

Daniel Review: Holiness, Faith and Future.

I. Prophecy means- a prediction (spoken or written), a burden/load.

2 Peter 1:19-21 - *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; (20) knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, (21) for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

II. What is prophecy for?

i. Prophecy unveils who God is.

In whichever part of the Bible you read, God reveals who He is.

Luke 24:27 - *" And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

ii. Prophecy unveils God's plan.

Prophecy unveils His will concerning the present and the future; which is ultimately salvation through Jesus Christ and heaven as our initial and final home.

Isaiah 46:9-10 - *Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'*

iii. Prophecy strengthens faith.

When God reveals who He is and what He's doing, He intends that our trust and faith in Him grows stronger. Knowing God, His plan and being a witness of His work should excite us not only to follow Him but to be fruitful in Him.

2 Peter 3:14 - *Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless...*

iv. Prophecy brings comfort and hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 - *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. (17) Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (18) Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

III. Daniel 1:8 – The Holiness.

The ancient Hebrew word **defile** carries the thought of *polluting* or *staining*.

The food in Babylon most likely was unclean. It was sacrificed to idols too. Eating it implied fully accepting the Babylon's cultural system while forsaking God's.

Leviticus 11:44-47 - *'For I am the LORD your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 'For I am the LORD who brings you up out of the land of Egypt, to be your God. You shall therefore be holy, for I am holy. 'This is the law of the animals and the birds and every living creature that moves in the waters, and of every creature that creeps on the earth, 'to distinguish between the unclean and the clean, and between the animal that may be eaten and the animal that may not be eaten.'*"

The odds are 100% against Daniel:-

- The *food itself* was no doubt very attractive, and was a much better alternative than eating a vegetarian diet and water for three years.
- Separation from family and home, made it was easy to compromise.
- It was easy to *think that God had let them down* by allowing them to be carried away into Babylon. Why should they risk their necks for a God who let them down?

1 Peter 1:13-16 - *Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."*

1John 2:16-17 - *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

IV. Daniel 3:16-18: Faith.

The image or statue, being 90 feet high and 9 feet wide; it was probably stone overlaid with gold. All public officials had to be present at the dedication of the image, to bow down before it. Nebuchadnezzar uses the worship of this image as a test of allegiance.

We can imagine the enormous pressure on Hananiah, Meshael, and Azariah to compromise; the king, the furnace, the music, their colleagues, their competitors – the entire nation.

They had **no need** to defend themselves. Their guilt in the matter was clear - they clearly would not bow down to this image.

In this, the Jewish men show they have a good understanding and appreciation of God's great power; to save them from both the furnace and the king.

In this, the Jewish men show they have a good understanding and appreciation of submission to God; they know that God has to be honoured at every cost.

They recognized that God's plan might be different than their desires. “I have my own desires and dreams and I pray that God fulfills them. But if He doesn't, I can't turn my back on Him.”

Job 13:15 - *Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him*

Proverbs 23:17 - *Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day.*

Matthew 10:28 - *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Daniel 6:10 – Faith.

Prayer was part of Daniel's lifestyle, it wasn't reaction-al; they found Daniel just as they knew they would - deep in prayer.

Psalms 22:21 - *Save Me from the lion's mouth and from the horns of the wild oxen! You have answered Me.*

Daniel intended no disrespect for the king, only a higher respect for God. *Daniel was confronted with a test of loyalties. He wanted to render unto Caesar things that rightfully belonged to Caesar but he would not give to the government that which belonged to God alone.*

Luke 18:1 - *Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,*

Ephesians 6:18 - *praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—*

2 Corinthians 4:8-11 - *We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

V. Daniel 7-12: Future.

These visions summarize everything about the future...

- i. The Babylonian Empire.
- ii. The Medo-Persian Empire.
- iii. The Greek Empire
- iv. The Roman Empire and the One World Government under the Anti-Christ.

The Antichrist will ascend to rule the world through brokering a seven-year Peace Agreement between the Israelites and the Arabs/Muslims that will allow the reconstruction of a new Temple just near the Dome of the Rock Mosque/Shrine. In the middle of the agreement the anti-Christ will abolish Temple sacrifices and will demand to be worshipped as God; will then persecute those who don't worship him, many will oppose him leading up to the last war, Jesus returns and establishes His Kingdom on earth.

1John 2:18 - *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.*

1John 4:1-3 - *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.*