

**HWMR: NOAH, DANIEL, AND JOB—PATTERNS OF LIVING AN
OVERCOMING LIFE ON THE LINE OF LIFE TO FULFILL THE
ECONOMY OF GOD (Week 3)**

The Victory of the Overcomers Seen with Daniel and His Companions

Scripture Reading: *Dan. 1—6*

[Daniel 1](#)

[Daniel 2](#)

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Day 1

Dan. 1:3-4 - Then the king told...the chief of his eunuchs to bring some of the sons of Israel,...children in whom was no defect, who were good in appearance, who showed insight in all wisdom, understanding in knowledge, and apprehension in thought, and in whom was the ability to stand in the king's palace...

Dan. 1:7 - And the leader of the eunuchs gave them names...

- I. The principle of the Lord's recovery is seen with "Daniel and his companions" (Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah), as **overcomers who were absolutely one with God** in their victory over Satan's devices—Dan. 2:13, 17; cf. Rev. 17:14; Matt. 22:14:
 - A. In his devilish tempting of Daniel and his companions, Nebuchadnezzar **changed their names**, which indicated that they belonged to God, to names that made them one with idols—Dan. 1:6-7.
 - B. The name **Daniel**, meaning "God is my Judge," was changed to **Belteshazzar**, meaning "the prince of Bel," or "the favorite of Bel"—Isa. 46:1.
 - C. The name **Hananiah**, meaning "Jah has graciously given," or "favored of Jah," was changed to **Shadrach**, meaning "enlightened by the sun god."
 - D. The name **Mishael**, meaning "Who is what God is?" was changed to **Meshach**, meaning "Who can be like the goddess Shach?"
 - E. The name **Azariah**, meaning "Jah has helped," was changed to **Abednego**, meaning "the faithful servant of the fire god Nego."
- II. Daniel and his companions were **victorious over the demonic diet**—Dan. 1:
 - A. Nebuchadnezzar's devilish temptation was first to seduce the four brilliant young descendants of God's defeated elect, Daniel and his three companions, to be defiled by partaking of his **unclean food**, food offered to idols.

Day 2

- Dan. 1:8* - But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king's choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.
- Dan 1:16* - Therefore the steward withheld their portion of the choice provision and the wine that they were to drink and gave them vegetables.

- B. For Daniel and his companions to **eat that food** would have been to **take in the defilement**, to **take in the idols**, and thus to become one with Satan—cf. 1 Cor. 10:19-21.
- C. When Daniel and his companions **refused to eat Nebuchadnezzar's unclean food** and chose instead to eat vegetables (Dan. 1:8-16), in principle they **rejected the tree of the knowledge of good and evil** (cf. Gen. 3:1-6) and took the tree of life, which caused them to be one with God (cf. 2:9, 16-17).
- D. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the **eating of Jesus** for the building up of the church—vv. 9, 16-17; Rev. 2:7, 17; 3:20.
- E. We can eat Jesus by **eating His words** and by **being careful to contact and be with those who call** on Him out of a pure heart—Jer. 15:16; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20.

Daniel was not only a person who read God's Word regularly, but a **person who was joined to God's Word**. This is the second characteristic. He did not read God's Word for the purpose of finding out some knowledge or merely for finding out God's will. Rather, **he read to receive and to keep God's commandments**. We should believe that **he refused the food and drink of the king of Babylon** because he had read the five books of Moses. He must have read about the clean and unclean food from Leviticus and Deuteronomy. At the same time, he must have found out that God's people cannot partake of any food that has touched the idols. Since **he read** these commandments and therefore **knew God's desire**, **he accepted them and applied them to himself**. Hence, he was not a person separate from the Scripture. He was not merely studying the Bible.

Brothers and sisters, this was Daniel's characteristic in those days. He was not like many Bible readers who treat Bible reading as an objective matter. This kind of Bible reading cannot touch God's desire. Because you read the Bible apart from the Bible, the Bible can never get into you. Bible reading is useless to such persons. **To read the Bible, one must join himself and his living to God's Word**. Any time you find out God's desire from His Word, you must immediately join yourselves to this desire with fear and trembling. This is the second characteristic we find in Daniel. Every person whom God uses to turn the age must possess this characteristic. Only those who join themselves to God's Word can be of real use to God! (*Men Who Turn the Age*, Chapter 2)

III. Daniel and his companions were **victorious over the devilish blinding** that prevents people from seeing the great human image and the crushing stone as the divine history within human history—Dan. 2:

- A. The **corporate Christ** as the stone and the mountain, the **Bridegroom with His bride**, the **corporate man of God** with the breath of God, will crush and slay Antichrist and his armies by the breath, the sword, of His mouth—vv. 34-35, 44-45; 2 Thes. 2:8; Rev. 19:11-21; Gen. 11:4-9; cf. Isa. 33:22.

