

Resolution 2013

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Bible Text: Daniel 1:8,9

Preached on: Tuesday, January 1, 2013

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First day, what a way to start. This is going to be awesome. Amen. Hallelujah. Daniel 1. Let's all stand. We'll read, we'll pray and ask God for his mighty help tonight. The Bible says, a familiar passage of Scripture, the Bible says in verse 8,

“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.”

Verse 8 says, “But Daniel purposed in his heart.” That word “purposed” means “to determine.” It means “to commit.” I want to talk tonight briefly, just a little thought, Resolution 2013.

Father, I pray for your help tonight. Father, I've been convinced, especially today, that the enemy does not want us to make resolutions. But, God, as we'll see in a few moments, there was a man named Daniel that made a resolution. It was a resolution that brought victory not only in his life but also in some young men's lives that were there with him.

I pray, God, that tonight you reveal to each of us that specific resolution that we need to make in 2013. I pray, God, that you give us guidance, give us Holy Ghost direction. I pray, God, that tonight we leave with more of a purpose for the life, Lord, this year but also the years to come as well. For that, God, we'll thank you.

We thank you for the past but, God, we're so excited about the future and the present. God, help us tonight and then fill me with your Holy Spirit. Guide my tongue, my speech, my actions, all that I say and that I do. I pray, God, that you will be the great orchestrator, that you will be the great director and for that, God, I'll shout myself, Glory Hallelujah. Help us tonight because somebody needs your help. Forgive us and cleanse us and make us vessels made for your use. Then, God, if we left anything out, take care of that need too. For it is in your Son's name we pray, Jesus. Amen.

You may be seated.

Resolution 2013. Now, a lot of us have made many, many, many, many resolutions in the past and because we have made those resolutions in the past, we come to the present, we are very hesitant to make a resolution. But as I began to study a little bit and a little study goes a long way in helping you to understand some stuff, I looked at that word “resolution.” The word “resolution” means “a resolve or determination.” A resolve or determination. An example is this statement: to make a firm resolution to do something. A resolution to do something. Determine to do something. Resolve to do something. Now look at the synonyms, the synonyms for the word “resolution” are: aim, declaration, dedication, fixed purpose, relentlessness. Those are all good words but a lot of times what we’ll do, we’ll take a perfectly good word and we’ll mangle it up and then we’ll get to the place where we don’t even want to use the word anymore.

Let me give you an example: when I say the word “gay” what do you first of all think? Homosexual. The word “gay” meant “happy.” It had a lot of positive meanings behind the word “gay.” You read books that say that that person was gay. We’d read it now and we’d go, “He was gay?” But that’s not what the word actually means. The same thing with resolution. We hear the word “resolution” and then we begin to shy away from it or we run from it, we side-step it. At the same time, when you go back in the Old Testament, you see a man by the name of Daniel who made a resolution. Remember, the word “resolution” means “resolve or determination.” The Bible says in verse 8, “But Daniel purposed in his heart.” That word “purposed” means “to determine; to commit” in his heart. “That he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat.”

He made a resolution. He made a determination. He made a commitment. In other words, when you and I make a resolution, we are making a commitment. By the way, many of us still make resolutions but we just don’t call it resolution. We make a commitment to read our Bibles this year. You know, the whole Bible through from Genesis through Revelation. Or we make other types of commitments but whatever commitment that you and I make, we must have a power of a holy God to help us to continue and to be victorious in the commitment or resolution that we have made.

By the way, hold your place here, walk with me real quickly to Proverbs 29 and look at verse 18. Many of you know where we’re going already. Look at Proverbs 29:18, look what the Bible says here, “Where there is no vision,” what? “The people perish.” That word “vision” means “a dream; a revelation; a sight mentally.” In other words, it’s a mental sight that you see. What do you see for 2013? What do you envision for 2013? For the Bible says here, this is God’s word, right? The word says “where there is no vision, the people,” what? “Perish.” And that word means “to unloose,” which basically means “to fall apart.” That’s why a lot of folks are falling apart because they have no vision, they don’t see anything down the road and, therefore, my friends, their life is all over the place.

