

**DANIEL'S FAITHFULNESS IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES**  
**A CALL TO TRUST AND OBEY YAHWEH NO MATTER WHAT SITUATION YOU ARE IN**

By Bro. Ken Ng, Shabbat 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020

**Dan 1:1** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

**Dan 1:2** The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God; and he carried them into the land of Shinar to the house of his god. He brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

Jehoiakim (named Eliakim at birth) was one of the last kings of Judah before the Babylonian Captivity. Jehoiakim was the second son of King Josiah of Judah.

**2Ch 36:5** Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. He did that which was evil in Yahweh his God's sight.

**2Ch 36:6** Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came up against him, and bound him in fetters to carry him to Babylon.

**Jer 36:23** And it came to pass, *that* when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast *it* into the fire that *was* on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that *was* on the hearth.

**Jer 36:24** Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, *neither* the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

**Jer 36:30** Therefore Yahweh says concerning Jehoiakim king of Judah: "He will have no one to sit on David's throne. His dead body will be cast out in the day to the heat, and in the night to the frost.

**Jer 22:18-19** Therefore Yahweh says concerning Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah: "They won't lament for him, saying, 'Ah my brother!' or, 'Ah sister!' They won't lament for him, saying 'Ah lord!' or, 'Ah his glory!' He will be buried with the burial of a donkey, drawn and cast out beyond the gates of Jerusalem."

**Deu 24:16** The fathers shall not be put to death for the children, neither shall the children be put to death for the fathers. Every man shall be put to death for his own sin.

King Jehoiakim's wilful rejection of God's Word and his subsequent fate are a perfect illustration of the folly of disobedience in:

**Pro 29:1** He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth *his* neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

I do not think anyone would wish to be judged in this manner and not be given a second chance. But there are boundaries and consequences of rejecting Yahweh's authority:

a. Sinners get what they ask for. Nations that disregard God's counsel in favour of their own lusts eventually get what they ask for.

**Psa 106:13** They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel:

**Psa 106:14** But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

**Psa 106:15** And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

**Rom 1:24** Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:

**Rom 1:25** Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

b. They suffer unnecessarily. The horrendous aftermath of a wildfire may be an accurate word picture of the consequences that a nation without God will suffer.

**Isa 5:24** Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, *so* their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

c. They are left to their own devices. Rejection of the Lord's sovereignty and provision only leads to a desolate ending. Without faith in YHWH who made us, we are empty, lacking, and ultimately left to our own devices.

**Deu 32:18** Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

**Deu 32:19** And when the LORD saw it, he abhorred them, because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.

**Deu 32:20** And he said, I will hide my face from them, I will see what their end shall be: for they are a very froward generation, children in whom is no faith.

Throughout the first six chapters of Daniel, we learn about how he remained faithful in all circumstances. He ran into several trying situations that may have caused most of us to lose faith or bend from our beliefs, but Daniel stayed strong. Let us take a deeper look into the situations.

### **Daniel's Holiness**

Daniel and his friends proved to be the wisest of all the trainees. At the end of their training, they entered the service of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel's first sign of faithfulness to God was when he and his three friends rejected the rich food and wine from the king's table, because they deemed it a defilement, and chose vegetable and water instead.

**Dan 1:8** But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the 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.

**Dan 1:12** Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

**Dan 1:15** And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

**Dan 1:17** As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

**Rev 13:17** And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.

In **Dan 1:20** And in all matters of wisdom *and* understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* astrologers that *were* in all his realm.

### **Daniel's Response in the Face of Suffering**

15. In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar was troubled with a dream that he could not interpret. Beyond interpretation, Nebuchadnezzar commanded his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers to also describe his dream. These men were willing to try to interpret the dream if Nebuchadnezzar first told them what it was, but they said that revealing the dream itself was an impossible task for humans. For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon, including Daniel and his companions, must be put to death.

**Dan 2:28** But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these. They praised and blessed the name of YHWH, who gives wisdom and might to those that belonged to Him.

**Dan 2:23** I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast *now* made known unto us the king's matter.

### **Three Men Trust Through Their Trials**

In Daniel 3, Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold and decreed that whenever the people heard the sound of the horn, flute, zither, lyre, harp, pipe, and all kinds of music, they must fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Whoever doesn't fall down and worship shall be cast into the middle of a burning fiery furnace the same hour.

Nebuchadnezzar's golden image is a sneak preview of the image the Antichrist will make and command people to worship during his reign.

**Rev 13:13-15** And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth

by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

**Rev 13:15** And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

### Daniel's Call to Trust and Live in YHWH!

The story of Daniel in the lions' den is one of the most beloved in all Scripture.

**Dan 6:16** "Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee." God did indeed rescue Daniel, sending His angel to shut the mouths of the lions so they did not harm him. Daniel was removed from the lions' den the next day, much to the relief of the king.

One of the chief lessons we learn from this narrative is gleaned from the confession of King Darius himself: "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end" (Daniel 6:26).

**Isa 55:8** For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

**Isa 55:9** For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

1 Peter 2:13-14 to "submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him".

The story ends badly for Daniel's accusers, just as it will for those who accuse and persecute Christians today. King Darius, on the other hand, recognized the power of the God of Daniel, turned to Him in faith, and commanded the people of his kingdom to worship Him in Daniel 6:25-27.

**Dan 6:25** Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

**Dan 6:26** I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he *is* the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion *shall be even* unto the end.

**Dan 6:27** He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

### Conclusion

27. Daniel exercised great integrity and, in doing so, received the respect and

affection of the powerful rulers he served. However, his honesty and loyalty to his masters never led him to compromise his faith in the one true God. Rather than it being an obstacle to his success, Daniel's continual devotion to God brought him the admiration of the unbelievers in his circle. When delivering his interpretations, he was quick to give God the credit for his ability to do so.

28. As a result of his devotion, Daniel found favour with man and with God (Daniel 9:20-23). Notice also in those verses what the angel Gabriel told Daniel about how swiftly the answer to his prayer was dispatched. This shows us how ready the Lord is to hear the prayers of His people. Daniel's strength lay in his devotion to prayer and is a lesson for us all. It is not just in the bad times but on a daily basis that we must bow and come to Lord in prayer.

