

• • TRANSCRIPT

• September 13th, 2026 "*Daniel Who Honored God*"

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You you The world is a very important part of the world. I'm going to go to the next slide. How it is. So it's good to have you all on watching by internet. And if you have your Bibles, if you could please turn to the Old Testament, the book of Daniel. Last week, we studied the life of Moses. I think the title was A Moses Whom the Love. Knew. And we looked at Moses' life of faith. Today we're going to look at Daniel. And what a blessing. Daniel chapter 1. I have a few verses I'm going to be reading.

And if you could please stand, if you're able to, for the reading of God's word. Daniel chapter 1. Beginning in verse 1, the Bible says In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, came Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim, king of Judah, into the hand of, with part of the vessels of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shina, which is the ancient name for Babylon, to the house of his God. And he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his God. And the king spake unto Azaphath, the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring certain of the children of Israel and of the king's seed and of the princes children in whom was no blemish, but wellfavored and skillful in all wisdom and cunning in knowledge and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace.

And whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans, and the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat and of the wine which he drank, so nourishing them three years that at the end thereof they might stand before the king. Now, among these were of the children of Judah Daniel, Hananiah, Mishaël, and Azariah, unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names. For he gave unto Daniel the name Belshazzar and to Hananiah of Shadrach and of Mishaël of Meshach and of Azariah of Abednego. And think of what's going on here. You have a nation that's just conquered another nation, and what do they do? They go through the nation and they find the cream of the crop, the smartest. The strongest and they Take them in. And one of the things is they wanted these young men, especially of the royal house, and they brought them in, and they wanted to teach them their language.

They wanted to change their names. This is what's going on. And now we find their names have been changed. But it says in verse 8, But Daniel Purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with a portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank. Therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. " Let's pray. Father, we thank you. For your word. And I ask you now, Lord, that you would bless us and that we would learn from these Old Testament Saints and how they lived by faith and how they honored you with their life.

And Father, I ask you now that you would speak to us, even in this modern day, that we would be like a Daniel. And this I pray in Jesus' name, amen. You could see, please be seated. Excuse me, I got to kind of control my tongue today. I gotta kind of control my tongue today. So, here we read of a young teenage boy, and he was a teenager at this time, Daniel, taken captive and carried into a foreign land. And from his youth, he determined to live a life that honored God. What a blessing, amen?

As I was just speaking to some of the young gentlemen here, just a blessing to know that here he is, giving this life a service for our nation. I just want to let you know, brother, I'm standing here because of men and women like you put on a uniform that stand and protect my freedom of speech. And what a blessing. And it's amazing how we see how God uses the young with all their energy. Amen. So we find. Daniel stands as a powerful example of honoring God in a place where obedience seemed impossible. And it's so amazing how we can look back in the Old Testament and how we can capture these lives and actually look upon these lives and give us encouragement to live like them, amen. And this is exactly. What the Word of God is supposed to be. Turn with me to Romans chapter 15. And look what it says in verse 4. And this is amazing when you think of it. The Bible says in Romans chapter 15, verse 4, it says, for whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

What is that saying? Aforetime. That's saying when we look into the Old Testament and we see these stories, it teaches us, it gives us morals, it gives us courage to live, and it gives us courage to walk in faith and not in fear. And I know a lot of times you don't hear preaching from the Old Testament, but the Old Testament is vital because the Old Testament is the foundation of what the New Testament's been built on. So as we look at Daniel, and again, he's a teenager at this time, he's not only a teenager but He's been brought into a foreign country as a prisoner. And now this country wants to pour all their culture into him. So he forgets his identity and forgets who he is. Think of this. But we look at him and we see number one, he was consistent in obedience to God's word.

Look again in Daniel chapter 8. It says, But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself. You know, Daniel was a young man of purpose. And when the king commanded that all captives eat of the king's meat, Daniel resolved in his heart to obey God rather than to defile himself. Now, what is it talking about? The Jews were commanded to eat in a certain way. If a Jew was gonna honor God, there was certain things that they could eat and could not eat. Now, let me just say this. If you was a Jew back in those days, you couldn't have lobster. Amen? I love lobster. You couldn't have shrimp. Now we all know that they don't eat pork, but there was a lot more to it than that. And here I see that Daniel was given all this, all this food that he knew by the word of God that he could not eat as a Jewish young boy.