You say, “Well, I can’t wait to get out of high school.” Okay, but once you get out of high school what is your vision for your future? “Just get out of there.” Yeah, but when you get out, that’s not the end. Really, that’s the beginning. Okay? Everything begins to change: your mindset changes, your habits begin to change. Right now you have a

particular type of schedule but once you graduate from high school, that schedule now changes. But also, my friends, emotionally and mentally, you are changing as well. It's amazing when it happens.

The Bible says here, "where there is no vision, the people perish," they unbind, they loosen, they literally fall apart. "But he that keepeth," that guards, protects, "the law," that's the instruction, the direction. The Bible says, "happy is he." We all need direction. Now, I know we think we don't need direction but we all need direction and without any directions, my dear friends, where are you going? Where are you headed without directions? Amanda is going to Georgia on Friday but my soul, she has been on a plane that says Georgia bound. She isn't going to go to the airport and go, "Eeny, meeny, miny, moe. I'll go on that plane right there. I'll just take that one." She's going to wind up in Honolulu or somewhere. Amen? She might like that, though. Nonetheless, we need directions. God's word gives us directions and, my dear friends, the Spirit of God will also give us directions about 2013.

Real briefly, we'll look at this and we'll be done and go eat some food in the back. The first thing that we see is this – let me make this statement though, all of us need to be resolute or determined to accomplish something this year with God's help. Let me say it again: all of us need to be resolute or determined to accomplish something this year with God's help. Amen? Now, let's see how we can accomplish that. First of all, you need a resolution. The first thing that we see is Daniel's resolution. Look back at Daniel 1:8, the Bible says, "But Daniel purposed," determined, committed, where? "In his heart." That word "heart" also means, my dear friends, "his feelings; his will; his intellect." So, Daniel had determined in his heart, in his will, in his intellect, in his emotions, in his feelings, that he was going to do something.

He had made this determination. He had made this resolution. "Daniel, what's your resolution, buddy?" Daniel says in verse 8, "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not," he would not, "defile himself," pollute himself, stain himself, "with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested," he asked, "of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." The Bible says that he had determined. He had made this resolution, "I'm not going to eat and drink the stuff that the king is eating and that he is drinking." Why? Because whatever he was doing, the Bible says, he said he wouldn't defile himself with it. "If I take of this that the king has, it will defile me in some way. I do not want to be defiled by what the king has to offer." And that was his resolution. That was his determination. That was his commitment.

What are you and I committed to this year? "Well, just que sera, sera, whatever shall be, shall be." No, it's not whatever shall be, shall be. Listen my dear friends, we need a goal. We need a resolution. We need a determination about where we're headed in the future. There are some things that you don't have a clue about but listen, my friends, ask God to give you some kind of resolution, something for you to be determined about this year. Some folks will decide, "You know what? I'm going to be a better witness for Christ this year." So, what does that mean? You'll be a better witness? That means you're going to make yourself available for God to use you to be a witness. That might be going some

places that might not be too comfortable. That might be being a witness to someone who you might not be that comfortable being a witness to, especially when it comes to, who? Family. But God might give you an opportunity to witness to them, my friends. The worst thing we could do is not share the gospel, especially with someone who has the same DNA running through their veins.

So, he might have you doing that. But we need to be resolved or have some kind of a resolution or determination about something. Look what it goes on to say in verse 8, “So he asked of the prince of the eunuchs, listen, I don’t want to defile myself with the king’s meat.” The Bible says and this is a good thing, “Now God had brought,” or given, “Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.” Do you know, my dear friends, that God can give you favor among those who don’t even believe in God? Don’t even believe in the Lord Jesus Christ? In other words, he can give you favor on your job. “Them bunch of heathens. I mean, always.....” But God can give you favor there. And he’ll give you favor that you’ll witness to them as well.

And the Bible says that Daniel had this favor in his sight and then the Bible says this in verse 10, “And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel,” whoa, Daniel, I love you bro, but wait a minute, “I fear my lord the king,” I’m scared of him. I don’t know about this, Daniel. The Bible goes on to say, “I fear the king who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking, or saddened, “than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.” If I don’t make you eat of the food that he’s got and you come up in there looking sad and weak and puny and feeble, I’m done. I don’t want to be done because you got me in this predicament.

