

Daniel: Quotations on His Life

In *Star Trek* whenever things got bad, the characters could remove themselves from the situation by saying, “Beam me up, Scotty.” However, Daniel and his friends never said take me out of this situation. They said, “Leave me in the situation.”

Quote #1:

“Among the children of Israel who were carried captive to Babylon at the beginning of the seventy years’ captivity were Christian patriots, men who were as true as steel to principle, who would not be corrupted by selfishness, but who would honor God at the loss of all things. In the land of their captivity these men were to carry out God’s purpose by giving the heathen nation the blessings that come through the knowledge of Jehovah.”
–PK 479

Question: If you were taken captive by an enemy, would you see it as part of God’s purpose for your life?

Additional thought: God’s plan was for them to shine in a dark place where they would be surrounded with worldly enticements.

Quote #2:

“In prosperity and adversity they honored God, and God honored them.” –PK 479

Additional thought: Paul said it this way, “I have learned the secret of being content in every situation.” They were so focused on God and His purpose for them that they remained neutral to applause or rejection.

Quote #3:

“The king did not compel the Hebrew youth to renounce their faith in favor of idolatry, but he hoped to bring this about gradually...By bringing them daily into close association with idolatrous costumes, and under the influence of the seductive rites of heathen worship, he hoped to induce them to renounce the religion of their nation.” –PK 481

Additional thought: Evidence of God’s leading is the fact that they were not forced to give up the way they practiced religion. The Holy Spirit impressed the king to try to win them over by beholding.

Quote #4:

It was provided that they should eat of the food and drink of the wine that came from the king’s table. In this the king thought to give them an expression of his favor. But ...the food from the king’s table was consecrated to idolatry... Even a mere pretense of eating the food or drinking the wine would be a denial of their faith. –PK 481

Additional thought: The primary issue was not in the fact that their simple diet was better. It was the fact that to participate in the king’s diet would reflect badly on their Father. Secondly, was the fact that their simple/temperate diet was better for physical,

mental and spiritual growth. They processed everything in terms of, “how will this reflect on our Father?”.

Quote #5 & #6:

Daniel and his associates had been trained by their parents to habits of strict temperance. They had been taught that God would hold them accountable for their capabilities, and that they must never dwarf or enfeeble their powers. –PK 482

Had Daniel so desired, he might have found in his surroundings a plausible excuse for departing from the strictly temperate diet...He might have argued that to adhere to the divine teaching would offend the king...But Daniel did not hesitate. The approval of God was dearer to him than the favor of the most powerful earthly potentate – dearer than life itself. –PK 483

Additional thoughts: The only thing that mattered to Daniel was the approval of his Father. Daniel was willing to give up everything, even his life, for his Father. When we get to that point, neither man or Satan has any power over us. Paul said, “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” At that point we are sealed in our minds. Once you get to the point in your relationship with God that all you want is to please Him, Satan can no longer use fear to twist your arm.

Quotes #7 & 8:

In reaching this decision the Hebrew youth (Daniel & his three friends) did not act presumptuously, but in firm reliance upon God. Should they compromise with wrong in this instance by yielding to pressure, their departure from principle would weaken their sense of right and wrong. –PK 483

God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs, and the request (to eat their simple diet for ten days) was received with respect. –PK 483

Additional thoughts: Our Father was working out all details behind the scene including who Daniel should meet and impress, and how he would be treated.

Quote #9:

The Lord regarded with approval the firmness and self-denial of the Hebrew youth, and their purity of motive; and **His blessing attended them.** He gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. The promised was fulfilled, “Them that honor Me, I will honor.” 1Samuel 2:30. As Daniel clung to God the Prophetic power came upon him.– PK 485

Additional thoughts: It was not the diet that made them smart. It was God rewarding their faithfulness to Him that made them smart.

Quotes #10-11:

When the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in his realm. –PK 485

Their learning did not come by chance. They obtained their knowledge by the faithful use of their powers, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. – PK 486

Additional thoughts:

Same was true of David. Alone, as a Shepard boy, he grew in his relationship with God and he practiced his talents (including the slingshot).

Quote #12:

They sought to acquire knowledge for one purpose – that they might honor God. And God Himself was their teacher. Constantly praying, conscientiously studying, keeping in touch with the Unseen, they walked with God, as did Enoch. –PK 486

Questions:

Is this the bottom line for the degree that I am working on? Is this the purpose for every child in our school system?

Additional Thoughts: He is just as willing to be my teacher if my purpose and heart are right.

