



RESOLVE TO BE HOLY

GOD IS LARGE AND IN CHARGE DANIEL 1:8-16

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 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com. This passage can be found in the Pew Bible, in the Old Testament section, on page 628.

“Daniel resolved not to defile himself...”

-Daniel 1:8a (NIV)

STUDY SECTION

DANIEL'S “LINE IN THE SAND”

1. Daniel's _____.

Daniel 1:8, NASB95 -⁸ But Daniel made up his mind [Heb: שׂים (“ya-sym”) lit., ‘willed in his heart;’ for the Jews, the heart was the center of their ‘will,’ not their emotions] that he would not defile [a moral or ceremonial defilement] himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank [Why? A. It wasn't kosher; B. It had previously been offered to false god's; C. Daniel knew that in the Babylonian philosophy, to share a meal would send the wrong message; “The kings meal represented the king's values.” Historian F. Josephus]; so, he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:8, HCSB -⁸ Daniel determined that he would not defile himself...

Daniel 1:8, NKJV -⁸ But Daniel purposed in his heart...

Daniel resolved to honor his God-given convictions.

2. Daniel's _____.

Daniel 1:8b–10, NASB95 -⁸ ...so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.⁹ Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,¹⁰ and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age? Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king.”

3. Daniel's _____.

Daniel 1:11–14, NASB95 -¹¹ But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,¹² “Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.¹³ “Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see.”¹⁴ So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days.

There is wisdom in living in a like-minded community.

4. Daniel's _____.

Daniel 1:15–16, NASB95 -¹⁵ At the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food.¹⁶ So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink and kept giving them vegetables.

LIFE APPLICATION SECTION

WHERE'S YOUR “LINE IN THE SAND?”

- A. Will you consciously resist the world—resolving to be holy, instead? (v. 8)
- B. Will you be aware of the strategies of the world? (v. 2 and v. 5)
- C. Will you grasp and embrace that God is sovereign even in your tragedies? (v. 9)
- D. Will you remember that God honors faithfulness and holiness? (vv. 15-16)

One of the lessons that we learn in this passage is that it is not who you are, or where you are, but what you are that matters in God's kingdom. It is our character and faithfulness, not our situation, not our location, not our reputation that matters. May Holy God grant us a resolution for holiness. –Dr. J. Ligon Duncan