But notice, Daniel is resolved. Daniel is determined. He didn’t say, “Okay.” No, the Bible says this in the next verse, verse 11, “Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,” which you know, those are Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, that’s when their names got changed. The Bible says he was set over them and then Daniel said this in verse 12, “Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.” That word “prove” means “test.” Just test us. Just ten days.

You know where we’re going now, don’t you? When you make a resolution, a determination, you’re going to be tested. You just think, woop, I’m going to do that and that’s it? “I’m not going to do this this year,” or, “I’m going to do this this year.” You are going to be tested. “Do you know what, Lord? I’ve determined this year I’m going to tithe like I’m supposed to.” It’s quiet. “I’m going to tithe. I’m going to tithe.” You’re going to be tested. Here comes Friday, Sunday’s coming up. You say, “Oh man, if I tithe, this is all we’ve got left until next Friday.” Or, “This is coming up on Tuesday of next week so if I tithe on Sunday, I’m not going to have what I need to have on Tuesday to take care of what needs to be done. So what I’ll do, I’m going to borrow from God. I’m going to borrow and then I’m going to pay it back next week.” You know already, you’re done. That hole gets so big. You’re like that guy in the Bible that said, “There’s no way I can pay it all back.” Whatever it is that you and I have made a determination that we’re

going to do, that we are resolved to do, that we have made this resolution to do, we are going to be proved. We are going to be tested. It's going to happen. Watch what the Bible says.

In his case, he said he wants to be tested. "Don't test me, Lord." Increase my faith. Well, how do you think that's going to happen? Do you think? That's why some people say, "I don't ask the Lord to increase my faith. I definitely don't ask the Lord to increase my faith." And that's why he doesn't. You say, "Well, I didn't ask for this class." He says, "I'm sorry, I enrolled you." You've been enrolled in a class that you didn't pick. He says, "You've been enrolled in the class of patience." "Lord, can I change that? Is that an elective?"

But you're going to be tested. You're going to be proved. The Bible says, he says, "Prove us, ten days and let them give us pulse," which is a vegetable, "to eat and water to drink. Then let our countenances," our appearance, "be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants." ? Do what you want to. By the way, this is what they call the Daniel's fast. But you know what? Some people fast and they're like, "Hey man, I'm fasting. I'm barely going to make it." Wait a minute, slow down now. Fasting, when you fast, you are going to get some ? friend. And some people who have fasted know what I'm talking about but those who have never fasted, you're like, "I'm just not going to eat any chicken this week." No, no, no. When you fast, there is a purpose to the fasting. He had a purpose right here and he says, "Listen, take ten days, do this right here, come back and check us out and if we aren't up to par, do what you want to with us."

Watch what the Bible says. So we see Daniel's resolution, now we see Daniel's actually testing taking place. The Bible says in verse 14, "So he consented," he listened, "to them in this matter, and proved them," what? "Ten days." He left them, "Okay, ten days you've got." Verse 15, the Bible says, "And at the end of ten days their countenances," you see it was him and the three Hebrew boys, "their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat." In other words, they were healthy. Now, all I'm eating filet mignon and all that kind of stuff and all they're eating is vegetables and water. You all think vegetables and water, ew, no. That's it? But the Bible says they were fatter and fairer.

Look what he goes on to say. The Bible says in verse 16, "Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse." Verse 17, "As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams." So we have moved from Daniel's resolution, Daniel's testing and now we see Daniel's reward. And that's what you want when you make a resolution, right? A reward at the end. But before the reward, there is going to be a testing and before the testing there needs to be a resolution. But now they're going to see the reward. The Bible says, all of a sudden, they've got wisdom. They're blowing everybody out of the water.

Look what the Bible says back in verse 17, “he gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom,” and on top of that, “Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.” They were employed by him. They dwelled with the king. Why? Because of their resolution, what they resolved to do, they did, my dear friends, and God rewarded them.

