

Daniel – a Man of INTEGRITY and an Excellent Spirit.

Character is what God requires from every Christian man and Woman He wants to change us into the Glorious image of his son Jesus. If we are willing to co-operate with the Holy Spirit then the change can take place from the inside.

Integrity is a part of that Character.

Character is more than beliefs and opinions, it is about core values that shape a persons life.

Character flows from the Soul of the Person

Integrity refers to the consistency of Character that matches words and actions, vision and choice values and behaviors.

Integrity is about truth and Honesty. It means saying what you mean and Meaning what you say. Let your Yes be yes and your No BE NO (JAMES) 5v12

Where there is consistency there is integrity.

Of all of the Books in the Old Testament, perhaps one to me is the most striking in terms of a man who had integrity .For over 70 years we are able to witness this man’s Character. This man was Daniel

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the whole book of Daniel is that he starts from an early age.

Daniel is one of the first batches of Hebrews deported in 605 BC, He is from the tribe of Judah and the Babylonians conquered Judah. Under Nebuchadnezzar .The, Assyrians were defeated and their empire has been swallowed up by the Babylonians.

The prophet Jeremiah had prophesied that this would happen but, they would not listen to him .It has been estimated that some where between 8-15000 people were deported by the Babylonians.

Daniel 1v4 Physical Health and strength Intelligence were the criteria. 3 years of instruction in Babylonian culture and Language Imagine, a youth a 15 year old being given a course in brainwashing. This is what truly amazes me. You have a young man who has seen his homeland destroyed and he is standing in the very heart of the conquering empire. He is going to be put

into service of the enemy He is to be taught their pagan culture their idolatrous worship and is expected to perform.

Babylon at the height of its empire had marvelous buildings. The hanging Gardens of Babylon were one of the seven wonders of the ancient worlds. The walls surrounding the city were 26 metres thick and it was surrounded by a wide moat. The city was built on the banks of the Euphrates River and it was considered impregnable from attack. The lifestyle was morally loose Daniel on the other hand had been raised a Jew and had a deep love for God. He had remarkable wisdom for a person so young.

DANIEL 1v5-21

V8.

He purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.

Daniel separated himself and it was two fold

Firstly to God and secondly he separated himself from things that would defile him –Food not being Kosher. Meats like pork and other game foods sacrificed to idols

HOW CAN WE APPLY THIS TO TODAY .We too should separate (COSECRATE) ourselves from the things that would defile us does anyone have any ideas?

One Bad company drugs and alcohol pornography fornication gossip and slander. Just to name a few.

Daniel purposed in his heart and this means that he first counted the cost. Everything has a cost Eating the Kings meat will cost you. This speaks of compromise. When you compromise the word of God once you will do it again until it becomes easy. The First Victim of Compromise is ALWAYS the TRUTH this is why the church is in such a mess. This is why you have Homosexual priests this is why you have Men in authority which have screwed up doctrine; this is why you will have a One world Church under ROME. You eat the king's meat and God will not use you for his Glory. The meat will eventually kill you

Daniel counted the cost and took a step of faith. God honored this man and he gave him favour. V 9 states this Test and see. In addition, God moved.

A major theme that runs through this book is the Sovereignty of God.

Daniel and his friends were tested and God gave them great skill and wisdom in ALL learning V17-21

NOTE: they were found to be 10 times better than all of the astrologers and Magicians. Interestingly God also proved this to the Egyptians and showed up their false gods.

Daniel and his friends could have taken the easy way out but they Loved God. AS we find later on Daniel never compromised and he was consistent in his walk with God.

This man had integrity.

In Chapter 2 Nebuchadnezzar has a strange dream and asks for an interpretation from his wise men He doesn't tell them the dream .He is basically saying "well you are the wise men Tell me what I have dreamed. This dream was obviously from God and in a way God will show up these false men by their own hand. The pressure is on and they are facing a death sentence. None Knew. I think Nebuchadnezzar had sussed them out they were frauds and guess what nothing new is under the sun, we have them today. Tarot, Star signs, and all other rubbish that is promoted by New Agers

Chapter2v2

We have four Groups

Astrologers, Magicians, Sorcerers, and Chaldeans

Magicians are translated in the Hebrew hartummim and refer to those who are involved in various kinds of divination. This word originally was an Egyptian word and it meant those who were skilled in dream interpretation.

Astrologers translates the Hebrew Ashaphim known in Babylon as those skilled in performing incantations especially for healing

Sorcerers render Mekashephim, a more common word used for those in the practice of sorcery or witchcraft

Chaldeans translates Kasdim, and they were the most distinguished priestly caste of wise men in Babylon who probably served as custodians of the mysteries of the ancient Babylonian religion In verse 27 a 5th group the soothsayers is included, The 5 classes constitutes a college of wisdom and they exercised considerable influence over affairs of state.

