

## The Book of Daniel Part 2

Daniel 1:4-16

by Erik Olsen

### I. OVERVIEW OF DANIEL 1:3-16

#### A. key passages...

-- **1:8** Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank...

-- **1:9** ...Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs...

-- **1:15** ...And at the end of ten days their features [*Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah*] appeared better and fatter in flesh than all the young men who ate the portion of the king's delicacies...

### II. LESSON DERIVED FROM DANIEL 1:3-16: "all things work together for the good..." (Romans 8:28)

==> CHART 1: two dimensional perspective

#### A. "for the good... [the ultimate good of becoming more like Christ]"

-- Romans 8:28-29: "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. **For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son...**" *In other words, all things work together to make us more like Christ.*

-- 1 Thess. 4:3: "**For this is the will of God, your sanctification...**"

-- 1 Peter 1:15-16: "but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because **it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'**"

-- **compelling motivation: "the precious blood of Christ" was shed for you...**

-- "Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; 14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; 15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.' 17 And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one's work, conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear; 18 **knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.**" (1 Peter 1:13-19)

--**becoming more like Christ is the greatest blessing!**

--described in various ways..

-- "perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:3)

-- "the peaceable fruit of righteousness" (Hebrews 12:11)

-- John 6:63: "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."

## ==> CHART 2: three dimensional perspective (spiral)

-- Prov 15:24: "The way of life winds upward for the wise, That he may turn away from hell below."

### B. "all things work together..."

#### 1. BLESSINGS encourage us... to become more like Christ

-- 2 Cor. 9:8-9: "And **God is able to make all grace abound toward you**, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work."

##### -- blessings often result from godliness:

-- "all grace abound" (2 Cor. 9:8) verse spoken in context of giving financial support to ministry

-- there is often a correlation between fasting and answered prayer

##### -Daniel:

-- Daniel 10:12: "Then he [the angel Michael] said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard; and I have come because of your words"

##### -David:

-- David was the last choice among Jesse's sons to be considered for the kingship of Israel, but he was God's first choice. While his brothers were being considered David was humbly tending sheep.

--1 Sam 16:7-11: "But the LORD said to Samuel,"Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. **For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.**" 8 So Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." 11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep."

##### -Elijah:

-- James 5:16-17: "The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly

#### 2. TRIALS refine us... to become more like Christ

-- James 1:2-3: "My brethren, **count it all joy when you fall into various trials**, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

##### -- the ultimate trial of death precedes the ultimate fulfilment of becoming like Christ...

-through death we transition from the temporal "spiral of life" and enter eternity...

- through death we shed our mortal bodies and obtain perfect, glorified bodies that are sinless like Jesus Christ is sinless!

- 2 Tim 4:6-8 [as the apostle Paul stood approached his martyrdom he wrote to Timothy...] "...**the time of my departure is at hand.** 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 **Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

- 1 Cor. 15:50-54: "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; **nor does corruption inherit incorruption.** ... 53 **For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.** 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: **"Death is swallowed up in victory."**

-- 2 Cor. 4:16-18: "Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,** 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

### 3. CHASTENING corrects us... to become more like Christ

-- Hebrews 12:7-11: "If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 **Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.**

-Israel's destruction....to bring them to repentance  
-repeatedly seen throughout history with increasing intensity:  
from lost battles... to Babylonian captivity... to Great Tribulation...

### C. sometimes trials and chastening in our lives have strategic purposes in other people's lives

-- through his Christ-like character the apostle Paul was able to rejoice in his prison chains...

-- Phil 1:12-14: "But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."

-- sometimes in ways we will never realize...

-- Israel's destruction opened the way for the rest of the world (the Gentiles) to be saved through Christ

-Romans 11:12, 25-36: "Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! ... 25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; 27 For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins." 28 Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, 31 even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. 33 **Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!** 34 "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?" 35 "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?" 36 **For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen."**