

DANIEL'S DECISIONS

INTRODUCTION

A. Ezekiel 14:14; 28:3

Daniel is such an impressive figure in Scripture that he became the standard by which others were compared.

B. Daniel 1:1-7

Daniel and his friends were captives from Judah during the Babylonian exile. In captivity, by God's providence, he rose to great prominence and, along the way, made some daring decisions.

I. DANIEL DECIDED NOT TO BE DEFILED WITH DELICACIES

A. Daniel 1:8-16, 19

As a Jewish noble, Daniel was afforded certain luxury in the court of Babylon, but he was concerned about the food provided him and his friends.

B. Leviticus 11

In the Law of Moses, God made clear to Israel which foods were "kosher," that is proper, and which were not. Having been taken captive to a foreign land where Jehovah was not respected, Daniel could not expect the food he was offered to have satisfied Hebrews requirements.

C. 1st Timothy 5:22; James 1:27

Personal purity is a serious matter. Although dietary restrictions are no longer in force under the present covenant in Christ, a Christian must not let the world defile him.

II. DANIEL DECIDED TO DEFER TO DEITY

A. Daniel 2:27-30, 46-49

This great interpreter of dreams did not accept any aggrandizement, but deferred to the Holy One

B. Genesis 41:16; Acts 3:11-16

Similarly, Joseph gave credit to God when he interpreted Pharaoh's dream, and Peter glorified the Lord when he worked a miracle of healing on a lame man.

C. 2nd Corinthians 3:5-6

Sufficiency is a grace from God.

III. DANIEL DECIDED TO EDIFY THE DIVINERS

A. Daniel 2:48; 4:9; 5:11

This man of God was promoted by the king of Babylon to oversee all wise men, magicians, astrologers, and soothsayers.

B. Daniel 7:13-14; 9:25-27

Daniel was not only a prophet, but he was a Messianic prophet, and not only could he foretell the coming of Messiah, but he also foretold when Messiah would come.

C. Matthew 2:1-2

Thus, it is little mystery that "*wise men from the East*" were on the lookout for the star of Bethlehem when Christ was born!

IV. DANIEL DECIDED TO DECLINE DECORATION

A. Daniel 5:13-17, 29

Daniel was offered lavish rewards if he could interpret to King Belshazzar the writing on the wall, but he declined. After interpreting, the rewards were heaped upon him nonetheless, but that was not his motive.

B. 1st Corinthians 10:33; Matthew 10:8,

When we instruct others in the ways of God, rewards may come, but such is not the goal.

C. 1st Peter 5:5-6

When we set a course for humility, God will make sure we land on exaltation.

V. DANIEL DECIDED TO BE SO DECENT THAT ONLY DECENCY COULD BE USED AGAINST HIM

A. Daniel 6:1-5

Daniel was so full of virtue that his opponents had nothing to use against him but his virtue!

B. Mark 15:10

Pilate understood the same about Jesus and His accusers.

VI. DANIEL DECIDED TO DEFY DESPOTISM

A. Daniel 6:6-13

Daniel was fully cognizant of the edict against praying to Jehovah when he elected to pray to Jehovah with his windows open. While this was defiant, it was not a novelty; he did not begin praying to get attention, but had been in the habit his whole life. He knew the penalty and chose to serve God openly.

B. Hebrews 11:23

When Moses' parents spared him from the death intended by Pharaoh's edict, they were "*not afraid!*"

C. Acts 4:18-20; 5:27-29

The apostles kept right on preaching, regardless of the orders against doing so because they would not listen to men more than to God!

VII. DANIEL DECIDED TO ACCEPT BLAME FOR THE DEEDS OF THE PEOPLE

A. Daniel 9:1-19

His own uprightness notwithstanding, Daniel, the highest ranking Jew in captivity, used the plural inclusive pronouns "*we,*" "*us,*" and "*our*" more than 40 times to acknowledge the manifold faults of his people Israel.

B. Jeremiah 14:7; Ezra 9:1-7; Nehemiah 1:5-6

This was common among the righteous leaders of Israel during the exile and preceding it. Good men, whom God entrusts to lead, intercede for their people to God.

CONCLUSION

A. **Daniel 1:17**

Emphasis is given in the first chapter of the book to Daniel's and his friends' youth. He wasn't a young man throughout the book, but he started off as a youth who was dedicated to God and held that devotion all the way through his life.

B. **1st Timothy 4:12; Ecclesiastes 12:1**

We urge all the young to commit themselves fully to the Lord early in life!