

Committed

Walking with Jesus in a Post-Christian Generation

Identity

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November 14, 2021

Series Thread: To live a God-honoring life in a culture that does not always honor God, we start with keeping our commitment.

Daniel 1:1-2 (God is in control)

- After generations of rejection, Yahweh gave them what they wanted—life without Him.

Message Thread: Daniel knew he was NOT here to be ABANDONED, but rather to learn to walk closer to God.

First Test – Daniel’s Commitment: become a fierce follower of God.

- Committed his heart to God.
- Committed his actions to God.
- Committed to swim against the currents working against him.
- Committed to BE the Kingdom of God wherever he stood.

Daniel 1:3-9

Second Test – To keep a commitment, anchor deep into an IDENTITY.

Nebuchadnezzar

- (V2) I OWN you.
 - (V3-4) Cared only about the outward appearance.
 - (V5) Intentional redefining of truth/morality.
 - (V5) The demon god’s PROVIDE for you?
 - (V7) Rename you, to shape you in my image.
- you.

Yahweh

- You belong with me.
- Cares about the heart/inward devotion.
- Standard of truth/morality.
- I am your Provider.
- My name for you is My HOPE for you.

- Belteshazzar - *May Marduk protect his life.*
 - Shadrach - *An unknown reference to Marduk. gracious.*
 - Meshach - *Who is what AKU is (moon god) is.*
 - Abednego - *Servant of Nebo.*
 - Are you allowing others to define you against WHO God says you are?
- Daniel - *God is my judge.*
 Hananiah - *My God is*
 Mishael - *Who is what God is.*
 Azariah - *The Lord is a help.*

Daniel experienced the rare air of CLARITY because Yahweh was faithful.

Chapter 1 starts with:

- Nebuchadnezzar: "I'm in control."
- Yahweh: "I'm orchestrating history."

Chapter 1 ends with:

- Nebuchadnezzar: overthrown and dead.
- Yahweh: "*I'm thinking and orchestrating history three kings ahead of you.*"
 - **Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius** the Mede, **Cyrus** the Persian
- For the reader – WHO is in CONTROL?
- For the reader – WHO is worthy of your FAITH?
- For the reader – What are you struggling to exercise your FAITH for?

Daniel knew who he was...

- The one being helped, not hurt.
- The one being rescued, not rejected.
- The one in this Babylonian world, but not of this world.

Application:

- We are the readers; we are the committed ONES challenged to anchor into an Identity.
- Yahweh: "*I'm thinking and orchestrating history three kings ahead of you.*"
- For the reader – WHO is in CONTROL?
- For the reader – WHO is worthy of your FAITH?
- For the reader – What are you struggling to exercise your FAITH for?

Challenge:

- Are you committed?
- Do you know who you are?
- Who do you find your identity with?

CHECK OUT THESE FREE ONLINE RESOURCES:

STUDIES BY DOUG BRITTON:

Trust God to Be with You

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/trust-god

Embrace Your True Identity — You are God's Child

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/you-are-child

Be an influencer, Not an Influence

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/be-an-influencer

SUMMIT UP DEVOTIONALS:

<https://heightschurchonline.com/daily-devotionals/>