

Dare to be a Daniel November 5th & 6th, 2016

Daniel 1

In a hymn called “*Dare to be a Daniel*” written by Philip P. Bliss in the late 1800’s, the chorus reads:

*Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known!*

This hymn is based on the book of Daniel, the account of a young Hebrew who trusted in God and refused to compromise his faith!

The Book of Daniel – God’s guide on how to thrive in a heathen culture!

Captivity *Daniel 1:1-7*

“... *Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand ...*”(verses 1-2)

📖 2 Kings 24:1-4; 24:10-15; 25:7-12

- ❖ Daniel lost everything but his life! He lost his immediate family, his future in Jerusalem, his hope for a family of his own, his heritage, even his name!
- ❖ Daniel was forced to learn the ways of the Chaldeans and to honor the king.

Commitment *Daniel 1:8-14*

- ❖ Daniel was committed to God and His Word.

“Daniel resolved not to defile himself...”(verses 8)

Resolve: “To fix in opinion or purpose; to determine in mind. ...”¹

📖 Leviticus 17:10-16

- ❖ Daniel would not compromise his Godly convictions in this heathen culture!

↳ Christians are called to keep our conduct honorable!

📖 1 Peter 2:9-17

- ❖ God gave Daniel favor in the sight of his supervisor.

↳ Joseph is another example of God giving favor.

📖 Genesis 39 - 40

Psalm 37:5-6 “Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him, and He will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.”

Confirmation *Daniel 1:15-17*

- ❖ Daniel put his faith in God, and God confirmed His Word and blessed Daniel’s obedience!

↳ God blessed Daniel and his friends with exceptional health, wisdom and understanding!

- ❖ Daniel was not alone in his stand! Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego stood with him!

“Test your servants...” (verse 12)

Hebrews 10:24 “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,”

❖ God responds to faith!

Matthew 9:29 "Then He touched their eyes, saying, 'According to your faith be it done to you.'"

Luke 7:9-10 "When Jesus heard these things, He marveled at him, and turning to the crowd that followed Him, said, 'I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.' And when those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the servant well."

Mark 10:52 "And Jesus said to him, 'Go your way; your faith has made you well.' And immediately he recovered his sight and followed Him on the way."

Mark 9:23 "And Jesus said to him, "'If you can'! All things are possible for one who believes.'"

📖 Acts 16:25-33

Commendation *Daniel 1:19-21*

"And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom." (verse 20)

❖ God gave them the ability to learn and commended Daniel and his friends before King Nebuchadnezzar and his court!

❖ God recognizes the faith, commitment, and courage of His people!

📖 Hebrews 11:32-12:3

❖ Daniel served King Nebuchadnezzar and God revealed His glory to the king!

📖 Daniel 4:19, 36-37

"Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known!"
- Philip P. Bliss

Endnotes:

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

♦ Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®, copyright ©2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.