

## Fasting for the King who Endows

Why study the book of Daniel now?

Daniel served under at least 5 kings

Daniel lived under at least 4 different cultures

Daniel demonstrates how we can be “in the world but not of the world”

Daniel demonstrates how we can honor wicked kings

Christians have the ability to thrive under any sort of wicked culture, corrupt government, or evil ruler, because Christians serve the holy, righteous and good King of kings.

Daniel 1:2-6 (ESV)

And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah.

What we believe about the King of kings must determine how we live.

Fasting for the King who Endows

Daniel 1:8 (ESV)

But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

What is fasting?

A season of abstaining from something good, and receiving something better from God.

Good things that we are told to fast from –

Food

Matthew 6:16 (ESV)

And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

Sex

1 Corinthians 7:5 (MSG)

Abstaining from sex is permissible for a period of time if you both agree to it, and if it's for the purposes of prayer and fasting – but only for such times. Then come back together again. Satan has an ingenious way of tempting us when we least expect it.

Information

Luke 5:16 (NIV)

But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

Daniel understood the principle that whatever little we forsake today is not worth comparing with what God has to give us.

Romans 8:18-19 (ESV)

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 (ESV)

For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Daniel gave up food and God gave him favor.

Daniel 1:9 (ESV)

And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs.

Daniel gave up sex and God gave him family

Daniel 1:7 (ESV)

And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

Daniel gave up information inundation and God gave him wisdom.

Daniel 1:17 (ESV)

As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

If Christians are going to thrive in a world that doesn't know God we will need to habitually abstain from temporary pleasures for the sake of eternal rewards.

Daniel 1:18-21 (ESV)

At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. And in

every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.