

How can we as Christians, like Joseph and Daniel, seek the prosperity of our society — and have godly ambition — without compromise?

*Ask God to help you be a blessing to your society while retaining the distinctive “flavor” of a Christian!*

### Friday

Look back over the message notes from this week, and think back to when you first moved away from home . . . what temptations faced you?

What adjustments did you have to make?

What did you learn about your spiritual health?

What can you learn from Daniel’s attitude and actions when your biblical convictions are challenged?

*Pray to God for specific aspects of Daniel’s character that you would like to develop in your life.*

### Saturday

Read Daniel 2 to get ready for this weekend’s message. What makes a first impression on you about this story?

*Please pray for the weekend services to be made effective by God! Thanks!*



TWIN LAKES CHURCH  
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WEEK 1

## Don’t Give Up and Don’t Give In!

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“Daniel” means “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

### TIMELINE

- Around 2,000 B.C. God’s promise: A kingdom without end
  - Around 1,400 B.C. Israelites come out of Egyptian slavery
  - Around 1,000 B.C. United kingdom under David, Solomon
  - 722 B.C. Northern kingdom (“Israel”) falls to Assyrians
  - 605 B.C. Southern kingdom (“Judah”) falls to Babylon; city ruined, temple ransacked, people removed to Babylon
  - 539 B.C. Persians take over Babylon
- Daniel is a teenager in 605 B.C., an old man in 539 B.C.

### Question of the Book of Daniel

Is it possible to live with courage and convictions when my circumstances are completely removed from the dreams I had for my life?

### DANIEL CHAPTER 1

#### Act I

King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. **The Lord gave him victory** over King Jehoiakim of Judah **and permitted him** to take some of the sacred objects from the Temple of God. *Daniel 1:1b–2 NLT*

POINT: God has \_\_\_\_\_

over

## Act II

The king ordered . . . his chief of staff to bring to the palace some of the young men of Judah's royal family and other noble families, who had been brought to Babylon as captives . . . They were to be trained for three years, and then they would enter the royal service . . . The chief of staff renamed them . . .

*Daniel 1:3,5,7 NLT*

HEBREW NAME	HEBREW MEANING	NEW NAME	NEW MEANING
Daniel	<i>My judge is El</i>	Beltshazzar	<i>May Bel protect him</i>
Hananiah	<i>Jehovah is gracious</i>	Shadrach	<i>Illumined by Shad (sun god)</i>
Mishael	<i>Who is like God?</i>	Meshach	<i>Who is like Shach? (love goddess)</i>
Azariah	<i>Jehovah helps me</i>	Abednego	<i>Servant of Nego (fire god)</i>

But Daniel was determined not to defile himself by eating the food and wine given to them by the king. *Daniel 1:8 NLT*

**POINT: In any place, I can** \_\_\_\_\_

## Act III

God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for understanding every aspect of literature and wisdom . . . Daniel remained in the royal service until the first year of the reign of King Cyrus. *Daniel 1:17,21 NLT*

**POINT: God can bless me** \_\_\_\_\_

*“God has yet to bless anyone except where they actually are. If we faithfully discard situation after situation, moment after moment, as not being right, we will simply have no place to receive His kingdom into our life.” —Dallas Willard*

**MESSAGE OF THE BOOK OF DANIEL:** \_\_\_\_\_

I saw one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven . . . he was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. . . **and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.**

*Daniel 7:13–14b NV*

## Acknowledgements

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## Monday

Read Daniel 1:1–2. What do these verses reveal about the author's perspective on how and why events in the world take place?

Read Romans 8:28–31. What do these verses teach about God's purpose over events?

How does this parallel the verses from Daniel?

Read Daniel 12:13, the last verse of the book. In what way is this verse an encouragement to you?

How does this fit into the world view of the author in 1:1–2?

*Thank God that He is in control! Pray about some areas in your life or in the world where it seems He must not be in control. Ask Him for godly perspective.*

## Tuesday

Read Daniel 1:3–8. Why do you think Daniel and his friends accepted the Babylonian names, education, and responsibilities, but not the food?

What does this imply about when cultural accommodation is good and when it is bad?

In what ways are you pressured to conform to your culture in unhealthy ways?

When, like Daniel, is it wise for you to adapt to culture, and when is it essential to draw the line?

*Ask God to help you learn where you must never compromise!*

## Wednesday

Read Daniel 1:9–17. What arrangement does Daniel make with his supervisor?

The Babylonians probably did not think their “choice food and wine” presented a problem for the Jews. In what ways might people ask you to compromise your beliefs without realizing it?

What is it about Daniel's words and attitude that, you suspect, caused the official to respect Daniel rather than be angered by Daniel?

*Ask God to help you be gentle and kind when you define your standards to unbelieving people, like Daniel was!*

## Thursday

Read Daniel 1:17–21. What is the result of Daniel's experiment?

How does this remind you of the story of Joseph in Egypt, in Genesis 39:20–23, and 41:37–46?

How do both Joseph and Daniel's attitudes toward their captors reflect God's instruction to the Jews who were about to go into captivity in Jeremiah 29:4–7?



His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. *Daniel 7:14b NV*