It took courage, amen. It took strong courage to say no. And this attitude Mocked his entire life. God looked down and saw in this young man a man of a heart of faith. Think of that. I see today, God is moving on the youth today. Last year I saw universities, football teams at the universities that would bring in the whole school together at night. And they filled up the back of pickup trucks and the youth

were preaching the gospel message to the other youth and they were coming to Christ in droves. They were not in church.

They were out in a field in a parking lot and I was watching this with amazement and excitement. And today I'm excited to see what God's doing today. And here we find Daniel is a perfect example as we look into the Old Testament. And I love this. If you could find 2 Chronicles 16, verse 9. And if you don't find it, I will quote it here. But I'm here to tell you this when I first gave my life to Jesus on August 13, 1997, and began reading the Bible, this jumped right out at me in 2 Chronicles 16, verse 9, the Bible says, for the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

Can you imagine that? You know what that spoke to me back then? Yes, I was a project kid. Yes, I came up with nothing. But yet, God was looking down at me and he was watching my life and he was watching just as it said here. And as I began to move towards him and my heart was focused on him, he began to use me in a mighty way. And I saw here that God can use anybody. He can use any one of you, especially you young people. Don't let anything hold you back from serving God. And living for Him. We must evaluate everything that we say and do with one standard. If you want to serve God and live for God and be a blessing, there's one standard that you must evaluate everything you say and do. Does this bring glory and honor to God?

Amen. Colossians chapter 3, verse 17 says this and whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Amen. That's telling all of us that we should live a Life if we are following after God, if our hearts are pointed to Him and we want to live for Him and be a difference, making a difference in this world, we need to recognize everything we say, everything we do, whether it's word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. God doesn't want us to merely read the Bible. He wants us to live. The Bible. You know, there's a lot of people that have Bibles and there's dust on their Bibles. They got them in the closets, they got them on their nightstand, but they don't read it. And it's amazing because when you go to a church, when you come to church, listen, there's people that come to church and all it is is a Sunday Christianity. It never changes their whole life they come they wear the best They smell good You know They wear the nice nice something nice or they maybe maybe they don't even dress like you know with it like like a suit and tie But maybe you know maybe they walk in here and they smile they may you know.

God bless you But then as soon as they leave church and they go out in the world, they're just like the world and here we find Daniel in the hottest circumstances of his life. He makes a decision to purpose in his heart to stay true to God, to honor him. What an amazing thing when we look at this, and God doesn't Want you just to read your Bible, He wants you to live your Bible. Do you realize that you might be the only Bible that the lost around you read? And what I mean by that is the way you carry yourself, the way you live, what you say, what you do. That means living a life of faith and obedience, contrary to the world's thinking and behavior. You look what the world's doing. You can stand out. You know, everybody wants to stand out, amen.

Why don't you stand out being a Christian, living for Jesus? Amen. And I know I'm preaching to some of the choirs here. There's some young people here excited. Their t shirts tell exactly who they serve, amen. We are saved not only to go to heaven, but to honor God with our lives. And that's one of the greatest things. You can honor your life to God because He died for you. Why don't you live for Him? Amen. Also, it says in Ephesians chapter 2 for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works which God had before ordained. That we should walk in them. You know, if you're saved today, raise your hand if you're saved today. Well, listen, God has saved you not just to read, but to live out by faith the Word of God in your life. And when He does that, He's a workmanship, He's working in you a life of what?

Service to Him. The Holy Spirit that's in you begins to draw you to do what God wants you to do, and when you do that, you become honoring God. Look at Ephesians, Ephesians chapter 4, Now, you know what. I'm so excited. I'm excited. Two young, I think 20 year olds, were baptized in the ocean yesterday. I walked in there and I'm like, is there any sharks around here? Ephesians chapter 4, beginning in verse 17. I'm going to read a few verses here so you can. Just. Listen or follow me. Ephesians chapter 4, verse 14, the Bible says, This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them. Because of their blindness of their heart who being in past feelings have given themselves over unto lasciviousness to work all uncleanness and greediness.

