

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study # 4: Engraved Mark of Truth!
 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Daniel (Hebrew) = “God is my judge” (el = God), - *BDB Hebrew Dictionary*

The name of Daniel and the book of Daniel reminds us all that we ALL MUST stand before the judgment seat of God. God is our judge. Only God holds the keys to heaven or hell, not man.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 For we must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

It is the book Daniel that reveals the investigative judgment and when it begins. The urgent message NOW is that we are near the end of the investigative judgment. Remember the urgent message of Revelation 14:7 ... “the hour of His judgment is come!”

The book of Daniel prepares ALL who study and apply its truths to stand as faithful and righteous through Christ when their names are called to be judged before Jesus Christ in the courts of Heaven.

Revelation 12:12

... Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Satan is using EVERY possible device and means to detract, entertain, mesmerize, and deceive the masses of people especially those who profess holiness through Jesus Christ. This is NOT the time to be glued to apostasy, sin, worldliness, and the entertainers of Hollywood! Don't be a fan and fan the flames of worldliness you will get burnt!

Do you believe that we only have a short time on this earth? We are the last generation. Is your character prepared to go through a time of trouble since there was a nation? **Does your character reflect the image and glory of God?**

What is character?

Character is the distinctive intellectual and moral sum of an individual. In other words, character is who you ARE. **Character is not a belief or a profession. It is the “fruit” of who you are! Your character is a collection of your thoughts, feelings, behaviors, and habits.** It is our characters that MUST reflect the image and holiness of God in order to live eternally in the presence of holiness. **There WILL NOT be one taint or a dust particle of sin, rebellion, or apostasy in Heaven!** Our character must be formed in the image of Jesus now, living within the spiritual kingdom of God, actively doing the will of God.

How is our character's formed?

Character formation

The way your character is formed begins with your thoughts (decisions). Your thoughts influence your feelings; happy, sad, excited, or depressed. Your feelings directly influence your behavior or actions. Your behavior develops habits. Your habits, the things you do over and over again, form or “stamps” your character.

In Greek, a “kharaktēr” spelled as “character” in English “was a stamping tool, used to give something a distinctive mark.” - www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/character. This “engraved mark” reveals who you are.

Character = “Engraved mark”

This is the reason why it is very important to guard your thoughts, feelings, habits, and actions.

Your mind is the stone and your thoughts, feelings, behavior, habits are the “etching” or “stamping” tools that forms your character. But notice character ALL begins where? At the thinking level. That is the reason why WE must guard against all things that will have a negative impact on our thinking spiritually and intellectually. Your eyes, ears, noses, and mouth are the entry ways to the mind in which the devil uses to try to affect your thinking.

What is the “natural” condition of all our characters?

Psalm 1:5 - “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

Sin, the disobedience of God’s Ten Commandments, is “stamped” in all of our characters naturally. **It takes a “supernatural” stamping tool to change our character. That stamping tool of course is our wonderful Savior and Creator, Jesus Christ!**

Jesus came to transform “re-stamp” our characters in the likeness of Him.

Romans 12:2 - “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”

2 Corinthians 5:17 - “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Jesus came to save us from our sin. He came to totally transform our characters. Satan wants our characters to remain in sin. Those who remain in sin, who are stamped with the character of sin, worship the one who is responsible for sin, Satan. Your character will determine who you truly worship. Your character will determine if you will receive the mark of the beast or not. **Who is “stamping” your character? Christ or Satan?**

The Word or the World?

If your faith is not solely based on the explicit Word of God your character is being shape according to world. You are still in the bondage of sin, but Jesus wants to set you free!

Where will God “stamp” His character on those who are faithful to Him and saved into His kingdom?

Revelation 14:1, 5

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his **Father’s name [Greek=Character] written in their foreheads.**

God’s faithful will have His character “engraved” within them.

Revelation 14:5

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Those who have the character of God will be found perfect through the blood of Jesus Christ, standing before the throne of God.

