were imparted to them by the Holy Spirit. Peter reminds us, "*For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of men but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*" ( 2 Pet 1:21) Now if the predictive element in prophecy can be seen in other books of the Bible, it is especially prominent in Daniel.

You see, its Daniel who predicts,

**(a) *THE FIRST ADVENT OF CHRIST:***

Look at ( 9:20-27 ) Now here Gabriel is giving to Daniel vital information about these seventy weeks. Now it's not necessary for us to go into detail here. But can you see clearly that the total number of weeks between the decree " *to restore and to build Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince,*" is 69 weeks ? Or if you like 483 years, each of those years, consisting of 360 days. Thus, the total number of days is 173,880 days. Now when did this period begin ? It began with the construction of the city. ( 9:25 ) When was that ? Well it was in the book of Nehemiah that Artaxerxes decreed that Nehemiah could return to rebuild the city. ( Neh 2:1-5 ) Now I want you to see that this command was issued during the 20<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes reign. The Encyclopaedia Britannica sets this date as the 14<sup>th</sup> March 445 B.C. **Now this is the decree that ( 9:25) is talking about.**

Sir Robert Anderson who founded Scotland Yard and was a brilliant Bible scholar points out that if you take 14<sup>th</sup> March 445, B.C. when the decree to rebuild Jerusalem went forth, and add to it 173,880 days, you come to 6<sup>th</sup> April A.D. 32 and it was on this very day that the Lord Jesus made His triumphal entry into the city of Jerusalem and presented Himself to the nation as their Messiah Prince. Look if you will at the gospel of Luke. ( Lk 19:29-40 ) Of course it was on this day that the Pharisees plotted to murder Christ ( Lk 19:47 ) and within a few short days, He was cut off, but not for

Himself. For when He died on the cross He received nothing that was due Him, no honour, no respect, no love, and no acceptance. John says, "*He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.*" ( Jn 1:12 ) Instead Christ received what He did not deserve, the sins of the world. But isn't God's Word amazing ? (a)

**(b) *THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST:***

Look if you will ( 2:44 ) What kings ? The ten toes of the image for these ten toes are symbolic of ten kings. ( 7:24 Rev 17:12) I submit to you that this lies in the future for never in the past has Rome survived under ten heads: never in the past has Rome survived under ten heads at one given time: never in the past has Rome survived under ten heads at one given time and been smitten by the Lord Jesus. Now the stone is Christ. ( Ps 118:22 Lk 20:17) Tell me, when in the past did this smiting stone shatter those earthly kingdoms ? On the contrary Rome hit Christ, but there is a day coming when Christ will destroy this image which represent the world governments of our day and establish His kingdom, something unlike anything we ever have known.

*" And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up another kingdom which shall never be destroyed."* ( 2:44 ) What a moment that will be when "*Jesus shall reign we're the sun .....*" (1) (2) (3) (4)

**(5) THE BOOK OF DANIEL IS DRAMATIC**

Indeed how fast moving are the events that are



recorded in this book, most of them involving Daniel. Three times in the book he is called "*greatly beloved*," by God. ( 9:23 10:11 10:19) My .... here was a man who spent almost his entire career from the time he was a teenager until he was a very old man in positions of influence and authority, in highly visible public life. Tell me, is there anything inappropriate about a godly person being elevated to a position of responsibility and trust by an ungodly government or by a pagan king ? Well, Daniel was promoted yet such a life is not without its dangers but when tensions arose between serving the Lord and serving the King Daniel and his friends did not waver for a moment. Can you see,

#### ***(a) The Loyalty of the Four: in ( Ch 1)***

You know God always proves His man before He promotes him. What a test this was. Probably some of these foods were prohibited by ( Lev Ch 11) they were defiled and not to be eaten by the Jews. In Babylon all wine was offered as a toast to the gods. "*But Daniel purposed in his heart .....*" ( 1:8 ) I believe that Daniel had a daily quiet time. There was a time each day when he meditated on the Word of God. And from that spiritual reservoir he drew convictions that enabled him to make a right decision when the crisis came. There's a tremendous lesson here. If you stand your ground over a little issue, then you're likely to stand your ground over a big one. Your character is formed in small decisions on little issues which enables you to stand later when the big crunch comes. (a)

#### ***(b) The Loyalty of the Three: in ( Ch 3 )***

When Nebuchadnezzar because of the dream, ordered a gigantic golden statue to be erected. It was 90 feet high and 9 feet wide. And when the state band played everyone had to bow down. That is apart from Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They would not bow, they would not budge, in fact they would not burn. Look if you will at ( 3:16 ) You see, they had a clear word from God that said, "*Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.*" (Ex 20:4 ) They did not have to think about it, or have a committee meeting. Is this not what the world is crying out for ? People who have convictions, and who are not going to change their convictions on the basis of their circumstances. Athanasius was one of the early church fathers. We are indebted to him for the purity of the doctrine of the deity of Jesus Christ. He would not relinquish his stand against a popular heresy of the day.

Someone came to him and said, "*Athanasius don't you know that the Emperor is against you, the bishops are against you, the church is against you, the whole world is against you.*" Do you know what Athanasius said ? "*Then Athanasius is against the whole world.*" Are you bold enough to stand when the heat is on ? (a) (b)

#### ***(c) The Loyalty of the One: in ( Ch 6)***

Here there is a change of world power. ( 5:30-31 ) Babylon, the head of gold has been replaced by the Medo-Persian Empire represented by the breast and arms of silver. ( 2:32 ) Daniel probably now about 86

years of age ( Born in 625 B.C. ) is faced with another test. Stop praying or start preparing for death. ***I mean would you be willing to die for prayer ?*** Daniel is. When it came to choosing prayer and death or no prayer and life, Daniel chooses prayer and death. The result ? The lion's den. Spurgeon once said that " *it was a good thing the lions didn't try to eat Daniel. They would never have enjoyed him, because he was 50% grit and 50% backbone.*" My .... what " *lions,*" are you facing ? Do you believe that God is able to deliver you ? " *Is thy God able ?*" What a man. What a testimony, what consistency, what transparency. Daniel honoured God and God honoured Daniel. My .... is this not the unchanging principle of Scripture ? " *Them that honour me I will honour*" ( 1 Sam 2:30 ) Are you honouring God ? In your personal life ? In your business life ? In your social life ?

From teenager till pensioner, from captive to president, from lowest to highest, not one record of anything against him. That makes me so ashamed, but it makes me so encouraged. For if Daniel could live to please God so can we. For we have a Living Saviour, an Indwelling Spirit, a Completed Bible, and a Sovereign God. " ***The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men.***" ( 3:25 ) My ... what matters most is that He rules and reigns in our hearts so that in the Babylon of our day we will be Christians of the calibre of Daniel. May the Lord give us grace, to do so for His glory !