



# PURPOSE IN YOUR HEART

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- Our next series of classes is called, “Purpose in Your Heart”
- Does anyone recognize where this title comes from?
- **SLIDE**
- We are going to do a study of Daniel
- **SLIDE**
- Not the Prophecy, but the Man
- A Character Study of Daniel and his three friends
- **SLIDE**
- We will purposely avoid any discussion of Prophecy
- Not that Prophecy is bad, but that I’m afraid that we so often concentrate on the Prophecy in Daniel, that we miss the great lessons about the man
- **SLIDE**
- Lessons that give us very practical examples about how to live our own lives
- **SLIDE**
- How to **Purpose in our Own Hearts!**
- **SLIDE**

Chapter 1 – Daniel Purposed in His Heart

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 2 – Daniel Blessed the God of Heaven

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 3 – God Whom We Serve is Able to Deliver Us

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 4 – Daniel's Thoughts Troubled Him

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 5 – Let Thy Gifts Be To Thyself

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 6 – There Was an Excellent Spirit Within Him

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 7 – Daniel Was Grieved in His Spirit

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 8 – Daniel Sought For Meaning

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 9 – We Have Sinned

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 10 – Greatly Beloved

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 11 – Now I Show Thee The Truth

- **SLIDE**

Chapter 12 – I Understood Not

- Let's begin at the Beginning...

- Daniel 1

- **SLIDE**

- Where are we in history?

- Israel and Judah are separated, and Israel has already been taken into captivity

- Judah had just experienced a bit of a religious renaissance under the leadership of good king Josiah
- Josiah was 8 years old when he took office, and reigned for 31 years....
- Let's jump into his story in 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 23:
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 23:25-37

- 25) And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the LORD with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there *any* like him.
- 26) Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the **provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal.**
- 27) And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.
- 28) Now the rest of the acts of Josiah, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah?
- 29) In his days Pharaoh Nechoh king of Egypt went up against the king of Assyria to the river Euphrates: and king Josiah went against him; and he slew him at Megiddo, when he had seen him.
- 30) And his servants carried him in a chariot dead from Megiddo, and brought him to Jerusalem, and buried him in his own sepulchre. And the people of the land took Jehoahaz the son of Josiah, and anointed him, and made him king in his father's stead.
- 31) Jehoahaz *was* twenty and three years old when he began to reign; and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.
- 32) And he did *that which* *was* evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.
- 33) And Pharaoh Nechoh put him in bands at Riblah in the land of Hamath, that he might not reign in Jerusalem; and put the land to a tribute of an hundred talents of silver, and a talent of gold.
- 34) And Pharaoh Nechoh made Eliakim the son of Josiah king in the room of Josiah his father, and turned his name to Jehoiakim, and took Jehoahaz away: and he came to Egypt, and died there.
- 35) And Jehoiakim gave the silver and the gold to Pharaoh; but he taxed the land to give the money according to the commandment of Pharaoh: he exacted the silver and the gold of the people of the land, of every one according to his taxation, to give *it* unto Pharaoh Nechoh.
- 36) Jehoiakim *was* twenty and five years old when he began to reign; and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Zebudah, the daughter of Pedaiah of Rumah.
- 37) And he did *that which* *was* evil in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his fathers had done.

- So, this is who is running the country?...

- A sinful, puppet king placed over the people of God by a Pharaoh of Egypt
- It didn't last long...

- **SLIDE**

- God overthrows Judah due to the past wickedness of King Manasseh

- Daniel 1:1

- 1) In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah came Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon unto Jerusalem, and besieged it.

- **SLIDE**

- Daniel was living in Jerusalem at the time
- God gives Judah to the Babylonians

- **SLIDE**

- Notice what else God makes special mention of giving them also?

- Daniel 1:2

- 2) And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God: which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god.

- Now we start to see the character of Nebuchadnezzar...

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- **A Genius!**

- Daniel 1:3-4

- 3) And the king spake unto Ashpenaz the master of his eunuchs, that he should bring *certain* of the children of Israel, and of the king's seed, and of the princes;
- 4) Children in whom *was* no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as *had* ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.

