



# STANDING TALL

Studies in Daniel

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*Growing in Spirit & Truth*

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## No Fear

### Introduction to 2 Corinthians 5:1-6:2



**If we will trust in the faithfulness of God we will stand tall in the face of adversity .**

#### The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Nearly everyone has seen the “No Fear” t-shirts popular in the nineties with sayings that reject the fear of death, laziness, or social norms. As the study begins in Daniel this week, the same could be said for Daniel and his friends who were taken captive to Babylon. They stood tall for their convictions without fear of the powers in Babylon—not because they were so tough, but because they worshiped a God who was strong and faithful to His people. Their refusal to compromise their convictions and their faithfulness to God is clearly seen in Daniel 1-2. Daniel and his three friends were superior in every way so they were chosen for the king’s service, to be educated in all the Babylonian

ways. However, when it came to what they ate and drank they would not participate since it was against their religious convictions. They asked permission to eat only vegetables, allowing their supervisor to save face, and God blessed them for it. Additionally they were wiser than any of the advisors in Babylon, thus glorifying their God. This excellence is seen in the next story when the king had a dream and demanded that his advisors reveal and explain the dream. This was humanly impossible so there was a state of panic over their impending doom. However, Daniel calmly requested a second chance and gathered his friends to pray for revelation. God revealed the dream and its

meaning and they were all spared. It laid out the plan for world domination for the kingdoms of first Babylon, and then Persia, Greece and Rome, the last three of which were clearly future. The final rule, however, would belong to God forever. After hearing his dream revealed and explained Nebuchadnezzar honored Daniel’s God, and then Daniel, who, in turn, passed honor on to his friends. As both stories show, when you trust in God, there is no fear.

## Daily Study Questions for Daniel 1-2

*(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to [www.celebrationnet.com](http://www.celebrationnet.com), small groups, abf)*

1. Read Dan 1:1-7. What “treasures” were taken to Babylon (v1-2, 3)? Describe the youth (v4, 6-7) and how they were trained (v4-5).	
2. Look at 1:8-16. What was Daniel’s decision (v8) and his approach (v11-13)? What was the initial reaction (v10) and final outcome (v14-15)? Why (v9)?	
3. From 1:17-21 how else did God bless them (v17, 18-20, 21)? How is this story a good example for us of how to act in an unchristian world?	

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## Daniel 1-2 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Daniel 2:1-3 what was Nebuchadnezzar's problem (v1, 3)? What difficult thing did he demand (v2)?	
5. In 2:4-13 how did the Babylonian wise men respond (v4, 7, 10) and how did the king react each time (v5-6, 8-9, 12-13)?	
6. Looking at 2:14-18 how did Daniel respond when he heard of the king's decree (v14-15, 16) and what was his approach to a solution (v17-18)? Why was this good?	
7. According to 2:19-24 how did Daniel bless God for his answer (v20, 21, 22, 23)? How was he a blessing to everyone else (v24)?	
8. From 2:25-30 how did Daniel direct glory to God (v25-28)? How would you describe his attitude in the presence of the king (v29-30)? Why do you think he was this way?	
9. Using 2:31-35 describe the various elements of the statue that the king saw in his dream (v31, 32, 33, 34-35).	
10. Looking at 2:36-43 what would the first 3 kingdoms that the statue represented be like (v36-38, 39)? What about the fourth (v40-43)?	
11. Based on 2:44-45 what would the final kingdom of stone be like (v44) and what would it do to the others (v44)? When would this happen (v45)?	
12. In 2:46-49 how did Nebuchadnezzar respond to Daniel (v46, 48) and his God (v47)? How did Daniel pass the blessing on (v49)?	

### Scripture to Remember

*"Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him."*

**Daniel 2:20 (NASV)**

### Celebration Fellowship

*Help—Hope—Healing*

**We're on the web**

**[www.thehospitalchurch.com](http://www.thehospitalchurch.com)**

### Life Group Questions—Anchors in the Storm (Matt 14:22-36)

*(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)*

1. Share with the group some of the things you expect to happen to you in the year ahead. Talk about how we react when these expectations don't get realized.
2. Read Matt 14:22-24. Why are storms inevitable? What does it mean that Jesus' purpose for these storms is either "correcting" or "perfecting"? Is that comforting?
3. What do we usually want Jesus to pray for in our storm? What does He actually pray in the perfecting storm? The correcting storm?
4. Look at v25-27. Are you ever frightened by the presence of Jesus? Why? How can that be a good thing that gives us comfort?
5. In v28-32 why did Jesus want Peter to walk on water? Why did he fall, and do you think that was part of the lesson? What happened next?
6. What promise did Jesus give them in the command of v22 to "go to the other side"? Can you think of similar promises He has made to you?
7. Share anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.