



DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA • AUGUST 11, 2019

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com. This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the Old Testament on pages 628-634.

## REVIEW

- Chapter 1 – Daniel is the Dining Room—committed to not defile himself
- Chapter 2 – Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the multi-metallic statue (Future)
- Chapter 3 – S. M. & A. in the Fiery Furnace
- Chapter 4 – Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great tree (Nebu's salvation story)
- Chapter 5 – "The Handwriting on the Wall" and the Destruction of Babylon
- Chapter 6 – Daniel in the Lion's Den—and the Lions in your den.

### Overview:

Daniel 1-6 is the story of Daniel's life. Daniel's life, from the time of his captivity, was spent in the great and glamorous city of Babylon, the ancient Hollywood. There he lived a life without blame and was well favored. He was a model of righteousness. Although a captive, he rose to be essentially the prime minister of Babylon. He, and his Israelite friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, weathered many storms because of their faith but 'proved what they believed by what they did.' Daniel and his friends stood on God's Holy Word as men who dared to keep their hearts pure, their lives clean and their convictions kept.

“Dare to be a Daniel, Dare to stand alone,  
Dare to have a purpose firm, Dare to make it know.”

– Philip Paul Bliss, Dare to be a Daniel (circa 1873)

# DANIEL

## AND HIS THREE ISRAELITE FRIENDS, SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABEDNEGO

### 1. Chose Convictions over Comfort.

**Integrity** • No skeletons in the closet; nothing to hide.

**Above Reproach** • Everyone else around was simply mediocre/sinful

**Didn't compromise** • Even when certain behaviors were the accepted norm.

*In the dining room, standing in front of the king, faced with a fiery furnace in the prayer closet or in the Lion's den, their character was evident.* Cf., Daniel 1:4; 1:8 and 3:17-18

### 2. Chose Discipline over Disobedience.

**Most moral failure can be traced back to a lack of discipline.**

*In the prayer closet—Daniel's own Lion's den—Daniel prayed "as he had been doing."* Cf., Daniel 6:10

**Areas of our own lives that need more discipline: Prayer life, devotional life, tongue, attitude, church life, witnessing life and many others.**

### 3. Chose the 'Love of God' over the 'Love of Self.'

**They knew about the laws of man but chose the laws of God anyway.**

*S. M. and A. knew what would happen if they didn't worship the statue and false gods but didn't anyway; Daniel knew about the new law but prayed to the Holy God anyway.*

**It was NEVER about them—They chose their God over ambitions, peer pressure and ever over life itself.**

I tell them to look to the stars—the same stars that Abraham slept under in his journey of faith...I tell them the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den...I say, on these same sands, **Daniel lived among lions**; this same Daniel was found faithful to His God—a god who still gives life, strength, and hope; a god who still rescues. I say, that God is still joined by a great cloud of witnesses, from far, far back in the annals of time and faith; people of faith whose love for their God didn't waver and whose lives still bare witness in the sands of the Middle East to the pure faith which upholds, strengthens and saves... You will not be the first to call out to God on these sands, but do be the next....pray to **The Lion of the Tribe of Judah!**

– A US Army Chaplain in Iraq