Why are we studying Bible Prophecy? Just to know prophecy, history in advance, and end time events? Yes, to know those things very are important. Remember, Bible prophecy gives us hope, comfort, and

builds our faith. But most importantly the study and application of Bible prophecy helps build your character in the likeness of Jesus Christ.

The book Daniel is an old testament book of prophecy to prepare us to be ready for the second coming of Jesus.

Why is it important to have a clear understanding of the first six chapters of Daniel?

The first six chapter prepares your spiritually for the understanding and application of the second half chapters seventh through twelves of prophetic based on the foundational prophecies in Daniel chapter 2.

The first six chapters of Daniel is a classroom study on true character formation! It teaches and demonstrates how are characters are to be formed in preparation and readiness of the final crisis and the second coming of Jesus Christ!

Daniel 1 – Review

In our first two studies of Daniel chapter 1 we learned that apostasy leads to captivity and destruction. The reason why Judah went into seventy years of captivity was because of their apostasy and refusal to repent and turn from their evil ways. God pleaded with Judah through his prophet Jeremiah.

The evil kings of Judah who refused to repent were the sons and grandson of the great reformer King Josiah. They rebelled and refused to follow in their father's Godly character. As a result each one taken off the throne of by captivity of death. Jehoahaz was taken by the king of Egypt. Jehoiakim, his son, Jehoiachin and brother, Zedekiah were taken by the king Nebuchadnezzar into Babylon during their reigns.

One of the main events that sealed the fate of King Jehoiakim was when he took a scroll that had instructions and judgments concerning Judah directly from God, ripped it and through it the fire! **He did not afflict his soul as his father Josiah did when the book of the law was read to him. King Jehoiakim did the opposite.**

Zedekiah was the last king of Judah who saw prophecy after prophecy about their seventy years captivity fulfilled right before his eyes. But he refused plea after plea to repent and turn from his wickedness. In the end there was NO remedy for Zedekiah. **He refused for his character to be shaped and molded in the image of God. He was deceived and blinded by his pride and self reliance.** Judah was demolished by Babylon during the time of Zedekiah. Their beloved Solomon's temple and city of Jerusalem was reduced to a heap of rubble! **Zedekiah's sons were executed by the Babylonian in front of his face and then they ripped out Zedekiah's eye balls out of his skull! All this was the fruit or the total sum of Zedekiah's character!**

Even though Judah went into deep apostasy God still had a remnant people who remained on the foundation of God's truth. The law and the testimonies of God was etched in their character.

Remnant Purpose: Evangelism!

According to Daniel 1, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, were princes from Judah who were taken as captives into Babylon in the third year of King Jehoiakim. They were the remnant of God whose characters were ready and prepared to face the great challenges of being captives. Despite their captivity of Babylon God had a great missionary work for them to do! Even though they were captives, God set them up in their new post as evangelists in a foreign land.

Evangelism is the great work of every remnant of God. This was the MAIN purpose of Israel! The remnant faith of God was not only to reflect the character of God but also share the truth of God with others.

Review: What was their experience and upbringing that prepared their characters for the work in Babylon?

Remember they all grow up during the great revival and reformation of Judah during the reign of King Josiah. As princes of the court they knew King Josiah and the prophet Jeremiah. Their parents raised them to be faithful to God and taught them about the law and testimonies of God. They were taught to be students of God's Word. They were around 13 years old when Josiah was killed in battle. For three years they witnessed the great apostasy of the king and the people of Judah after Josiah's death. They saw the mocking of Jeremiah. They were surely disturbed and probably shaken by the murder of a servant of truth by the hands of the king, but they still remained faithful. Their characters were tested greatly in Judah before they arrived on the soil of Babylon. Their characters were already on the firm foundation of truth! They protected the avenues of their soul even in the midst of apostasy.

Students of the Prophecies of Isaiah

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were keen students of the prophecies of Isaiah. They knew the prophecy that princes of Judah will one day taken as captives to Babylon. After to showing off his stuff to the Babylon guest who mainly came to learn more about the God who healed the king and moved the earth back 10 degrees on the sun dial, what prophecy was given to king Hezekiah?

