

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2017-2018
THEME – GENUINE FAITH IS EVIDENCED BY OUR ACTIONS
UNIT II – A LIVING FAITH IN GOD

**“DANIEL’S UNCOMPROMISING COMMITMENT OF FAITH,
EVEN IN A STRANGE LAND”**



Sunday School Lesson No. 6

January 7, 2018

Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III
Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Daniel 1:8-21

Required Reading: Daniel 1:1-21

Motto Texts: Psalm 137:1-4, *“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?”*

Daniel 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.”*

Reliable Resources: Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Standard Lesson Commentary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; The Outline Bible; Precepts for Living; The Handwriting on the Wall by Dr. David Jeremiah.

INTRODUCTION:

We now trace the legacy of the covenant keeping God and His people to a strange land. From the great blessings of God on David's life that gave Israel a land, a capitol city and a central place of covenant worship, we now are found in a strange land many hundreds of miles away; a land of pagan idolatry and disregard for the covenant-keeping God. Israel as a nation has been taken captive and deported to Satan's capitol, Babylon! “But, why?” one may ask; and the reason is simple: disobedience and unfaithfulness to Jehovah, the covenant keeping God! (Read Deuteronomy 28; Isaiah 39:3-7 and finally, II Chronicles 36:17-23.) The deportation of God's covenant people took place over a period of three invasions by the country of Babylon under its King, Nebuchadnezzar. According to historians, these incursions took place in “605 B.C., 597 B.C. and 586 B.C.” Three of God's greatest prophets were present and affected by the deportations: Daniel in 605 B.C., Ezekiel in 597 B.C., and Jeremiah in 586 B.C.

But let us focus on Daniel and his uncompromising commitment in a strange land. Being only a youth, Daniel was taken with other young men of noble blood to be totally converted to Babylonian culture. According to the reading of Daniel 1:1-7, these young men were emasculated, emancipated from their previous religion and upbringings, and their former identities were totally erased from their memories. But Daniel was committed to God's covenant even in a strange land. The roots of his upbringing were firmly in place, and the lessons learned from his parents, teachers, and preachers carried him from the days of his youth until he died at a very old age! This truth is found in Proverbs 22:6, *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”*

Anticipated Power Points:

- The Attitude of His Uncompromising Commitment of Faith. Daniel 1:8
- The Advantage of His Uncompromising Commitment of Faith. Daniel 1:9-10
- The Altitude of His Uncompromising Commitment of Faith. Daniel 1:11-14
- The Assurance of His Uncompromising Commitment of Faith. Daniel 1:15-21

“DANIEL’S UNCOMPROMISING COMMITMENT OF FAITH, EVEN IN A STRANGE LAND”

LESSON OUTLINE

I. The Attitude of His Uncompromising Commitment of Faith. Daniel 1:8

Many a soul has been challenged to have the right attitude towards commitment without compromise, and sadly many have failed. (Adam and Eve compromised and lost Paradise; Aaron the priest compromised and failed to enter the Promised Land; Ananias and Sapphira compromised and lost their physical lives; now what are you and I losing because of our failure to be totally committed and uncompromising towards our Lord Jesus Christ?)

According to verse 8, Daniel determined not to defile himself, even with the compromising of a pagan diet! Daniel had the right attitude towards God and was not willing to compromise it, even in a strange land. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us to ***“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”***

II. The Advantage of His Uncompromising Commitment of Faith. Daniel 1:9-10

Because Daniel was willing to stand for the Lord even in a strange land, God gave him friends and favor. His friends were Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his fellow captives, young men like himself. Favor was given to him by God with the Chief of Staff of the king’s eunuchs, a gentleman named Ashpenaz. Beloved, God’s favor towards Daniel was the result of His sovereignty. No land is strange to Him, because “the earth is the Lord’s and the fullness thereof...” Even though it was not convenient, God found a way to give His faithful servants Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah an advantage for their uncompromising commitment. Proverbs 16:7, ***“When a man’s ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”***

III. The Altitude of His Uncompromising Commitment of Faith. Daniel 1:11-14

When one is willing to stand for the Lord in spite of the consequences of society, he will find the power and presence of God to raise his altitude! Luke 14:11, ***“For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”***

God raised Daniel’s altitude to the point that in:

vs. 11 – He was able to **SPEAK** up.

vss. 12-13 – He was able to **STAND** up.

vs. 14 – He was **SANCTIONED**...all because of his uncompromising commitment.

IV. The Assurance of His Uncompromising Commitment of Faith. Daniel 1:15-21

Because of Daniel’s stand, God gave him the assurance of His favor:

A. Favor, physically. vss. 15-16

B. Favor, intellectually and spiritually. vss. 17-20

C. Favor, consistently. Vs. 21 declares that Daniel was a man of uncompromising commitment in over 70 years of service.

CLOSING:

Beloved, would you and I dare to be a Daniel? The hymn writer wrote:

**“Dare to be a Daniel; dare to stand alone!
Dare to have a purpose firm! Dare to make it known!”**

Finally, an unknown poet wrote:

**“Doubt sees the obstacles – Faith sees the way.
Doubt sees the darkest night – Faith sees the day.
Doubt dreads to take a step – Faith soars on high.
Doubt questions, ‘Who believes?’ – Faith answers, ‘I’”**

Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans & Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite City, LA
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179

Phone: (504) 486-7876 Website: www.thestudyhour.com



TV Broadcast: WHNO TV-20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.

LOOKING AHEAD:

January 14, 2018

Daniel 3:19-28

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway where Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.