But ye have not so learned Christ. If so be that ye have heard of him and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus, that ye put off the concerning the former conversation of the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitfulness of lust. Let me stop there. When it says conversation, what it's talking about is your lifestyle. So let me read this again that ye put off concerning the former lifestyle conversation of the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitfulness, deceitful lust, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. That ye may put on the new man, which is after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Listen, I know I'm speaking to the choir, but how many of you, when you gave your life to Jesus and all of a sudden he started putting in your heart to live better and you started to recognize, man, I can't do those things anymore? Well, that's putting off your old lifestyle, your old conversation. Do you know your life speaks louder than your words? Isn't it amazing how it uses lifestyle and says conversation? Because yes, your words mean nothing if it's not backed up by your lifestyle.

And when I think of this, I think of three questions for every choice we make. If you want to honor God, think of these three questions Is it holy before the Lord? Is it helpful to the cause of Christ? And here's the big one Is it a hindrance to a lost person? I'm talking about your lifestyle. I'm talking about what you say and do. Because it makes a difference when you're living in the world and people don't know God. We're living in America where even young people, this young generation, never even heard of Jesus. Can you imagine that? In America, the place where I grew up, where everyone was in church, I don't care what kind of church it was everyone was in it. And you know what Mommy did? She put her roast into a crock pot so it could slow cook. So when she came home, she couldn't feed.

Why? Because no restaurants were open back then. How many remember those days? Huh? Some of you can't raise your hand, because you don't remember that. When everything was shut down, the only everything that was open were two things. Open with two things. Two things gas stations and pharmacies. And you could go to a pharmacy with your family, like you're going for some medication or something. But back then, they had a nice little counter space. And you know what you could get after church? You could get an ice cream float. was like a little, because you were good in church, daddy's gonna bring us all out for an ice cream float.

- But think of that. Today we're living in some tough times. We're living where, and I always say this, where Satanism is gone mainstream and they're pushing Christianity in the closet.

I don't know if you noticed this. We need some young people. We need everybody.

We need all Christians to live their faith and live there by honoring God with their life. See, listen, we belong to him, so we must care about what he cares about. That's why we make choices to honor him, to live to do what he's called us and what we know he wants us how to live and what to say and what to do.

And that's exactly what this young teenage boy Daniel did. But not only that, he was uncompromising in his convictions. Turn back to Daniel, Daniel chapter 6. We're in Daniel chapter 1, but look at this, Daniel chapter 6. Now Daniel is in his 80s at this time.

We have moved through from chapter 1 to chapter 6, 80 years has gone by. And here we've seen Daniel, listen, it's no longer the Babylonians that are in charge. The Babylonians were conquered by the Chaldeans.

And we find in Daniel chapter 6 verse 5, says, then said these men, we shall not find any occasion against this Daniel except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. So what was happening? He was consistent. Yes, he was in a foreign land.

He was a prisoner. He was now taken as a eunuch. You know what a further than that.

You look up eunuch, but yet you, we see him, he was uncompromising in his convictions. As Christians, we represent Christ at all times in everything that we do or say, not just because we come to church. Listen, when you leave this church and you get out on that street and somebody cuts you off, you're not supposed to throw a finger up.

Amen. Amen. You're supposed to say, oh, God bless you.

But think of this. You look at Daniel here. He finds that now there's a new regime that came in.

There's new leadership that came in and they saw God had placed Daniel still in a position in

this new country, this new government. And yet he stands true to his God. And these new young leaders, they're trying to figure out how can we get rid of this guy? Yeah.

Look at Daniel chapter six, verse four. Look what it says. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom, but they should, but they could find none occasion nor fault for as much as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.

Man, he was living a good life, wasn't he? You couldn't find anything. He was in the government. Man, today we can't find, there's a lot of corruption going on right now that they're finding.

Amen. But here Daniel and the people around him, all these leaders were trying to find something on him. And they said, we can't, we can't, but I know what we can do.

We can find something that goes against our society concerning his laws of his God. And he was uncompromising. Colossians chapter three, verse 22, Colossians chapter three, verse 22, says servants obey in all things your masters, according to the flesh, not with eye service as men please, but in singleness of heart, fearing God.