Isaiah 39:6-7

6 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD.

7 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

This prophecy was given about 95 years before Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were taken into Babylonian captivity.

They understood that mission and witness for God. The same must be true for God's remnant in the last days.

While in Babylon what were some of the words from Isaiah's book that they recalled that gave them purpose and drive to stay faithful to God regardless of their circumstances?

Isaiah 43:1, 7, 10 - 15

1 But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.

13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

14 Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.

Back to Daniel 1

After a short period of time of being brought to Babylon as captives from Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah along with others were selected to go through a special three year training in preparation to work in the royal court of King Nebuchadnezzar.

One of the first things King Nebuchadnezzar did was change their names, in hopes it will change their character in the likeness of the false gods of Babylon.

Daniel 1:6-7

6 Now among these were of the children of Judah, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah:

7 Unto whom the prince of the eunuchs gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Beltshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abednego.

Name (Hebrew) - “Shem” “an appellation [designation], as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, authority, character.” - Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary

The parents of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah gave them names that reflected the character and blessings of God. Daniel, “God is my judge”. Hananiah, “God has favored.” Mishael, “Who is what God is.” Azariah, “Jehovah has helped.” **Their parents did not just name them in hope that by chance they will display the character of their name but raised them up to reflect the character of God! They raised and educated them as soldiers of the Lord. Their house was an atmosphere of truth. They did not allow anything in their house or children’s lives that was corrupting in nature. The main center of attraction was God and His truth – the law and testimonies!**

Even though Nebuchadnezzar changed their names in honor on Babylonian God’s he could NOT change their character. Babylonian Names: Daniel - Beltshazzar: Prince Of Bel, Hananiah - Shadrach: Servant Of Sin(Moon god), Meshach-Mishael: Who is What Aku is, Azariah-Abed-Nego: Servant of Nego

What was the dietary requirements commanded from the king of ALL those selected for the special three year Babylon training from the captives of Judah including Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah?

Daniel 1:5

5 And the king **appointed** them a **daily provision** of the king's meat [food], and of the wine [alcoholic] which he drank: so nourishing them three years, that at the end thereof they might stand before the king.

Many of the among the captives from Judah, this was actually good news and probably got extremely excited! This food was from the great chefs of Babylon! The wine was fermented and aged to perfection. It was a daily menu that was the envy of the Babylonian kingdom!

What was Daniel’s response when heard the king’s dietary requirements? Did he get excited?

Daniel 1:8

8 But Daniel **purposed** in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Purpose (Hebrew) = set or appoint – BDB definition

Even though the king appointed him to eat of the king's food and wine, Daniel appointed in his heart not to be defiled with the king's food and wine! The center of your character is your "heart". What makes the spiritual "heart" is the combination of your thinking and emotions that is inline with Christ. From here flows your behavior and habits which forms your character.

Daniel's response shows the true condition of his whole heart.

Psalms 112:7-8

7 He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.

8 His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

Daniel's character is etched in the likeness of his Maker, God! His heart was "fixed".

Daniel knew that the idolatrous king's food was dedicated on the altars of the false gods of Babylon.

"Even a mere pretense (faking) of eating the food or drinking the wine would be a denial of their faith. To do this would be to array themselves with heathenism and to dishonor the principles of the law of God." Ellen White, Prophet and Kings p. 483

He also knew that these foods were not only dedicated to idols but they were foods and alcohol that had a direct negative effect on the body and mind which would have a direct influence on his character. He knew that heathen nation ate unclean foods that were prohibited by God like pigs, lobsters, and crabs (Lev 11 and Deut 14). He knew that the heathen also ate the blood and fat of animals that was forbidden by God. Daniel did not care if the food was made from world's renowned chefs in Babylon, he was not eating it nor drinking the alcohol!

1 Corinthians 10:31

31 Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17

16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Anything that goes into the mouth and digested will have a direct impact on the mind.