Look at what the Bible says in verse 20, “And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.” That word here “magicians” means “a horoscopist.” “Astrologer” is those who are conjurers that practice enchantment. ? Let me go and see what my forces are going to be for 2013. Why don’t you read my palm. They mess with them card. You know they’re going to tell you something great. Listen, if they say you’re done, next week you’re out of here. Horoscopes, you know, “I’m a Sagittarius, a Leo, let me see what I got. What it says for me today.” They start looking for that today. If it’s something way out, they say, “That must be it.” You’d be turning and twisting it to line up with what it said in your horoscope. But just that name should scare people half to death. Horror. Horoscope. I don’t want any horoscope. Amen? I want some hallalujahscope. Listen my dear friends, get in the word of God. Amen. See what God has to say about the situation.

The Bible says here that Nebuchadnezzar went to these boys and he didn’t find anybody like them. They were ten times larger, smarter than all the others. In verse 21 it says this, “And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.”

“What are you saying, Preacher?” What you see here is three basic things: a resolution, a testing and a reward. Will you make that resolution and let God give you that resolution, by the way. Will you make that resolution? You’re going to be tested but as you come to that test, my dear friends, you will be rewarded.

I’ve got one question and two statements. First question is simply this: what do you need to be resolute about this year? What do you need to be resolute about this year? What is it? My statement is this: you will be tested but before you make the resolution, why don’t you just pray and say, “God, won’t you reveal to me some area of my life that I need to be more determined in? An area of my life that I need to be more resolved in? An area of my life where I need to be more committed? Lord, reveal that to me and then, God, I’m going to rely and depend upon your strength just like Daniel did.” The Bible says God gave them wisdom. God gave them understanding. God gave them the victory to be able, my friends, to be resolved in what they committed to do.

So what is it? You know what? It would not amaze me nor surprise me if right now there are in some of your minds something that is flashing in your head that you need to be more resolved about, more committed to, more determined about. That’s my question.

The second one is you will be tested but the last one is this statement, this is a great one: you will be rewarded. There is reward for those who are resolute. There is reward for those who are determined. What Paul said, we've got time to check out that Paul said, "I fought a good fight. I finished my course and I kept the faith." He said in another part a little earlier, "My departure is at hand." Look that word up, it's about setting sail. ? No, man, it's different for the one who is the child of the King.

"What are you saying, Preacher?" Resolution 2013. Don't let the enemy cause you and I not to make a resolution, a determination, a commitment to something this year. That's why we don't have a lot of marriages in general, because people don't want to make commitments. That's what we struggle at a lot in our country, commitment. Commitment. Commitment. Nobody wants to make commitments but God wants us to be committed and he will help us to keep our commitments.

Father, thank you for blessing us this evening. I've done my best to share the thoughts, the message, that you left on my heart for these precious souls that have gathered here, Father, on this first day of 2013. I know, God, as I was sharing earlier, Father, that I believe that the enemy doesn't want us to make resolutions or determinations or commitments. But, Father, I know that you do. Your word bears that out throughout the Bible, I just used that verse.

I pray, God, that you would help me the rest of the night, Lord, to be committed to something this year. My soul, something. God, reveal to us what that something should be and, God, then help us to rely upon your strength, your power, to be able to do that, Father. And when we are tested, when we are tried, Father, I pray, God, that we lean that much more heavily upon you. For that, God, we'll thank you.

Perhaps, God, there are some folks that want to talk to you for a few moments about managing their parts I didn't even mention tonight but yet, God, you have to speak to them about other things even earlier today. I pray, God, they'd come and talk to you about these situations, these issues. For that, Father, we'll thank you.

Perhaps, God, there is someone here today, God, that they're not sure about their salvation, Father, they want to get that thing settled right now, the first day of the year. I pray, God, that they will come and talk to you about these matters. Then, God, perhaps they supposedly come for other reasons that I did no mention at all but ? to come. Maybe some will come and say thank you, Father, thank you, Lord, for what you've done for me last year. Thank you, Lord, for bringing me to another new year with new opportunities. It's a clean slate. It has not taken place yet, it's just starting today. I pray they come. For it is in your Son's name that we pray, Jesus. Amen.