

The Book of Daniel, which we will start discussing today, introduces us to a person who lived through a time of great spiritual crisis 2,500 years ago. During this period, there were no places to worship God, and the people of God had nowhere to gather. Daniel's story is about a man who kept his faith in a place where God was seemingly absent, and the word of God was scarce. From Daniel, we learn how to live faithfully in today's world, a time when society drifts further from God, and worldly values often seem more appealing than godly ones. How can we live faithfully in such a world?

### **First, We Must Focus on God's Sovereignty and Providence.**

Daniel 1:1 records that in 605 BC, Babylon's King Nebuchadnezzar attacked and besieged Jerusalem, a historical account. However, verse 2 describes the same event from a different perspective: "The Lord delivered Jehoiakim, king of Judah, into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God." While the first verse presents a historical fact, the second verse emphasizes God's hand behind the events. The way we view our circumstances—whether merely as objective events or as part of God's divine plan—can change our choices and our perspective on life. Daniel saw beyond the historical facts to the work of God, who was orchestrating everything to fulfill His purposes. We call this divine governance providence. To live by faith, we must believe that God is still sovereign and active, even when facing challenges. Believing in His control and plan enables us to live without despair.

### **Second, We Must Learn and Teach God's Word.**

In verse 4, it is mentioned that the Babylonians taught Daniel and his friends the literature and language of the Chaldeans. Additionally, verse 5 states that they were given the king's food and wine, referring to the assimilation into Babylonian culture. They were taught the Babylonian language, sciences, and customs to integrate them into the empire. But how did Daniel maintain his faith? In Daniel 9:2, he is described as studying the Scriptures, especially the words of Jeremiah, discovering God's plans and promises. Even in Babylon, Daniel strived to learn and uphold God's word. Similarly, today, Satan tries to replace God's truths with worldly values and ideas. Therefore, we must dedicate ourselves to learning God's word, making an effort to know and uphold it. Our church must focus on hearing the Gospel, studying the word, and standing firm in faith.

### **Third, We Must Affirm Our Identity in God.**

Verses 6 and 7 mention Daniel and his three friends, whose Hebrew names were changed to Babylonian ones. Their original names, which reflected their relationship with God, were replaced to strip away any connection to Him. Yet, we must not forget our identity as God's children and His people. We need to affirm and proclaim our Christian identity regularly. We are God's children and must live as such, not forgetting our identity in our community of faith.

**Bible  
Memorization**

**A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

"I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8)

**Bible  
Reading**

| 11/11(Mon) | 11/12(Tue) | 11/13(Wed) | 11/14(Thur) | 11/15(Fri) | 11/16(Sat) | 11/17(Sun)        |
|------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| John 7-8   | John 9-11  | John 12-13 | John 14-16  | John 17-18 | John 19-20 | John 21, Acts 1-2 |

**QT**

**Quiet Time Passage**

| 11/11(Mon)      | 11/12(Tue)      | 11/13(Wed)    | 11/14(Thur)    | 11/15(Fri)      | 11/16(Sat)     | 11/17(Sun)      |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Psalms 69:13-28 | Psalms 69:29-36 | Psalms 70:1-5 | Psalms 71:1-13 | Psalms 71:14-24 | Psalms 72:1-11 | Psalms 72:12-20 |

**Sharing  
Questions**

1. Share a moment from the past week where you experienced God's grace through last week's sermon or your devotional time.

2. What new insights or blessings did you receive from today's sermon?

3. Discuss situations where living as a Christian is challenging, and share prayer requests for living more faithfully.