- B. Christ, as the living and precious stone, foundation stone, cornerstone, and topstone of God's building, **infuses us with Himself as the preciousness** to transform us into living and precious stones for His building—1 Pet. 2:4-8; Isa. 28:16; Zech. 3:9; 4:7, 9-10.

Day 3

Dan. 3:17-18 - If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the blazing furnace of fire, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods nor worship the golden image that you have set up.

Dan. 3:23 - And these three men...fell into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire bound up.

IV. Daniel and his companions were **victorious over the seduction of idol worship**—Dan. 3; cf. Matt. 4:9-10:

- A. Whatever is **not** the true God in our regenerated spirit is an idol replacing God; whatever is **not** in the spirit or of the spirit is an idol—1 John 5:21.
- B. The **enemy of the Body is the self** that replaces God with its **self-interest, self-exaltation, self-glory, self-beauty, and self-strength**; in and for the Body we deny the self and do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord—Matt. 16:24; 2 Cor. 4:5.
- C. Daniel's companions had a **true spirit of martyrdom**; they **stood for the Lord** as the unique God and against idol worship at the cost of their lives, being thrown at the command of Nebuchadnezzar into a blazing furnace—Dan. 3:19-23.
- D. When Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw **four men walking in the midst of the fire** (vv. 24-25); the fourth one was the **excellent Christ** as the Son of Man, who had come to be with His three suffering, persecuted overcomers and to make the fire a pleasant place in which to walk about.
- E. The three overcomers did not need to ask God to deliver them from the furnace (cf. v. 17); Christ as the Son of Man—the One who is qualified and capable of sympathizing with God's people in everything (Heb. 4:15-16)—**came to be their Companion** and take care of them in their suffering, **by His presence making their place of suffering a pleasant situation**.

Do not go along with the present situation. At the time of Daniel, some young people might have said, "What is wrong for us to eat the king's meat? Everything created by God is clean. We do not care whether or not this food has been offered to idols. We will just take advantage of it." This is a word of failure and defeat. They should rather have said, "I will never go along with this current. I will keep away from it. I protest against the present situation. Let others eat, but I will not." If the young people today would make a purpose such as this deep in their heart, God will use them.

The young people need to **flee youthful lusts, and they should also pursue, that is, seek after, righteousness, faith, love, and peace**. Righteousness, faith, love, and peace are all Christ. To pursue these things is to pursue Christ in different aspects. Flee youthful lusts, and pursue Christ as your righteousness in your relationship with others, as your faith in your relationship with God, as your love in your relationship with one another, and as your very peace. Such fleeing and pursuing is a living for God's testimony. It is a daily gospel life. A daily walk which expresses righteousness, faith, love, and peace is the best gospel preaching. It is the life that opens the way for the gospel to reach people. (*Fellowship with the Young People*, Chapter 1)

Young people today are also in a **situation of captivity**. God's testimony has been spoiled, and the riches, the vessels, of God's testimony have been taken captive. Everything in this age is defiling, including religion and society with its pleasures. **Today all religions are in a form of idolatry**. Religion takes God's name, but **worships something other than God**. This is idolatry. **God needs some young people to keep themselves from being defiled by the idolatrous worship**. Once some young people see the situation of today's religion, they will purpose in their heart. They will say, "Lord, from today I would never become polluted with this religion. I would stay away from this defilement." To flee youthful lusts is to keep from being defiled.

The young people must make such a purpose in their heart. To simply receive salvation is good, but by itself it cannot satisfy completely. After being saved, many still have a hunger within and are still **seeking something further and higher**. What they are seeking is God's purpose. They should realize that the background of their situation is one of captivity and should desire to come out of captivity and not remain in its defilement. The young people must pray, "Lord, help me to make a purpose in my heart not to defile myself." If the young people would make such a purpose deep in their heart, God will use them. Each one will be much used by the Lord....

Day 4

Dan. 3:34-35 - ...His dominion is an eternal dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation; ...He does according to His will...; and there is no one who can resist His hand...

Dan. 3:37 - Now I...praise and exalt and honor the King of the heavens, because all His works are truth and His ways justice, and because He is able to abase those who walk in pride.

V. Daniel and his companions were **victorious over the covering that hinders people from seeing the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens**—Dan. 4:

- A. As those who have been **chosen** by God to be His people for Christ's preeminence, **we are under God's heavenly rule** for the purpose of making Christ preeminent—vv. 18, 23-26, 30-32; Rom. 8:28-29; Col. 1:18b; 2 Cor. 10:13, 18; Jer. 9:23-24.
- B. "He is able to abase those who walk in pride"—Dan. 4:37b.

