



STANDING TALL

Studies in Daniel

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

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Men of Honor

Introduction to Daniel 3-4

The 2000 movie, “Men of Honor”, is the real life story of Carl Brashear, who overcame racism, crippling injuries, and bureaucracy to become the Navy’s first African-American Master Diver. He exhibited incredible courage and honor as he refused to give up or waffle in his quest. In the end his nemesis and senior officer, Billy Sunday, also exhibited honor as he stood up for Brashear’s right to be tested. In this week’s study Daniel’s three friends are men of honor, along with Daniel. Ultimately, the king of Babylon shows honor after being humbled by God. The story begins in Daniel 3 as the king has a ninety foot tall golden statue built in his honor and demands that everyone worship it. Possibly he got the idea from Daniel’s interpretation of Babylon as the “head of

gold” in Daniel 2. Everyone complied with the king’s demand except Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They were men of honor that refused to cave in to others. The other wise men were afraid of the king, but when these three were confronted by him they first said they didn’t even need to answer. Then, they said that God would deliver them, but whether He did or not, they weren’t caving in. In the end they were delivered and the king praised God. Daniel was the next man of honor who revealed the truth to the king—even though it was “bad” news. The king would be humbled by God by being cast out into the field for seven years to live as an animal. Daniel actually honored the king by advising him to turn from his pride and to



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

serve others to avoid this destiny but he refused. The outcome was good after the king went through this ordeal because he at last praised God. The king was the final man of honor, shown by his respect for true greatness—God’s. He recognized that he had been wrong to revel in his own greatness and came to realize that Daniel’s God in heaven had bestowed it on him; so, He was the One who was truly great. These were men of honor who refused to cave, revealed the truth, and respected true greatness.

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

Daily Study Questions for Daniel 3-4

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com, small groups, abf)

<p>1. Read Dan 3:1-6. Describe the image (v1). What did the king command (v2-5) and what was the penalty for non-compliance (v6)? Why do you think the king did this?</p>	
<p>2. Looking at 3:7-12 how did the people respond (v7) and who was the exception (v12)? How did the king find out (v8-12) and what does that reveal?</p>	
<p>3. From 3:13-18 how did the king react (v13-14) and what did he believe (v15)? What were the 3 parts of Daniel’s friends’ answer (v16, 17, 18) and why was each part a good model for us?</p>	

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Daniel 3-4 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Daniel 3:19-23 how did the Jews' answer affect the king (v19) and what did he do (v19, 20-21, 23)? How hot was the fire (v22)?	
5. In 3:24-27 what amazing thing did the king see (v24-25), and who was this (v25)? What was his next move (v26) and discovery (v27)?	
6. Looking at 3:28-30 what effect did the Jews' deliverance have on Nebuchadnezzar (v28) and what did he do (v29, 30)? What does this story teach us?	
7. According to 4:1-3 (which is the outcome of the story of Daniel 4—see 4:34-35) what seemed good to the king (v2) and what praise did he give God (v3)?	
8. From 4:4-12 describe the good part of the king's dream (v10-12). Who did he get to interpret it (v8) and why (v8-9)?	
9. Using 4:13-18 describe the bad part of the king's dream (v13-16), and the point of the dream (v17).	
10. Looking at 4:19-27 what was the meaning of the dream (v20-22, 23-26) and why was it given (v26)? What did Daniel advise (v27)?	
11. Based on 4:28-33 how was the dream fulfilled (v31-33) and why did it happen when it did (v28-30)? What does this show?	
12. In 4:34-37 what happened at the end of 7 years (v34-35) and what did that lead to (v36)? What did the king learn (v37)?	

Scripture to Remember

“The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whom He wishes, and sets over it the lowliest of men.”

Daniel 4:17 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Man Up & Stand Out (Daniel 1)

(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 how many times you moved as a kid. How did it feel to you? Why?
2. Read Daniel 1:3-7. What changes did Daniel and his friends have to submit to? How do you think he would have felt? Have you ever experienced anything like this?
3. What was Daniel's "hard" decision (v8), and how do you think he came to that position? Which rationalization do you think was most tempting (the king's order, career killer, peer pressure, God has abandoned me)?
4. Look at v9-13. In what ways did Daniel show faith by his decision? In what ways was he desperate? Have you ever "desperately" trusted God?
5. How did God show that "He rewards those who diligently seek Him" to Daniel and His friends (v14-21)? How has God shown that to you?
6. Where is God directing you today to make a decision of faith?
7. Share anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.