

Understanding the Times

Daniel 1

Series: Generation Next - Part 1

Introduction - Racing Toward 2000!!!

- What kind of world will your child encounter in 2010? 2020?
- What will you need to prepare him / her for that kind of world?
- What must we do today to be ready for what may come tomorrow?
- Is there any hope for our children in a world that grows more secular, pagan, and evil by the day?

Believe It Or Not - Times Have Been Worse!

Daniel Chapter 1

The Historical Setting - vs. 1-2

- 605 BC - Jerusalem Invaded
- Judaism Morally & Spiritually Bankrupt
- God's Judgment Of Deuteronomy 28-30 Begins
- Babylonians Rule God's People

Two Cultures In Conflict - vs. 3-7

◆ **The Plan** = “Capture The Next Generation”

1. The Who = The best and the brightest, the leaders of the next generation.

2. The What = Brainwash them.

3. The How = Three years Royal Graduate School.
 - A. Change Their Thinking
 - B. Change Their Worship
 - C. Change Their Lifestyle

God’s Gameplan In A Pagan Culture - vs. 8-21

◆ **The Plan** = “Capture The Next Generation”

1. The Who = The young, the available, the Godly, and courageous whose families have prepared them to hear His voice.

2. The What = Provide “models” of Godly, “counter-culture” living in a gracious and winsome way to demonstrate the superiority of God’s ways and God’s rule over man’s ways and pagan rule.

3. The How = Grant favor, blessing, and super-natural support to those who obey and trust Him, strategically placing them in positions of influence to accomplish His plan.

LIFE LESSONS FROM DANIEL 1

1. We are not at the mercy of our pagan culture.
2. The future of our world will be determined by who “captures the next generation.”
3. Protection of our children from our culture is impossible. Preparation of children for our culture is imperative.
4. Only a generation with Biblical convictions and a winsome spirit will be able to **transform** the Babylonian culture of our day.
5. Biblical convictions flow from three sources:
 - A. They are _____ through Godly models.
 - B. They are _____ through careful, intentional instruction.
 - C. They are _____ by experiencing God.

Discussion Questions

1. When you think about our culture and the future, does the word “optimism” or “concern” first come to your mind? Explain.
2. In your opinion, what major point does Daniel, Chapter 1 make concerning our present situation and future well-being?
3. What about this message gives your hope?
4. From this passage, how significant is the preparation we provide our children at home and at church?
5. What specific step could you take to help “capture the *next generation*?” At home? At church?