What does that mean? At this time, it was talking about what? A slave, right? This is talking about a slave with masters. But if you look at Daniel, it's talking about Daniel. He was what? Since the youth, he was a prisoner.

Yes, he was put in position, but he was still a prisoner. Amen. He was a eunuch.

And I'm here to tell you, this talks about your job. How do you treat your boss when they tell you to do a certain thing? Well, listen, that's not my job. That's Joe Smollett's job.

Well, I'm here to tell you, it says right here, according to the flesh, not with eye service or men please, but singleness of heart, fearing God. You know what this is saying is, listen, don't do things to show how good you are in front of man. He's not the one that's watching you.

Amen. Everything you do, do it pleasing the God who loves you, the one who's died for you, the one who's giving you eternal life. He's the one.

And if we could really understand to be uncompromising in the way we live and holding on to our convictions, man, your life is going to honor God. We can find so much in this young man, Daniel, who's lived a consistent life of honoring God. Philippians chapter two, verse 14 and 15 says this, do all things without murmuring or disputings that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation among whom ye shine as lights in the world.

That's hard to do, isn't it? Huh? How many of you find yourself murmuring? How many of you find yourself disputing? Why don't you just say, okay, God, whatever's told me to do, I'm just going to do it. I'm not going to fight. I don't want just my way to go.

Listen, we're Christians. There will come a time when obeying man's laws will directly oppose God's laws. Think of that.

What will you do then? Will you be courageous and purpose in your heart like the teenage Daniel did right from the beginning? Are you going to be a men pleaser? Amen. Third, he was committed to a life of prayer. Look at Daniel chapter six.

We're still in Daniel chapter six. Look at verse 10. And of course, this is his whole life.

It started when he made that decision. I'm going to purpose in my heart to obey and honor God. I'm not going to do anything that they want me to do if it goes against God's word.

You know, just on a sidebar, we don't see Daniel with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. We don't see him in that part of the scriptures in Daniel. When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were told to bow down to that image, that golden image that Nebuchadnezzar put in, Daniel wasn't around.

But I'm here to tell you, Daniel was an influence on those other three Hebrew boys. Think of that. Because Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they told the greatest, fiercest king, Nebuchadnezzar, they said, listen, Mr. King, I'm paraphrasing, we respect you as king.

And you know, whatever you tell us to do, if it's going to violate what God has told us to do, we're going to stick with God. And what did they say? We're not going to bow down to your statue, Mr. King. And he was in such an enraged that he had his men come in and grab these three.

And I don't know if they were still teenagers at this time. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and threw them into the oven. You can read it in the book of Daniel.

And what happened? There was another man in the fiery furnace. And we believe that was Jesus. And when Nebuchadnezzar looked in, he saw not three, but four.

And they came out, not even smelling like smoke. Can you imagine that? Yeah. God will, listen, I'm here to tell you, if you live for God and you stand for God, no matter what, and you know what the three boys said, even if you take our life, we're still going to obey God.

We respect you, but we love and honor the God that we serve more. Man. But here we find

Daniel, his whole life, he was committed to prayer.

And it says in Daniel chapter six, verse 10, says, now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, and what writing was that? They found something against Daniel, because Daniel would pray. He would pray morning, noon, and night. And he would open the door and he would pray towards Jerusalem.

And he was praying to his God. And guess what? There was a decree that they put out there that you couldn't pray to any God. Yet he still did it.

And it says in Daniel chapter six, verse 10. Now, when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, that this was going to break the law, he went into his house and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God as he did a fourth time. Daniel began as a young man of prayer and remained consistent to the end.

Prayer was essential in his life. And it should be in ours. Especially when you hear in James chapter five, verse 16, when the Bible says, the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

And when it says man, that's man and woman. Amen. But listen, if you believe that God hears your prayers and you believe that God can control the things in your life by your prayer, and you believe that your prayer can touch the heart of the creator God, and he'll move things out of your way and put things in your way.

Yes. I've seen it in my own life. I said, we're going to do so.

And my wife said, I don't know. And then she go into a little bathroom and she stopped praying. And all of a sudden, you know what? She was right.