- Cherry Picking the BEST of the BEST
- Remember that Israel was always a special people

- God's chosen people have been blessed for centuries
- **ALL** of the wisest, strongest, most beautiful people in history were Jews!
- This is good stock to be choosing from!
- AND he only takes the ones in whom was NO BLEMISH!
  - Well Favored
  - Skillful in ALL Wisdom
  - Cunning in Knowledge
  - Understanding Science
  - Had the ABILITY to stand in the King's Palace – Poise & Grace

- **SLIDE**

- And, Nebuchadnezzar is generous also!
- The Nazi's realized that several of the Jews were intelligent and put them to work designing Rockets and Bombs... But, they had to sleep in the camps!
- Nebuchadnezzar gives them of HIS OWN Food to eat!

- **SLIDE**

- AND He's PATIENT!
- He doesn't expect them to be productive immediately, he gives them THREE Years to get their feet beneath them, enjoy their position, and start to produce
- Daniel 1:5

5) And the king appointed them a daily provision of the king's meat, and of the wine which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

- **SLIDE**

- What bad things have we been told about Nebuchadnezzar so far?
  - Nothing! Let's keep that in mind...
- Daniel and his three friends were one of those chosen and taken to Babylon
- So, Daniel was offered the King's own meat to eat...

- Daniel 1:8

- 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.

- First thing we notice is that Daniel even DARED to take this position

- God had prepared the way for him to take this stand

- Daniel 1:9

- 9) Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

- Our beliefs may cause us to take some unfavorable stands with our employers

- Have we laid a good groundwork like Daniel did? Are we in favor with them?

- Let's talk about what Daniel was actually doing...

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- 1) Daniel didn't quit when things didn't go his way!

- Daniel didn't live his life looking back at how things could have been, he started looking ahead at what God was going to do in this situation.

- Many people miss the blessings that God brings into our life because something comes into their lives that they don't understand, or don't like, and they give up on God.

- In this world there will be struggles; and when struggle come, don't give up!

- Daniel lost his family, his future as a member of a royal family in Jerusalem, and a chance for a good education.

- But he didn't lose God! Don't give up and God won't give up on you!

- **SLIDE**

- 2) Daniel Purposed to Do God's Will

- Daniel didn't want to eat the king's meat or drink his wine.

- Typically prisoners don't make the rules, they follow them.

- But Daniel requested that he eat other foods, and not what the king appointed.

- Doing God's will is not always easy, and sometimes it's quite risky because of what the earthly consequences may be.
- But a Christian will never live an full life if he only does God's will SOME of the time.
- To have the abiding blessing of Christ, we must be walking in his will ALWAYS.
- Christians may not be perfect, but we CAN do the things we know to be right.
- Daniel knew from Jewish law that he couldn't eat and drink as the Babylonians wanted, so he didn't.
- Learn to serve God when it's easy, because it will help you when it's hard.

- Daniel 1:10-16

- 10) And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which *are* of your sort? then shall ye make *me* endanger my head to the king.
- 11) Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,
- 12) Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.
- 13) Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.
- 14) So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.
- 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.
- 16) Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

- **SLIDE**

- 3) Daniel was Faithful to God, and had Faith that God would be Faithful to him
- Clearly Daniel knew that his request could put the eunuch in jeopardy.
  - But he also knew that he couldn't eat the king's meat or drink the wine.
  - Rather than rationalizing in his own mind that he had no choice but to eat as ordered, he went ahead and DID ALL HE COULD IN THE SITUATION, THEN LOOKED TO GOD TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE.
  - James 1:22 says, "*But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.*"
  - Daniel DID something, based on the law of God.

- If you want to live the kind of life that Jesus spoke of, then BE A DOER OF THE WORD, AND NOT JUST A HEARER.
- The kingdom of God is based on action, not simply head knowledge and good intentions.
- Get active, get busy, get blessed!
- Daniel 1:17-21

- 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.
- 18) Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.
- 19) And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.
- 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.
- 21) And Daniel continued *even* unto the first year of king Cyrus.

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- According to historians, Daniel was taken into captivity in his late teens or early twenties.
- He lived his entire life from that time forward in captivity, and Daniel lived to almost 100 years old.
- So Daniel was in captivity for 80 years. Yet what a life he had!
- Daniel didn't let his bad circumstances stop him from thinking that God could use him
- What is your situation?
- Do you figure that God can bless and use others, but not you?
- Come to BELIEVE that God can use anybody, at any time, for any purpose, under any circumstances
- **AND THAT MEANS YOU!**