

=MAJOR CHARACTERS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 8

Daniel

INTRODUCTION: Review briefly the history of the Jews up to the time of Daniel.

- I. DANIEL'S NAME. His name means, "God is my Judge." Daniel's name indicates his awareness of God's presence.
  
- II. DANIEL'S BACKGROUND.
  1. He was of royal blood. Daniel 1:3, "And the king spake unto Ashpenaz...that he should bring certain of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes."
  2. He was taken to a strange land. See Daniel 1:3.
  3. He was wise and well-educated. Notice in Daniel 1:4, 6, the words, "skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science."
  
- III. DANIEL'S PURITY.
  1. Daniel had great temptation. See Daniel 1:5 and I John 2:16.
  2. He purposed (set out) not to defile himself. Review Daniel 1:8.
  3. He chose to deprive himself rather than to sin. Read Daniel 1:12. Any Christian is far better off eating beans for the Lord than sirloin for the Devil.
  4. He and his friends had God's blessing. See Daniel 1:15-20. Notice especially verses 15, 17 and 19.
  
- IV. DANIEL'S POWER. (Tell the exciting story of the king's dream and Daniel's interpretation, as given in Daniel 2.)
  
- V. DANIEL'S FAITHFULNESS.
  1. Daniel could be trusted. See Daniel 6:1-3. Daniel's trustworthiness and superb attitude is evident as we read in verse 3, "Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm."
  2. Daniel was blameless. See Daniel 6:4, 5 and Titus 1:6, 7.
  3. Daniel's enemies lied! Read Daniel 6:7. Not all the presidents wanted the decree, for Daniel was a president also!
  4. Daniel believed in "doing right if the stars fall." See Daniel 6:10. Many are willing to do right if they can be sure that it will turn out okay.
  5. Daniel had a good testimony. Review Daniel 6:16.
  6. God delivered His faithful servant. Notice in Daniel 6:27 the wonderful words Darius spoke of our marvelous God: "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."