

The Chapel Family Bible Reading Program – August 20 - 25
Doing Life Together – Thriving in Babylon – Lessons from Daniel

MONDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 1:11-13

OBSERVATION: As Christians in such a perverse age, we are often called to take a stand against injustices that go against our faith. Many of us (myself included) often start off militant rather than giving the Holy Spirit to move on our behalf. There are times when we must stand firm, but that should not be the first option. Daniel accomplished his goal without offending anyone or hurting his own objectives.

TUESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 2:17-18

OBSERVATION: Daniel prayed by himself all the time. However, when faced with death by decree of the king in Chapter 2, Daniel requested time to answer the king's challenge. The first thing he did with his time was to go to his three companions so they could pray together for help. There are times to pray alone, but when the need is great, it's important to pray with others. The verses themselves, listed below, reveal two more important lessons; so many things we can learn are right there in a couple of short verses in Chapter 2.

WEDNESDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 2:17-18

OBSERVATION: Most people, given the impossible challenge of knowing what a king dreamed and interpreting it for him in order to save their lives, would pray to know the dream and the interpretation so they would not perish. It seems straight forward, right? However, Daniel and his companions did not pray for this because this would be a presumptuous prayer. Instead, they prayed for mercies concerning this secret so they would not perish like the other wise men of the land.

THURSDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 2:19-23

OBSERVATION: Obviously, Daniel was extremely happy that he was not going to die thanks to the blessing he received from his Father and was quick to return that blessing in the best way he had available to him at that moment: praise. Then, once he was presenting to the king what the Lord had shown him, he gave us another important lesson...

FRIDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 2:21-28

OBSERVATION: Human ego is a hard thing to put down. When good things happen to us, when we're able to accomplish things that others cannot, or when we build things that are great, we often take credit. Sure, we might thank God for the blessing, the talent, the knowledge, the luck, the opportunity, or anything else, but we often do not realize or acknowledge that all things happen by the Grace of God. King Nebuchadnezzar learned this lesson the hard way in Chapter 4.

SATURDAY:

KEY VERSE: Daniel 9:19

OBSERVATION: We are viewed as individuals, of course, but we are also viewed as nations. It is important that we do pray for a turning away from sin. We are in a time when just about every country is faced with challenges with faith. In other places such as parts of Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, being a Christian can bring persecution and even death. There are challenges that the enemy has placed before all of us in one form or another. It is too much for anyone to fight alone. We must pray for our Lord to forgive us and help us fight the good fight.