

# MESSAGE NOTES

June 7, 2015

*No Matter What: Firm Conviction*  
*Daniel 1*  
*Pastor Jeff Nelsen*

- *No matter what, God is in control.* He is \_\_\_\_\_ working.
- Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ God's calling him to be \_\_\_\_\_ no matter what.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food & wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. **Daniel 1:8**

## GETTING INTRODUCED TO DANIEL

- In Babylon, Daniel is re-educated, \_\_\_\_\_, renamed, tested.
- Daniel had to \_\_\_\_\_: will I live by conviction or \_\_\_\_\_?
- God's faithfulness found in phrase: The Lord/God \_\_\_\_\_. Dan 1:2,9,17
- In Babylon, God \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
- God shows Daniel how to faithfully \_\_\_\_\_ Him & Daniel \_\_\_\_\_.

## FIRM CONVICTION INSTEAD OF PREFERENCE

- Daniel \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ & purposes in his ♥ not to \_\_\_\_\_ his ♥.
- *Conviction* => \_\_\_\_\_. *Preference* => \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Babylon" for me is \_\_\_\_\_. The "royal food" for me is \_\_\_\_\_.

Don't let the world around you squeeze you into its own mold, but let God remold your minds from within, so that you may prove in practice that the plan of God is good for you...and moves toward the goal of true maturity.  
**Romans 12:2 (PHILLIPS)**

## NO MATTER WHAT...

- Where can I \_\_\_\_\_ Your faithfulness & \_\_\_\_\_ by conviction?

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# BABYLON

**B.C. 605** Nebuchadnezzar becomes King of Babylon and invades Jerusalem

**593 B.C.-571** - Ezekiel's Ministry

**562 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzar dies

**B.C. 556** Nabonidus becomes king Belshazzar reigns as co-regent

**539 B.C.** - Fall of Babylon; Cyrus (King of Persia) Reigns; Darius Reigns as co-regent

*605 B.C.*

*570 B.C.*

*530 B.C.*

*620 B.C.*

*590 B.C.*

*550 B.C.*

# DANIEL

**620 B.C.** Daniel is born in Judah  
**605-603 B.C.** Daniel and his friends are taken to Babylon and are trained to serve Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 1)

**603 B.C.** Nebuchadnezzar's dream of a statue (Daniel 2)

**600 B.C.** The fiery furnace (Daniel 3)

**570 B.C.** The tree dream (Daniel 4)

**556 B.C.** Vision of four beasts (Daniel 7)

**554 B.C.** Vision of the ram & goat (Daniel 8)

**539 B.C.** - Handwriting on the wall (Daniel 5); The message of 70 Weeks (Daniel 9)

**537 B.C.** The lion's den (Daniel 6)

**536 B.C.** The final vision (Daniel 10-12)

# JUDAH

**640-609 - B.C.** Josiah's reign in Judah  
**626-587 B.C.** - Jeremiah's Ministry

**609 B.C.** - Jehoaahaz reigns  
**609-597 B.C** - Jehoiakim reigns

**597 B.C.** - Jehoiachin reigns  
**597-586 B.C.** - Zedekiah reigns

**586 B.C.-** Jerusalem falls to Babylon

*All dates approximate*

In 622 B.C., during King Josiah's reign, Hilkiyah the priest walks into the temple for necessary repairs. There he stumbles upon a "book of the law" and sends it to the King. Josiah, cut to the heart and realizing their disobedience, immediately seeks to bring Judah back to the exclusive worship of Yahweh. Two years later, in the midst of this spiritual revival, Daniel is born.

In the Scriptures we read that there was no king like Josiah who turned to the Lord with all his heart, all his soul and all his might (2 Kings 23:25). No matter what, King Josiah and his people would serve the Lord. Perhaps the resolve in Daniel's heart was a result of being raised at such a time of revival for he and his friends lived the same message seventeen years later.

The book of Daniel is comprised of two genres:

**Ch's 1-6** = Historical narrative written in the third person reflecting Daniel's life and times

**Ch's 7-12** = Future events written in the first person often expressed in apocalyptic literature (7:1,9; 8:1; 9:2)

Because of this layout used also in Isaiah, Ezekiel and Zechariah, it's important to note the book does not read chronologically.

Through twelve chapters and seventy years we see Daniel 2:21 play out before our very eyes as Jerusalem falls to Babylon, and Babylon to Persia forty-seven years later. Though his world is uncertain Daniel is steadfast as dreams are revealed, prophecy is given, and persecution is met with great faith.

In the book of Daniel one unmistakable theme plays out...

## GOD IS IN CONTROL.

No matter the circumstances or season of life.

No matter 600 B.C. or A.D. 2015.

No matter freedom or exile,

Joy or sorrow,

Health or sickness.

No matter if I am saved from the fiery furnace or not...

He changes times and seasons.  
He removes kings and sets them up.  
He gives wisdom to the wise.  
He gives knowledge to those who have understanding.  
He rules the kingdom of men.  
He does according to His will  
and none can stay His hand.

He reigns over all history,  
all peoples,  
and all nations.

NO  
MATTER  
WHAT