Day 5

Dan. 5:22-23 - And you his descendant, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this; but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens; ...you have praised the gods of silver and of gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone...But the God in whose hand is your breath and to whom all your ways belong, you have not honored.

VI. Daniel and his companions were **victorious over the ignorance concerning the result of the debauchery before God and the insult to His holiness**—ch. 5:

- A. Belshazzar's taking the vessels that were for God's worship in His holy temple at Jerusalem and using them in worshipping idols was an **insult** to God's holiness (v. 4); he should have learned the lesson from Nebuchadnezzar's experience (4:18-37); however, he did not learn the lesson and **suffered** as a result (5:18, 20, 24-31).
- B. "An **excellent spirit and knowledge and insight**, and the interpretation of dreams, the declaring of riddles, and the resolving of problems [lit., knots] were found in this Daniel"—v. 12a.
- C. "You..., Belshazzar, have **not humbled your heart**, though you knew all this; but you have **exalted yourself against** the Lord of the heavens; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have **praised the gods** of silver and of gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see nor hear nor know. But the God in whose hand is your breath and to whom all your ways belong, you have **not honored**"—vv. 22-23, cf. v. 20.

Daniel had a third characteristic. **He was a man who was always praying**. His prayers were not at all common. His prayers were **prayers that turned the age**. Every time he encountered some crucial matter, he prayed before God. He believed absolutely in prayer. He believed in prayer because he believed in God and not in himself.

Chapter two shows us a picture, one in which **everyone on earth was ignorant of the things of God**. Not only were the Babylonian magicians ignorant, **even the Israelites were ignorant**. Why were they ignorant? It was because **they were under Satan's ruling and were following Satan**. Here we see God coming in to vindicate. He vindicated by showing that Daniel and his three friends were different from all the other people. No one on earth knew the profound things of God **but Daniel**. In chapter one it was Daniel and his three friends who **separated themselves**. In chapter two it was God who vindicated them. The separation in chapter one was done by they themselves standing up. The separation in chapter two was done by God for them. (*Men Who Turn the Age*, Chapter 2)

Day 6

Dan. 6:10-11 - ...When Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously...These men assembled and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.

VII. Daniel and his companions were **victorious over the subtlety that prohibited the faithfulness of the overcomers in the worship of God—ch. 6:**

- A. The center of Daniel 6 is **man's prayer for the carrying out of God's economy**; Daniel depended on prayer to do what man could not do and to understand what man could not understand; there is no other way to bring God's economy into fullness and into fulfillment except by prayer; this is the inner secret of this chapter.
- B. **Daniel prayed three times daily with his windows open toward Jerusalem**; through his gracious prayer God brought Israel back to their fathers' land (v. 10; cf. 1 Kings 19:12, 18); God will listen to our prayer **when our prayer is toward Christ** (typified by the Holy Land), toward the kingdom of God (typified by the holy city), and toward the house of God (typified by the holy temple) as the goal in God's eternal economy—8:48-49.

Before the king of Babylon called for Daniel, he declared that if none of the magicians or learned ones in Babylon under him could explain the dream, he would destroy them all. Among those who were to be killed were Daniel and his three friends. I fully believe that Daniel would have told his three friends to **pray with him**. There they afforded God the **highest cooperation**; they gave God the **highest coordination**. In their single-hearted prayer, God revealed to Daniel the dream. It was the dream of the king of Babylon, but now Daniel saw it also. Not only did Daniel see that dream in his prayer, he understood its meaning as well. This shows that Daniel was a person living before God; **he depended on prayer to do what man could not do, and he depended on prayer to understand what man could not understand**. He was a person who **cooperated with God in prayer**.

Sometimes I am reminded of the way books are printed. If you visit a printing factory, you will find plates filled with properly-set type on the printing press. Underneath the plates is the paper. When the press starts, sheets of paper are impressed with the letters from the plates. If the paper is not positioned in the proper place, nothing will be printed. If the paper is placed a little out of position, the image will not appear properly. If you want the plates to stamp the paper correctly, you have to position the paper correctly. In the same way, God's desire can be likened to a plate. King Nebuchadnezzar's dream was a plate typeset with God's desire. The plate was there, but it needed Daniel to be a piece of properly-positioned paper. If the paper was positioned correctly, the dream as a plate concerning God's desire would spontaneously be printed on it. **This position upon which God could print His desire onto Daniel was prayer**. Had Daniel and his three friends not prayed at that time but rather been busy with other things, it would have been like the paper positioned wrongly. If the paper was positioned improperly, it would be impossible to print the letters from the plate. However, when Daniel came back from the king of Babylon, I believe that the first thing he did was to pray with his three friends. **In this prayer, God printed His desire into Daniel**.
(*Men Who Turn the Age*, Chapter 2)