Can you see a contrast between Daniels religion and the superstition of the Babylonian religion?

It is worth noting

Daniel learned their ways and methods without accepting gullibly their doctrine.

We have people today that gullibly accept what is dished out by pastors.

Do not do that be a good berean. Check it out.

Chap two v17-18

A man of integrity will seek the Face of God.

He does not rely on his own self but places his trust in God and his mercies.

God Gave Daniel a vision

In Joel 2, v28 in the last days God will give Visions and dreams. Who gives them God alone .Can Satan influence your dreams No Don't give Satan credit for something he cannot do.

Chapter2 20-30 Daniel gives God all the Glory.

A man of Integrity acknowledges God in all things

God's Sovereignty is shown to all. Nebuchadnezzar is shown his dream and interpretation by Daniel.

Verse 46- 49

God honors Daniel and sets him in a place of Authority.

Luke 16 v10 2 Cor 8 v21

Daniel's companions too are tested The Fiery furnace. They too are men of Integrity.

Chapter 3 v17-18

Note v27 especially.

Chapter 4 the King Nebuchadnezzar erects a statue .The king is proud and self-centered. God in his sovereignty warns the King in a dream he is about to come to disaster.

Verse27 Daniel warns the King to repent

However, he does not .His pride Gets in the way. He is bound up by his own sin and does not want to change his ways. He is fully aware of Daniels track record and in a way is testing God

. How foolish; if a brother comes to you and tells you of your sin you should listen. He is doing this out of Love Let this be a lesson to those who have ears.

God responds by taking the kingdom from Nebuchadnezzar for a period of time (7 years) until he acknowledges God is Sovereign.

God is able to set up and remove Kings. The very life and breath you take is dependent upon God. For in him we move and have our Being. (ACTS 17)

Bible scholars believe that Nebuchadnezzar died shortly after in 562 BC.

Chapter 5

We have a new King Belshazzar and we have Babylon besieged by the Medes and Persians .

The King gave a great feast and he uses the vessels taken from the Temple in Jerusalem by his grand father Nebuchadnezzar .these cups are consecrated unto God(HOLY)and he praises the gods of gold and silver The writing on the wall I like v 6 of Chapter 5 and he called for the wise men to tell him what it meant but they could not

The queen tells them that there is one such man who has an excellent spirit in Him the Spirit of the God of gods.

A man of integrity will be noticed by unsaved as having an excellent in Him

.The Jews recognized that Jesus was a man of integrity as he taught the ways of God. They also new he had the Spirit of the Lord in Him as for the signs and miracles performed by him yet they would not acknowledge him because of jealousy.

When you have an excellent Spirit within you , (The Holy Spirit) you will be persecuted. They persecuted Jesus and they will persecute you as well.

Belshazzar was weighed and found wanting

The Kingdom was removed and Darius the Mede became King .Belshazzar put his faith in this army and in his defenses, He lifted his hand against God V 19-24-

Darius captured the city of Babylon ,as I said a siege was laid but the city was strongly fortified what he did was redivert the Euphrates river that flowed through the city and went in under the walls by the riverbed.

Darius recognized that Daniel was an asset (Chapter 6 v3) He had an excellent spirit that showed in his lifestyle.

A man of integrity will be known by the lifestyle he leads.

If you live like a hypocrite, you will be exposed. Daniels life as a model of excellence. He was scrutinized by people to see if they could catch him out Why????

Jealousy that's why .Envy of course and Power These normally are the motives of the heart of men who want to destroy another man .In verse 5-9 we see a plot developing.

Darius is in a way tricked into signing a decree and when the plot against Daniel becomes known he wished he had not.

What did Daniel do He seeked God face .Prayer and supplication are the Keys .Relationship with God

A Man of INTEGRITY will have a close relationship with God.

Jesus said I only do the work that the father shows me to do.

I and my father are one. Chapter 6 is perhaps the most important Chapter as it shows Daniel to be very Christ like. There are shadows and type in this Chapter, which really stand out

Daniel is unjustly accused

Jesus was unjustly accused

Darius did not want to condemn him

Pilate did not want to condemn him

Darius signed the decree

Pilate signed the death warrant

Daniel was placed in a tomb

Jesus was placed in a Tomb

The tomb was sealed by the King

Jesus Tomb was sealed by Rome

Daniel was freed at dawn

Jesus Arose at Dawn

The stone was rolled away

An Angel rolled the stone away

When Daniel went into the lion's den he was advanced in years He trusted God Courage and steadfastness in faith motivated him to continue to walk in God

A man of INTEGRITY will walk in Faith.

My prayer tonight is that God will raise up men of Integrity in His church and in this nation.

May Daniel be an example to us all May we all strive to have an excellence of Spirit.

Exodus 18v21

Philippians 4v8

1 Tim 3v9

1 Peter2v12

**Remember a man of Integrity is a powerful instrument
in the hands of God**