

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

December 27, 2020

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Daniel 1:1-7

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *The Daniel Diet* (Daniel 1:8-21)

Announcements:

Pastor Kurth would like to thank you for all the Christmas cards and gifts and well wishes, and all the love behind them.

Happy New Year! *Read Your Bible Through In A Year* schedules are available on the bulletin table.

Rachel Stalter will be working with our *FBC* Facebook page. If you have ideas for content, share them with her!

Tracey South's computer needs help so she can do Pastor Kurth's proofreading for the bulletin and our handouts. See her if you are good with computers!

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone
Daniel 1:1-7 *Daniel in the Critic's Den*

The Book of Daniel centers on the events following the conquering of Israel by King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, and the carrying away of Israel's people into captivity in Babylon. Daniel was one of them.

When most people think of Daniel, they think of the lion's den. But that's only one of the miracles in the book. And all of the miracles in Daniel are important, for they prove that God didn't desert Israel—as it *looked* like He did when He allowed them to be conquered. And since these miracles are types of Israel's *future*, they show He will *never* desert Israel—despite the claims of pastors who say He did after they killed His Son.

Of course, Bible *critics* don't believe that *any* of the Bible's miracles really happened. But they tend to focus their attacks on Daniel, for he *also* predicted which world powers would rise and fall in the following 500 years. *That proves He is God* (Isaiah 41:22-25). But critics refuse to believe Daniel predicted the future, so they date the writing of his book to be 168 B.C.—*after* those world powers rose and fell—making him a *historian* and not a *prophet*. But that would make the Lord Jesus a liar, for *He* called him a prophet (Mark 13:14). Besides, dating Daniel as 168 B.C. wouldn't explain how Daniel predicted the coming of Israel's Messiah *to the very day* He rode into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday.

The only reason Nebuchadnezzar was able to besiege Israel (Dan.1:1) is because *God let him* conquer Israel (v.2). That's something He had *warned* them He would do if they dis-obeyed Him (Deut. 28:15,52). It should also be pointed out that Daniel 1:2 says Nebuchadnezzar only took “part” of the temple's vessels because Daniel was describing the first of three assaults Babylon made on Israel (IIChron.36:5-18).

When God's possessions are taken captive, His glory departs Israel (cf.Ps.78:61). Ezekiel saw His glory depart

in 3 stages (Ezek.10:4,18; 11:22,23; 21:25). The One fit to wear Israel's crown was *Christ*, of course, so that makes Ezekiel 21:25 one of those prophecies that was fulfilled in Bible days but will be fulfilled *again* in the future. God's glory departed Israel in 3 stages again in Acts 13:46; 18:6 and 28:28.

Bible critics *used to use* Daniel 1:3 to challenge the Bible's historicity, for no record of a man named Asphenaz serving in Babylon was ever found—until it *was* found on a Babylonian brick that can now be seen in the British Museum. Of course, believers like us know Daniel is historically accurate, for history has no record of anything Nebuchadnezzar said or did from 582 B.C. to 575 B.C., something that is explained when God struck him with madness for seven years in Daniel 4. God had also warned that “the king's seed” (Dan.1:3) would be taken captive by Babylon (Isa.39:5-7).

The name “Daniel” (Dan.1:6) means *God is my judge*, which reflects what God was doing with Israel at that time—judging her! Daniel and his 3 friends were “children” (v.3) and so were under the age of accountability that would have made them responsible for the sins Israel had committed that caused God to judge them. But Israel was a “common-wealth” (Eph.2:12) and so they had to suffer along with their nation when their grievous sin brought God's wrath.

Daniel's friends *also* had names that had to do with Israel's God, so the king gave them new names (1:7). Conquering kings often did this to their new servants to show their *dominion* over them (cf.Gen.1:19,28). The king wanted his captives to know that he *owned* them, and that they should forget any hope of going back to their homeland. The new names he gave them had to do with Nebuchadnezzar's gods, so he was trying to get them to *forget* Israel's God.

When you got saved, God gave *you* a new name (Eph.3:14, 15) to show *His* dominion *over you*. He *owns* you (ICor.6: 19,20), and wants you to forget the god you used to worship. You used to worship the “God” you made up in

your mind before you started reading the Bible, the God that usually looked and acted like you, so you could *justify* what you did! He wants you to forget any hope of going back to the life you used to live. If that's what you want too, why not pray about it *right now*. You'll be eternally glad you did.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

December 27, 2020

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger

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