

SECURE AND FAITHFUL

Daniel 1 (Book of Daniel series no. 1)

Daniel contains some of the best loved Bible stories and also some of the most difficult sections in the Bible. We look at Daniel 1 today under three sections: (1) Invaded. (2) Rooted and Secure. (3) Faithful.

(1) Invaded. Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah, destroyed the temple and took captives to Babylon. This is what the newspapers may report. But Daniel says in v.2, that “God handed over” Judah to Nebuchadnezzar for His higher purposes.

God, in His mercy, sometimes reaches out to pagan kings for their salvation. We have evidence to conclude that Nebuchadnezzar believed God and will be saved(4:37). Likewise, in Exodus, the Egyptians who believed and confessed the true God of Israel will be saved.

Nebuchadnezzar thinks he has captured Daniel. But Daniel is in God’s hand and safe within God’s framework—“that God created, God sustains, God will come and save one day”. Even though there may be suffering in the middle (the Cross), God’s framework is not meaningless.

Daniel saw clearly what was to come. His prophecies were so accurate that people suspected it was written only after the events. (E.g.: statue with head of gold-Babylon; arms and chest of silver-Persian; bronze belly-Greece; feet of iron and clay-Rome; the stone uncut by human hand-Christ and His kingdom).

(2) Rooted and Secure. Daniel, Moses, Joseph, et al, all were in their early teens when they were uprooted from their culture and taken to pagan cultures much more advanced than their own. They not only survived, but their faith thrived with distinction. What made them so strong? We might find some answers in the Jewish style of parenting. There will be many, but here are a few I know of: (1) The parents pass on a skill to their kids. (2) They tell their family histories to their children. In this case they told stories of the mighty acts of God in their national history. Passover was a story telling event. (3) The father takes major responsibility in teaching the kids. (4) They pray the “Shema” (the greatest commandment) two times a day. Such practices usually ensure that the children grow up secure and rooted in their culture and faith.

Nebuchadnezzar greatly panicked when he feared that his kingdom may be destroyed (Daniel 2). That’s because his identity and security are in his kingdom. Take his kingdom away and he is nobody. But Daniel and his friends were without a kingdom, without land, without family, without a temple, and yet their identities were firmly rooted in Israel’s Covenant making God. They were given new Babylonian names, but they did not allow Babylon to define who they are.

(3) Faithful. Daniel resolved not to share in the King’s table. He probably saw what they do at their tables (Daniel 5:1-5 praising false gods at their tables).

Daniel’s private faithfulness is well known. He was consistent in his prayer life. But it is his public acts of faithfulness that set him apart as a man with high distinction.

We need biblical and theological knowledge if we are to be bold and confident in public witness of faith in word and action. Daniel progressed greatly in secular education at Babylon, but his spiritual education was second to none. We prefer our spiritual education “short and simple” while we pursue secular education with all our “heart, soul, mind and strength”. The Bible is not “short and simple”, and this approach will only lead to misinterpretation and mishandling of the Word.

The challenge is to be privately faithful in prayer, Bible study and holiness, and to be effective in public life and action like Daniel and his friends. We may suffer for our actions sometimes, and it may even look like God has failed us. But if our “spiritual education” is as strong as Daniel’s, we will be able to say, “Even if God does not deliver, I refuse to give in to idols”.

- Pastor Kedo Peseyie



**CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD
AND THE WISDOM OF GOD**

City Church

SUNDAY SERVICE

- Leader : Hekali Shikhu
- Speaker : Dr. Chris Kiesling
- Ushers : Rosemary Jamir & Toshinara Oving
- Keyboard : Tekhe Golo
- Flower : Neelu Medihkrü

Call to Worship Praise & Worship

Responsive Reading: Psalm 96
Mass Prayer

- Announcement
- Offertory
- Hymn No. 26 : Fairest Lord Jesus
- Message
- Hymn No. 188 : My Jesus, I Love Thee
- Benediction



VISION statement of the City Church:

City Church seeks to honor and worship Jesus Christ as Lord and the only God; and to build the Body of Christ (The Church) with all who love Him as disciples, proclaiming Him as the Savior to all nations.

AIMS of the City Church:

Worship: *To Worship God and exalt His name together as a Church.*

Fellowship: *To build the body of Christ with all who love Him through mutual sharing, help and growth.*

Evangelism: *To witness for Christ both by proclamation and by lifestyle so as to cause others to experience God’s great salvation.*

Discipleship: *To establish members as disciples of Jesus Christ through systematic Bible Studies and teaching and equip them for effective service.*

Mission: *To send out people in obedience to God’s call and command to reach the un-reached for Christ.*

- Pray for the 24th Evening lecture, for Dr. Chris Kiesling as he delivers the talk, and for all our members that we would be open to receive from God and to grow in knowledge, skill, maturity and effectiveness. *(Dr. Chris Kiesling will be teaching and ministering at different places this week. Remember him in prayer).*
- Pray for our Christian brothers and sisters across India, that in these times of great testing, they may stand firm in their faith and belief, and be bold in the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ.

PSALM 96 (Responsive Reading)

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise His name;

Proclaim His salvation day after day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; He is to be feared above all gods.

For all the gods of the nations are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and glory are in His sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, all you families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His courts.

Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."

The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; He will judge the peoples with equity.

Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for He comes, He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His faithfulness.

citychurchkoh@gmail.com, Facebook: "City Church Kohima".

Contact: 0370-2242687/ 8131862333

Church Site Construction



Highlights of the Last Week

Sunday, April 15th, 2018

Tithes: ₹ 2,08,890 Offering: ₹ 13,590 Mission: ₹ 9,500 Thanksgiving: ₹ 1,000
Building Fund: ₹ 57,000 Nagamese: ₹ 470 Total: ₹ 2,90,450

INFORMATION

- Thursday Women Fellowship at 5pm: Leader– Dr. Asunu Thong, Scripture Reading– Merenla Odyuo & Bible Study– Nini Bendang.
- Enroute today at 3pm.
- Wednesday Bible study at 5pm.
- 24th April (Tue): *An Evening with Dr. Chris Kiesling*. He will deliver a talk on the topic: "Mentoring Relationships: Discipling Young Adults and Young Families." @ Hotel Japfu, 4:30pm.
- City Church **Jumble Sales Day** in the month of May in aid of church building. (Date to be announced).