



STANDING TALL

Studies in Daniel

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Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 6, Issue 12



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

“Whatever”

Introduction to Daniel 5-6

In the 1971 sitcom, “All in the Family” one of Archie’s favorite retorts to Edith was “Whatever”. Later in the 80s the Valley Girls used this conversation ending word. In a sense this is what God does in this week’s study. First, the Babylonian king, Belshazzar, defies God and He says, in so many words, “whatever”; next, Daniel’s associates tried to get him killed, but God again says, “whatever”. Man is no match for God and his best efforts to defy Him are met with God’s “whatever”. In Daniel 5 Belshazzar, who was trying to boost the morale of his constituents, threw a big party even while the Persians were laying siege to the city. During the party he made a proud mistake: he ordered all of the vessels taken from the temple at Jerusalem to be brought out and they ate and

drank from them. They also praised the false gods of metal, stone and wood; as they did a hand appeared, writing four words on the wall. In fear Daniel was called and he gave the king God’s interpretation—his kingdom would come to an end because he had been found deficient, and would be divided between the Medes and Persians. Belshazzar committed a proud mistake and God said “Whatever” - I’ll show you who’s really in charge. In the next incident in Daniel 6 an evil manipulation occurs. Daniel’s rise to prominence in the new kingdom created jealousy among his associates. However, they could find no way to accuse Daniel, so they manipulated the king into signing an order to throw to the lions anyone who worshiped any man



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

or god but him. Of course Daniel said, “Whatever”, and continued to worship his God. The king kept his word and threw him to the lions, but then an incredible miracle occurred—God shut the lions’ mouths and Daniel was unharmed. His accusers, along with their families, took Daniel’s place in the den and were immediately eaten. Then, the king praised Daniel’s God. As He always does in the face of malicious efforts to defy Him or harm His people, God once again said, “Whatever”.

Daily Study Questions for Daniel 5-6

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

<p>1. Read Dan 5:1-4. What event did the king convene (v1), and how did he celebrate it (v2-3, 4)? In light of verse 4 what was he really doing?</p>	
<p>2. Looking at 5:5-9 what happened next (5) and how did the king react (v6)? How did he deal with this (v7) and what were the results (v8, 9)?</p>	
<p>3. From 5:10-12 what did the queen suggest (v10, 12)? Why (v11-12)? What does the fact that they had to summon Daniel reveal about him?</p>	

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Daniel 5-6 Daily Study Questions (cont)

4. Using Daniel 5:13-16 how did the king try to entice Daniel into helping him (v13-14, 15-16)? How did this reveal his foolishness?

5. In 5:17-24 what were the three elements of Daniel's response (v17, 18-22, 23-24)? Why were each of these elements good?

6. Looking at 5:25-28 what were the four words on the wall (v25) and what did each mean (v26, 27, 28)?

7. According to 5:29-31 what happened to Daniel (v29) and to Belshazzar (v30)? Who then became king (v31)? How did all of this show God's greatness?

8. From 6:1-9 what was Daniel's new role (v1-2) and how did he handle it (v3)? What did this cause (v4, 6-9) and why was the new law written (v4-5)? Apply.

9. Using 6:10-15 how did Daniel respond to the new law (v10) and what did his enemies do (v11, 12-13, 15)? How did the king react (v14)?

10. Looking at 6:16-18 what did the king do next (v16-17) and what did he believe (v16)? How did he spend his night (v18)?

11. Based on 6:19-24 what did the king ask when he went to the lion's den (v19-20) and what was Daniel's answer (v21, 22)? How did the king respond (v23, 24)?

12. In 6:25-28 how was God glorified (v25-27) and Daniel blessed (v28) by his faithfulness? What does this teach us?

Scripture to Remember

"He is the living God and enduring forever, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion will be forever."

Daniel 6:26 (NASV)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Man Up & Step Up (Daniel 2)

(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 a vivid dream you have had. Do dreams trouble you or just fascinate you? Do you think God speaks through dreams today?
2. Read Daniel 2:13-18. What was the king's edict and how did Daniel "step up"? What was good about his approach? When have you had to do this?
3. Describe the statue that the king saw in his dream (v31-35). Why do you think this dream troubled him?
4. What did each element of the dream stand for (v36-45)? Why do you think God revealed this to the king?
5. What is the "moral of the story", i.e., how will human history end (v44-45) and what does this show to us?
6. In relation to this, each person share to what end their life is pointing. In light of God's revelation in Daniel 2 what should our lives be pointing towards?
7. Share anything else meaningful from the message if you have time.