

Series: The Stand

Message: Resisting The World's Offer

Scripture: Daniel 1:3-21

Teacher: Randy Pope

Date: 19 July 2015

Last Week

1. There Are Two Cities In This World.
2. The Citizens Of Babylon Have Reason To Believe That They Are The Winners.

Daniel 1:1-2

¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.

² The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

3. The Lord Jehovah Is Sovereign Over Both Cities.

This Week

1. The City Of Babylon Offers Its Best To Those Who Have The Most. vs. 3-5

Daniel 1:3-5

³ *Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles,*

⁴ *youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king's court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.*

⁵ *The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.*

Proverbs 30:7-9

⁷ *Two things I asked of You, Do not refuse me before I die:*

⁸ *Keep deception and lies far from me, Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion,*

⁹ *That I not be full and deny You and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or that I not be in want and steal, And profane the name of my God.*

2. The City Of Babylon Will Seek To Eliminate The Distinctives Of The Citizens Of Zion. vs. 6-7

Daniel 1:6-7

⁶ *Now among them from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.*

⁷ *Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.*

3. The Citizens Of Zion Must Be Resolved Not To Compromise The Convictions Of Their Kingdom. vs. 8-21

Daniel 1:8a

^{8a} *But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself ...*

- 3.1 It Is In The Small Matters That Great Victories Are Won Or Lost.

Daniel 1:8b

^{8b} *...with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; ...*

Luke 16:10

¹⁰ *"He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much.*

3.2 There Are Risks To Be Taken And Benefits To Be Gained When Committed To Standing Up For One's Convictions.

Daniel 1:10

¹⁰ *and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king."*

Daniel 1:9

⁹ *Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,*

3.3 There Are Often Other Creative Alternatives, Enabling One To Obey God Without Offending Babylon.

Daniel 1:8c

⁸ *But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.*

Daniel 1:11-13

¹¹ *But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,*

¹² *"Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.*

¹³ *"Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see."*

Daniel 1:15-20

¹⁵ *At the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food.*

¹⁶ *So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables.*

¹⁷ *As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.*

¹⁸ *Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.*

¹⁹ *The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service.*

²⁰ *As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.*

3.4 God Wants To Put His Faithful People Into Every Legitimate Facet Of Life Within The Kingdom Of Babylon.

Daniel 1:19

¹⁹ *The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service.*