

Living by an Uncommon Standard

Daniel 1:1-9

Introduction:

The Standard – is the word of God by which His people must live their lives regardless of the world's standards or social acceptances.

I. Compromising God's Word

- a. God is displeased with His people
- b. When we compromise, it destroys our worship 1 Jn 2:15
- c. When we compromise, it destroys our service 2 Tim 2:20
- d. God called the Church to live apart from the world.

II. The Plight vss.1-2

- a. King Nebuchadnezzar besieged Judah
- b. But he left Jehoiakim king of Judah on the throne
- c. He took the vessels of God to show his power over Judah and it's king

III. The Plot v.3

- a. To insure Jehoiakim's loyalty, Nebuchadnezzar took hostages out of the royal family and out of the princely nobility
- b. Somewhere between 50 and 75 hostages were taken

IV. The Hostages Qualifications v.4

- a. Had to be a youth between 13- 17 yrs old
- b. Had to be handsome without disability
- c. Had to be intelligent, wise, and discerning
- d. The world only looks at the outside

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V. The Plot Thickens (Indoctrination) vss.5-6

- a. To provide for them a provision that is so lavish that their sustenance is dependent on the king.
- b. Lift their standard of living up to where they want desire to go back to their old way of life
- c. Teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans

VI. Another Indoctrination step New Name v.7

- a. They change all their names to Chaldean
- b. Daniel - to Belteshazzar, Hanniah - to Shadrach, Mishael - to Meshach, Azariah - to Abednego

VII. The Uncommon Standard v.8

- a. Daniel drew the line at defiling himself with the king's food and wine
- b. There was no strict ban in scripture about taking a heathen name
- c. There was no strict ban against learning what some other people had to teach
- d. There was a very strict ban about what a Jew could eat and drink.
- e. Daniel drew the line of no compromise in his life on what the Word of God said.

VIII. God's Reward for an Uncompromising Life v.9

- a. God gave Daniel favor with the Eunuch commander
- b. When you live an uncompromising life, God is going to use you
- c. Just look at Daniel, God used him mightily servings under 3 pagan kings...