Quote #13:

Fine mental qualities and a high moral tone are not the result of accident. God gives opportunities; success depends on the use made of them. –PK 486

Herein is revealed the outworking of the divine principle of co-operation, with out which no true success can be attained. Human effort avails nothing without divine power; and without human endeavor, divine effort is with many of no avail. To make God's grace our own, we must act our part. His grace is given to work in us to will and to do, but never as a substitute for our effort. –PK 487

As the Lord co-operated with Daniel and his fellows, so He will co-operate with all who strive to do His will. And by the impartation of His Spirit he will strengthen every true purpose, every noble resolution... The Lord is able to render futile every agency that works for the defeat of His chosen ones; in His strength they may overcome every temptation, conquer every difficulty. –PK 487

Additional thoughts:

A GREAT PROMISE. Strive means to relentlessly work towards. That is my part.

Quote #14:

How did they become fitted for a position of so great trust and honor? It was their faithfulness in little things that gave complexion to their whole life. They honored God in the smallest duties as well as in the larger responsibilities. –PK 487

Additional thoughts: Ask the Holy Spirit to help you make a list of the “smallest duties” in your life.

Quote #15:

Many are waiting for some great work to be brought to them, while daily they lose opportunities for revealing faithfulness to God. Daily they fail of discharging with wholeheartedness the little duties of life. While waiting for some large work...their days pass away. –PK 488

Additional thoughts: For most of us God is not looking for us to do exceptional things. He is looking for us to do little things exceptionally well.

Quote #16:

In the sight of Omnipotence every duty is important. The Lord measures with exactness every possibility for service. –PK 488

Additional thoughts: The duties our Father values as top priority are those done as He leads in serving others.

Quotes #17-#21:

A noble character is not the result of accident...It is the result of self-discipline, of subjection of the lower to the higher nature, of the surrender of self to the service of God and man. –PK 488

The body is a most important medium through which the mind and the soul are developed for the building of character. Hence it is that the adversary of souls directs his temptations to the enfeebling and degrading of the physical powers...The tendencies of the physical nature, unless under the dominion of a higher power, will surely work ruin and death. The passions are to be controlled by the will, which is itself to be under the control of God. –PK 489

The Hebrew worthies...stood firm, because they depended upon a strength that is infinite. –PK 489

The spirit that possessed Daniel, the youth of today may have; they may draw from the same source of strength, possess the same power of self-control, and reveal the same grace in their lives, even under circumstances as unfavorable. –PK 490

The life of Daniel and his fellows is a demonstration of what He will do for those who yield themselves to Him and with the whole heart seek to accomplish His purpose.

–PK 490

Additional Thoughts: THE KEY: It comes down to the whole heart given to Him to accomplish His agenda and not my own.

Quote #22:

The magicians endeavored to show the king that his request was unreasonable...The king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men in Babylon...Upon hearing this, Daniel, taking his life in his hands, ventured into the king's presence and begged that time be granted, that he might petition his God to reveal to him the dream...Daniel made the matter known to his three friends...Their faith was strong in the consciousness that God had placed them where they were, that they were doing His work and meeting the demands of duty...Now with contrition of heart they submitted themselves anew to the Judge of the earth, pleading that He would grant them deliverance in this their time of special need. **THE GOD WHOM THEY HAD HONORED, NOW HONORED THEM...** Behold the Jewish captive, calm and self-possessed, in the presence of the monarch of the world's most powerful empire. In his first words he disclaimed honor for himself and exalted God as the source of wisdom...The king was convinced of the truth of the interpretation, and in humility and awe he "fell upon his face, and worshiped," saying, "Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret. –PK 497-99

QUESTION: WHERE WAS DANIEL WHEN THIS WAS HAPPENING?

Quote #23:

To Nebuchadnezzar, flush with triumph, was brought the word that among his subjects there were some who dared disobey his mandate (bow down and worship the golden statue, representing himself)...He endeavored by threats to induce them to unite with the multitude. Pointing to the fiery furnace, he reminded them of the punishment awaiting them if they should persist in their refusal to obey his will. But firmly the Hebrews testified to their allegiance to the God of heaven, and their faith in His power to deliver... He would give them another trial...In vain were the king's threats...Calmly facing the furnace, they said,..."our God whom we serve is able to deliver us out of thine hand, O king." Their faith strengthened as they declared that God would be glorified by delivering them, and with triumphant assurance born of implicit trust in God, they added, "But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up." The king's wrath knew no bounds...The flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego..."...But the Lord did not forget His own. As His witnesses were cast into the furnace, the Saviour revealed Himself to them in person, and together they walked in the midst of the fire..."Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God..."...How did that heathen king know what the Son of God was like? The Hebrew captives filling positions of trust in Babylon had in life and character represented before him the truth...Satan with all the host of evil cannot destroy the weakest of God's saints. Angels that excel in strength will protect them, and in their behalf Jehovah will reveal Himself as a "God of gods," able to save to the uttermost those who have put their trust in Him. –PK 511-13

Additional thoughts: When they walked and talked, what do you suppose Christ said to them? What do suppose they said in return? This was a part of God’s purpose spoken of in the first quote. These three made Him known in a dramatic way that all would remember.

