



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Ezekiel, Daniel Sermon Series
Supports Session 8: Integrity Established
Sermon Title: "Uncertainties"
Passage: Daniel 1:1-7

Connection to Daniel 1:8-21

Believers can look back at the way that God helped His people so we can live with integrity when we're tempted to compromise.

Introduction/Opening

Students graduating from high school look ahead into the future and wonder what will become of them. Years later, they can look back on their past and reflect on what has become of them.

Daniel 1:1-7 introduces us to a young man who could look ahead and wonder about the uncertainties of his future. Years later, he could look back on his past with complete certainty that the Lord had been with him.

God's people can find ourselves looking into our future and wondering what will happen to us. The account of Daniel's life assures us that in due time, we can look back on our lives and see how the Lord was faithful to take us through the uncertainties that we faced.

What kinds of uncertainties in our future will we look back on one day with the certainty that the Lord has been with us?

Outline

1. The uncertainty of a dreadful ordeal (vv. 1-2)
 - a. Looking ahead, Daniel could see a dreadful ordeal for God's people. When the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem, they took away the king of Judah in chains and robbed the temple of its sacred treasures. Looking back on that episode years later, God's people could see how He used the ordeal to restore their relationship with Him.
 - b. Looking ahead, we'll find ourselves facing dreadful ordeals of our own. The ordeal may be like a pandemic that has global implications. However, it may be more personal and swirl around health issues, financial problems, family heartbreaks, or paralyzing grief. Looking back, we'll see how the ordeal brought us closer to the Lord.

2. The uncertainty of an unlikely path (vv. 3-4)
 - a. Looking ahead, Daniel could tell that the path placed before Him could take him away from his walk with the Lord. He would be forced to learn a new way of life and adapt himself to it. Looking back on the path that he had to take; however, he would see that the Lord put him there so he could have a spiritual influence on the Babylonians.
 - b. Looking ahead, we may be perplexed or even disillusioned over the path that circumstances force us to take. The path before us doesn't come close to resembling what we thought we would be doing with our lives. Looking back one day, we'll see the Lord's wisdom in putting us on such an unlikely path so we could live out His plan for us.
3. The uncertainty of a closed door (vv. 5-7)
 - a. Looking ahead, Daniel could see that doors had been closed on life as he knew it. Everything would change, even his name. Looking back on what happened to him when those doors closed, he would be able to see that a door of opportunity had been opened. He and his companions could point their captors to the wisdom and power of the Lord.
 - b. Looking ahead, we may see nothing but closed doors. We may be troubled over the fact that changes in our lives have left us without any hope at all. However, looking back in due time, we'll be able to see God's hand in closing doors. We'll rejoice over the way that He opened a door of opportunity to serve Him that we would never have imagined.

Conclusion

Daniel stepped into his future filled with uncertainties with a firm grip on his trust in the Lord. Looking back over his life, he could see how the Lord had been faithful.

Believers today can step into uncertainties with complete trust in Christ. We can trust Him into the future because we know that one day we will look back and affirm the certainty of His faithfulness.

Please do not take another step into the future without placing your trust in the Lord. Follow Him today and trust Him to see you through the uncertainties that await you.

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