

Questions for the Panel Discussion
“Daniel & His Friends - Men Who Know Their God...” (Dan. 1 - 3)

Many of the events in these chapters in the book of Daniel are devoted to moral and spiritual instruction. They are the history of the prophet Daniel and his friends in the land of Babylon. They offer us examples of faith lived out in the fiery crucible of a hostile world. When we find ourselves struggling to live the Christian life amid the pressures, hostility, temptation and persecution of a non-Christian world – these chapters can guide and comfort us. Our panel discussion today is about four men, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who came to a time of decision in their lives and in each case stood boldly and lived for God.

I. “...are Uncompromised”- Daniel 1:1-21

1. Review verses 1-7 and describe the problems that Daniel and his friends faced.

2. How did the king seek to capture their loyalty?

3. How is their desire and dedication to God exhibited in verses 8-14?

4. What would be an equivalent choice between God’s way and the “royal food” of the world today? What’s at stake for you in that choice?

5. When your loyalty is tested, what are you most likely to do?

6. How do 1 Cor. 10:13 and Heb. 4:15 help us weather times of testing and trial safely and securely?

7. How did God honor the actions of Daniel and his friends? (verses 17-21)

When we come to times of decision, it is imperative that we make godly choices. The choices we make at the cross roads of life will determine our usefulness to God and our effectiveness in His kingdom work.

II. "...Know how to Face Adversity" - Daniel 2:14-30

Nebuchadnezzar had had a troubling dream and wanted to know its meaning. Though Daniel has not been asked to interpret the king's dream he is under the threat of execution.

8. What do you notice about Daniel's response when he hears about the pending executions?

9. How does Daniel try to find out the dream?

10. What can we learn from Daniel's response in verses 14-18?

11. What does Daniel do immediately after the dream is revealed to him? What would you have probably done?

12. What do we learn from verse 21 about the history of the world?

13. What is Daniel's attitude in front of the king in verses 24-30?

14. What can we learn from Daniel in how he handles this situation?

III. "...Let It Be Known" - Daniel 3:1-30

Nebuchadnezzar wanted to establish his kingdom forever. So, he made an image of solid gold. He set himself up as a god to be worshiped. Those who didn't bow down were to be sentenced to death by fire in a furnace. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego's replied to the king: *"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, and he will rescue us from your hand, O king. But even if he does not, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."* NIV

15. Do you think all the people worshipping the image at that moment truly believed in it?

16. What kind of reasons do we sometimes give for why we "have" to do the same as everyone else?

17. Did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego consider giving in? Why not?

18. Were they willing to give their lives for their faith, or did they just expect God to save them?

19. Do you think people in the world will respect our decision if we stand up for what is right? Why or why not?

20. How much are you willing to risk to let it be known that you serve God?