BACK TO DANIEL

Quote #24:

“O King, this is the degree of the Most High, which is come upon my lord the king: that they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall we thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee...Having faithfully interpreted the dream, Daniel urged the proud monarch to repent and turn to God, that by right doing he might avert the threatened calamity...For a time the impression of the warning and the counsel of the prophet was strong upon Nebuchadnezzar; but the heart that is not transformed by the grace of God soon loses the impressions of the Holy Spirit. Self-indulgence and ambition had not yet been eradicated from the king’s heart, and later on these traits reappeared...In a moment the reason that God had given him was taken away; the judgment that the king thought perfect, the wisdom on which he prided himself, was removed, and the once mighty ruler was a maniac...For seven years, he was humbled before all the world...Then his reason was restored...In a public proclamation he acknowledged his guilt and the great mercy of God in his restoration...The once proud monarch had become a humble child of God; the tyrannical, overbearing ruler, a wise and compassionate king...Nebuchadnezzar had learned at last the lesson which all rulers need to learn – that true greatness consists in true goodness...God’s purpose that the greatest kingdom in the world should show forth His praise was now fulfilled. This public proclamation, in which Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the mercy and goodness and authority of God, was the last act of his life recorded in sacred history. –PK 518-21

Additional thoughts: At the very beginning it told that God had a purpose for Daniel in captivity. Here is 1 part of His purpose – God was trying to save the king and Daniel was the earthly agent used to bring it about. Wow!

Quote #25:

Daniel had been in the land of his captives for over thirty years when Nebuchadnezzar died and his grandson Belshazzar took the throne. Belshazzar allowed love of pleasure and self-glorification to efface the lessons that he should never have forgotten...When the revelry was at its height a bloodless hand came forth and traced upon the walls of the palace characters that gleamed like fire...When God makes men fear, they cannot hide the intensity of their terror...Then the queen mother remembered Daniel, who, over a half century before, had made known to King Nebuchadnezzar the dream of the great image...Before the terror stricken throng, Daniel, unmoved by the promises of the king stood in the quiet dignity of a servant of the Most High, not to speak words of flattery, but to interpret a message of doom. “Let thy gifts be to thyself,” he said, “and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king...Even while he and his nobles were drinking the armies of the Medes and Persians, having turned the Euphrates

out of its channel, were marching into the heart of the unguarded city...Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans was slain and an alien monarch sat upon the throne. –PK 522-31

Additional thoughts: It was not until hard times came that they remembered Daniel. Daniel had not been moved by luxury, position and power as a youth. He could not be tempted now when the king wanted to lavish him with goods and power. Daniel never desired what the king could give him, therefore, he could not be tempted by the king.

Quotes #26-27:

Darius the Median took over the throne and he set Daniel over all the princess, second only to himself...The prophet's enemies counted on Daniel's firm adherence to principle for the success of their plan. And they were not mistaken in their estimate of his character. He quickly read their malignant purpose in framing the decree, but he did not change his course in a single particular. Why should he cease to pray now, when he most needed to pray? Rather would he relinquish life itself, than his hope of help in God. With calmness he performed his duties as chief of the princes; and at the hour of prayer he went to his chamber, and with his window open, he offered petition to the God of heaven. He did not try to conceal his act. Before those who were plotting his ruin, he would not allow it even to appear that his connection with Heaven was severed. –PK 540-42

The king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, He will deliver thee. –PK 543

Additional thoughts: Daniel's life and words had an impact on the heathen king. He offered words of encouragement to Daniel.

Quote #28:

God did not prevent Daniel's enemies from casting him into the lions' den; He permitted evil angels and wicked men thus far to accomplish their purpose; but it was that He might make the deliverance of His servant more marked, and the defeat of the enemies of truth and righteousness more complete. –PK 544

Additional thoughts: God's ways are not man's ways. He has a reason for all of the adversity we face.

Quotes #29-31:

Through the courage of this one man who chose to follow right rather than policy, Satan was to be defeated, and the name of God was to be exalted and honored. –PK 544

A man whose heart is stayed upon God will be the same in the hour of his greatest trial as he is in prosperity, when the light and favor of God and man beam upon him. –PK 545

Heaven is very near those who suffer for righteousness sake. Christ identifies His interest with the interest of His faithful people; He suffers in the person of His saints, and whoever touches His chosen ones touches Him. –PK 545