



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

LEADERSHIP QUALITIES OF DANIEL (PART 2)

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When we met last time, we were examining the character qualities of Daniel as he served in political office. As he withstood the on-slough of decisions and propositions placed before him, so you as a legislator can exhibit the qualities in your decision making process as you govern for the betterment of South Carolina. The last time we examined points 1-2-3. Now we see Daniel functioned with Courtesy.¹

1. DANIEL WAS CHOSEN (DANIEL 1:3-4)
2. DANIEL HAD CONVICTION (1:8)
3. DANIEL DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT (1:8)
4. DANIEL FUNCTIONED WITH COURTESY (1:12)

Daniel 1:12 "Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink."

Daniel's request was because of his courtesy. Daniel 1:9 tells us that, "God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs." Daniel had indeed gained the respect of the Babylonians, partly because of the courteous and respectful behavior in which he approached his instructor. He had been taken from his home and was a captive in a strange land, but his courtesy was a daily witness to his captors.

Daniel evaluated everything with regards to his God, thus in his allegiance to God, he was respectful and obedient to those who had authority over him, but he had so high a sense of the claims of God that the requirements of earthly rulers were held subordinate.

Everyone in the capitol community must maintain a high view of God's decrees and allow them to be the overflow of his life.

THERE IS A COURTESY OF THE HEART; IT IS ALLIED TO LOVE. FROM ITS SPRINGS THE PUREST COURTESY IN THE OUTWARD BEHAVIOR.

Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe²

5. DANIEL EXUDE CONFIDENCE

Daniel's ability to stand firm was not based on human ingenuity, nor on positive thinking. His principles were rooted and grounded in his confidence in God's Word. Daniel risked his very life because he had faith in God's Word. The Bible is full of examples of men and women who risked everything because of their belief in God's Word. Hebrews chapter 11 provide many examples of stalwarts who believed and trusted God.

We may not have been in that position in the past, but each of us may face the same decisions Daniel did, in the near future. Are we willing to risk all to follow God's Word? The promises of protection are sure. (See 1 John 4:4, 1 Samuel 2:30, and 2 Peter 1:3-10.)

Because of Daniel's courtesy and firm stand for principles the head eunuch decided to allow Daniel to have a ten day test of the diet he proposed. (See Daniel 1:10-16.) With confidence in God's Word, Daniel, for not just the next ten days, but throughout his entire life. He lived a life above reproach through the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, Darius and Cyrus the Persian.

It takes courage to function with confidence in the midst of wolves in this world. Please remember it is only in the courage and confidence that the Lord provides that we can do anything.

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.

With God all things are possible!

6. DANIEL FUNCTIONED WITH COURAGE

It takes true courage and strength of character, not just a momentary flash of glory, to stand for a lifetime faithful to our God.

Daniel 1:21 And Daniel "CONTINUED" until the first year of Cyrus the king.

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAY AT 8:30AM, BLATT BUILDING ROOM 317

STAFF: MONDAYS AT 12:00 NOON, BLATT BUILDING ROOM 317

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This kind of courage and consistency, only God can give. Once we take a stand for God, we must, with His help, display consistency in our walk in the truth. Without this our witness will be weak and faithless. God never leaves the faithfulness of His children unrewarded. As a result of his obedience, in all areas to God, Daniel experienced rewards that were not shared by the other captives.

First, Daniel experienced in his physical being a special impact. He was healthier than those who ate the King's food. (See Daniel 1:15–16.) His countenance glowed with life and vitality and he had a degree of health that was not experienced by his fellow captives.

Daniel also experienced an intelligence that was not common among the people around him.

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.

7. DANIEL FUNCTIONED WITH CONSISTENCY

As in the case of Daniel, in exact proportion as the spiritual character is developed, the intellectual capabilities are increased." Daniel 1:17 also states that Daniel had special insight into the meaning of the dreams of the King. He had an understanding and wisdom that only God could give (1:9 "Now God granted").

Finally, Daniel was rewarded with a tremendous influence in the country of Babylon. The influence he had in society, and especially with the King, can be seen throughout

the rest of the book of Daniel. If these rewards, physical health, intelligence, insight, and influence, were just seen in Daniel, one might say that it was just happenstance. However, the Bible is full of examples of men and women who, by obeying God, have received similar rewards in their life. One must think of David, Joseph, Queen Esther, Moses, John the Baptist, and Paul. All of these pillars of Bible history were blessed as they obeyed God in their daily lives.

Daniel's character qualities distinguished himself as one whom God could use not only in a moment of crisis, but also throughout a lifetime.

Daniel 6:1-4 "It seemed good to Darius to appoint 120 satraps over the kingdom, ² and over them three commissioners (of whom Daniel was one), that these satraps might be accountable to them, and that the king might not suffer loss. ³ Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom. ⁴ Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.

As a result not even Daniel's colleagues, friend or foe, could find corruption or negligence in his life of governmental affairs! Can that be said of your life?

The result: Faithfulness to God WILL first and foremost cost you! But, God will exalt you in His proper time.

How are you doing? May God's riches provision and direction guide you as you live a life of integrity among the Capitol Community.

¹adapted from http://www.stepstolife.org/php/view_article.php?article_id=1546
²<http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/courtesy.html#gxLPuZrgw5VcxQX9.99>.