

## **DANIEL'S GOD: KING OF KINGS**

**January 22, 2017**

**Daniel 1:1-21**

**“And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.”**

**Daniel 1:21**

Daniel's life was lived in unique and trying circumstances. In his teen years he was taken from his homeland as a captive of the Babylonian Empire. He had to navigate life under the authority of captors whose only concern was that he serve their interests. If they chose, they could cast him into a den of lions or into a flaming furnace. He had no choice regarding where he would live or what he would do with his life. Yet in that environment he thrived, winning the confidence of the most powerful men then living, yet doing so without transgressing one of his convictions. Through Daniel, God showed generations of kings that He is the King of kings.

### **1. Daniel understood that God is sovereign, and demonstrated this faith powerfully, so that the emperors whom he served learned that truth.**

Nebuchadnezzar: “And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?” (Daniel 4:34-35)

Darius: “Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.” (Daniel 6:16)

### **2. Daniel knew that faithfulness to God is more important than pleasing men, and ordered his life accordingly. He demonstrated this biblical principle:**

“We ought to obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:29)

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” (Matthew 6:33)

“My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: for length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. (Proverbs 3:1-8)

### **3. Daniel was diligent to develop his natural abilities. God created him with unusual gifts of intellect, but he was diligent in the development of these gifts to their greatest potential.**

Matthew 25:15-28 – Parable of the Talents

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (II Timothy 2:15)

