



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

CHOOSE YOUR SIDE



Sep. 13, 2020 | The Book of Daniel: Choose Your Side (Part 1) | Reggie Roberson

WARM UP QUESTION: Think of a time when it was easier to make a decision because you had support from friends or family. Have you experienced a time when that support wasn't there, what happened?

READ: Daniel 1:1-21

FOCUS: The side we take in our decisions determines how we see ourselves, our purpose and the world around us.

OBSERVE: When we choose to side with the temporary, visible culture around us, we miss out on God's goodness, His unshakable and unseen presence, power, and purpose.

- The book of Daniel is a collection of the stories of Daniel, of his three friends and the revelations God gave Daniel about the future. The book has one purpose: to encourage people that even in difficult times, we need to faithfully choose the side of the unseen God. He is the King and has a Kingdom that is over all the kingdoms and governments of this world, influencing, overriding and transcending them, and we can receive His goodness.

Someone who sides with God resolves to not be defiled, to value people and to problem-solve.

- When we resolve to not be defiled, we are saying that, regardless of the inconvenience or challenge it may present, we are humbling ourselves and letting God decide what is beneficial for us. As with Daniel, this applies to our food but also our community, our words, our time and our identity.
- Valuing people looks into the heart and character of a person. We choose not to be rude or disrespectful because God loves every individual. Grace and humility help us to best show people the love that God has for them.
- God is not thwarted by problems. God knows there is an answer. Daniel chose to look to his God for an answer rather than strive to find his own solution. Allowing God the chance to intervene and work on your behalf opens up possibilities for outcomes you may not have expected.

REFLECT:

- Have you ultimately joined God's side by giving all of your life to Jesus and receiving, through faith and repentance, the salvation He provided for you? If so, reminisce on the moment that happened for you.
- Someone who sides with God resolves not to be defiled, values people and problem-solves. In which of these areas do you feel like you are thriving or struggling to survive? And why?

TAKE ACTION:

- Identify something in your life that needs to change in order for you to be on God's side in that area. Decide what the first step in changing that area should be and take that step!
- This week, take a moment to pause in your prayers and posture yourself with expectation to receive the blessings that God has for every area of your life.

PRAY:

Jesus, thank You that we have access to Your Kingdom through Your death on the cross and we can be part of Your family and the work You are doing here on the earth. We are grateful for You and all that You provide. Jesus, would You help us as we choose You and Your Kingdom every day, despite adversity or opposition. Lord, we give You our fears and we ask for Your strength, courage and boldness. Thank You for loving us so well. Help us to love You and others well in return. In the name of Jesus, we ask these things, amen.