We're going to do it her way. Listen, prayer is powerful. I'm here to thank you all for praying for me when I was in the hospital, because I'm standing here with the strength to preach with a vigor, like as if I'd never been operated on before.

What an amazing thing what a couple of months can do with people praying for you. We need to pray with the faith again, like Daniel did, especially in the dark days that we're living in. Prayer is more important today than ever before.

And listen, if God hasn't gotten your heart to pray, I don't know what else will wake you up. There's things happening all around us in our own families, things are happening that we have no control of, but we can bow our knees and bow our hearts to the God who cares in the time of need. And you know what it says in Hebrews? It says that we can come to him boldly.

He wants us to come to him. That's what Daniel did. You know, because of this, they threw Daniel in the lion's den.

Amen? Because he broke the law, because he prayed. But while he was in the lion's den, you know what he was doing? He was probably praying. And all those hungry lions just stayed and laid down.

And I got this in my head that when Daniel thought to sleep, I thought he would like just nuzzle up to one of these big lions and lay on their belly with not a care in the world because God was watching over him. So just to be in conclusion to this message, you have to recognize that Daniel's faithful walk and consistent prayer life brought honor to the God of heaven before the heathen nation around him. And I'm here to tell you, you can be a Daniel.

You can purpose in your heart to obey God's word. You can stand firm in your conviction, no matter what. And you can commit your life to prayer and see what God can do and change in your life.

I'm excited because God's still on the throne. And as how dark as things get, how bleak as it gets, how hopeless things look with my eyes, I know that there's a God in heaven that I can look and watch by faith and wait, knowing that he's going to move. You know, when he moves, he moves at the last minute.

When everything's falling apart and when your faith is beginning to wane, all of a sudden he steps on the scene and he does the impossible because he's a way maker. He's the miracle worker. And he wants to show you that he's still in control.

So don't give up on God. Better yet, live for him and live the way Daniel did. Purpose in your heart that you're going to obey his word and live for him, no matter what.

Stand firm in your convictions and don't let society turn and pull you away and make you a man pleaser. And live a life of prayer because prayer works. And that's exactly what he wants us to do, to pray and then see what he can do.

You know, God is just amazing. And when you recognize the fact that we're all sinners, every one of us, there's not one perfect person in here. And sin is the reason why none of us can get to heaven.

But it's in the act of prayer with faith, believing what Jesus did. Jesus, God, God the son who took the body of a man and walked as a man through the virgin birth and he walked a sinless life. And one day he went on a cross and he wasn't dying for his sin.

He was dying for all our sin. And people have, they have religion, but they haven't really stepped out in faith. And I'm here to tell you, if you step out in faith and believe that the God that loves you, the God that laid on that cross for your sin, he's still the God that's waiting for you to call on him.

Romans 10, 13, the Bible says in Romans 10, 13, for whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Have you called on him? Have you recognized that your sin will never get you into heaven? It's not your goodness that gets you to heaven. It's your sin that keeps you out of heaven.

And all of us are sinners, but Jesus died for your sin. And he's waiting. He's waiting for you to make that decision.

The purpose in your heart to believe that Jesus died for you. Three days he laid in that grave and he rose again the third day. And while he was on the cross, he said, it's finished.

The penalty of all sin had been paid with my blood. Think of that. Amen.

There might be one today who's never trusted Christ. I ask you, I implore you, please look at Jesus, look at the cross again and have him forgive you and then live in you and then cause you to honor him with your life. Why don't we stand? Let's pray.

Father, we thank you. Father, I thank you. As we look back in the Old Testament, how we can see the lives of these saints, those who in tough times still live for you.

Imagine Daniel, a prisoner, would still live to honor you with his life. And Father, I pray that this message would have spoke to somebody, somebody to recognize that, yes, you are looking throughout the whole world to find that one life that says, I am going to live for you and then bless them and then use them. Even in the midst of trials and tribulations, Father, your word says you will never leave them nor forsake them.

And Father, I thank you for those as myself who have given our lives and called on Jesus to save us. And Father, we're not all perfect, but we have a perfect loving God who still uses broken people, still uses young people, still uses people that have no way of ever controlling the situation in their life, but yet you use us and we thank you for it. In Jesus' precious name, amen.