

LOVING GOD

Part two: Daniel — Love is Taking a Stand

(Dan 1)

- When you read the first chapter of Daniel, what are the key themes that stand out to you?
- What was God doing in the life of Judah, and in the life of Daniel?
- Where are the moments in this story where we see evidence of God's sovereignty? E.g. God is still in control and that nothing happens without His direction or permission
- How does this tie into Daniel taking a stand for his faith?

We need to remember that this is not just a story about a man who took a stand for God. This is the story of God at work in the life of Daniel, and in the life of his people.

TRUSTING IN GOD

The story of God at work in Daniels life keeps pointing us back to the Sovereignty of God.

The Babylonian exile was in fulfilment of God's promises of judgment of the wickedness of Judah.

The prophecies that God revealed to the Kings of Babylon and fulfilled in their time bore witness to God's sovereignty.

The amazing protection of Daniel in the lion's den, and his three friends in the furnace also testify to the sovereignty of God.

Finally, this book fixes our hope on the restoration of God's people, as well as the blessing of the Gentiles.

Daniels love for God involved trusting in his sovereignty. That even though they were in exile, God would one day restore them. He did not give up on God, but continued to love Him, and not defile himself with food offered to idols.

TAKING A STAND

Compare the different responses to Daniel and his friends taking a stand from chapter 1, to that in 3: 13-20, and 6:10-16.

Sometimes our stand is tolerated; other times it is reacted against severely.

Share with others any experiences you might have of standing up for your faith in trying circumstances.

What does this look like for us living in New Zealand? Are there areas we need to be taking more of a stand in?

What does this look like for those living in Myanmar, or other places in the world where Christians are persecuted? How can we help them?

LOVING GOD

Part two: Daniel — Love is Taking a Stand

(Dan 1)

- When you read the first chapter of Daniel, what are the key themes that stand out to you?
- What was God doing in the life of Judah, and in the life of Daniel?
- Where are the moments in this story where we see evidence of God's sovereignty? E.g. God is still in control and that nothing happens without His direction or permission
- How does this tie into Daniel taking a stand for his faith?

We need to remember that this is not just a story about a man who took a stand for God. This is the story of God at work in the life of Daniel, and in the life of his people.

TRUSTING IN GOD

The story of God at work in Daniels life keeps pointing us back to the Sovereignty of God.

The Babylonian exile was in fulfilment of God's promises of judgment of the wickedness of Judah.

The prophecies that God revealed to the Kings of Babylon and fulfilled in their time bore witness to God's sovereignty.

The amazing protection of Daniel in the lion's den, and his three friends in the furnace also testify to the sovereignty of God.

Finally, this book fixes our hope on the restoration of God's people, as well as the blessing of the Gentiles.

Daniels love for God involved trusting in his sovereignty. That even though they were in exile, God would one day restore them. He did not give up on God, but continued to love Him, and not defile himself with food offered to idols.

TAKING A STAND

Compare the different responses to Daniel and his friends taking a stand from chapter 1, to that in 3:13-20, and 6:10-16.

Sometimes our stand is tolerated; other times it is reacted against severely.

Share with others any experiences you might have of standing up for your faith in trying circumstances.

What does this look like for us living in New Zealand? Are there areas we need to be taking more of a stand in?

What does this look like for those living in Myanmar, or other places in the world where Christians are persecuted? How can we help them?