Wrong Eating & Drinking = Wrong Thinking & Acting. Eating and drinking is apart of character formation. "The health of the body is to be regarded as essential for growth in grace and the acquirement of an even temper. If the stomach is not properly cared for, the formation of an upright, moral character will be hindered. The brain and nerves are in sympathy with the stomach. Erroneous eating and drinking result in erroneous thinking and acting." {Ellen White, Counsels on Diet and Foods p. 404.3}

Remember God's warns us in Revelation that Babylon is fallen, is fallen and going to be destroyed. The Babylonian system of rebellion and apostasy today still serves the corrupting food and drink like the ancient king of Babylon.

Babylon = confusion. The Babylonian diet of eating and drinking confuses the mind and negatively impacts the character. Babylonian food leads to Babylonian character, along with sickness and diseases. The Babylonian diseases will lead you to the Babylonian hospital medical care system in which they will give you the Babylonian poisonous drugs of pharmacy. ALL their DRUGS have a direct effect on the entire body including the mind! Instead of curing the disease it leads to destruction and death.

Why does our nation currently have an out of control opioid crisis? Babylon's medical system of confusion. They give the highly addictive drugs to their patients for pain. What do you expect?

Tamiflu, the drug that is suppose to help fight the flu is known cause psychiatric problems especially in children. Their have been reports of hallucinations, out of control hitting, and permanent mental disorders.

When God delivered His people out of Egypt to the promise land of Canaan, what kind of dietary plan did he appoint from them to eat?

When they first came out of Egypt God provided them with a wholesome plant based diet of foods, nuts, grains, and veggies. He had them on ANEW STARTT plan! (Attitude (right) Nutrition (plant base) Exercise (walking) Water Sunshine Temperance (self-control) Air Rest (including Seventh-day Sabbath) Trust in God and Tell Somebody (Evangelism). God's diet was preparing their characters for the Canaan land. Exodus 16 is proof of this fact.

What was the Israelites main complaint?

Exodus 16:2-3

2 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness:
3 And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger.

According to verse 1 they were only in the wilderness from Egypt for ONLY one month and fifteen days (45 days). At this point they were not eating manna. They also were not eating flesh foods! They may have began their journey with many variety of fruits and veggies when they came out of Egypt, but don't stay fresh long especially in the desert. God was giving them the best, fruits, nuts, grains, seeds, and veggies. He was providing this for over million people in the desert! But they complained.

What was God's response?

Exodus 16:4

4 Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may **prove** them, whether they will walk in my law, or no.

Their complaining lead to God giving them manna everyday as a way to form and test their characters. For one evening God gave them flesh, but the next morning it was manna for the next forty years! It was food directly from God himself. Before they complained they had a variety of plant based foods.

Exodus 16:8

8 And Moses said, This shall be, when the LORD shall give you in the evening flesh to eat, and in the morning bread to the full; for that the LORD heareth your murmurings which ye murmur against him: and what are we? your murmurings are not against us, but against the LORD.

We are going to the heavenly Canaan land. In a world where foods have become corrupted by greed. Not only is the flesh corrupted but many of the processed food have poisonous chemicals in them. God is calling us back to the original and natural diet of fruits, grains, nuts, seeds, and vegetable. God originally made these foods for eating. Remember our eating and drinking has a direct impact on our character. This is a very serious matter.

The reason why the majority of professed Christians reject this message is because they still have the same murmuring attitude and character that the Israelites had in the wilderness. Their characters are not truly fixed on Jesus and His kingdom. Their flesh still has control. They rather please their corrupted tasted buds rather follow God health laws of truth! They like Israel murmur directly against the Lord!

What happened to many of the Israelites when they complained again for flesh about one year later according to Numbers chapter 11?

In **Numbers 11:1** many people were consumed by fire for complaining. But that did not stop many in the camp to complain for flesh meat! They were tired of manna! God told them they will eat flesh for a whole month, but will get sick from it. He sent quail (like chicken) as far as the eyes can see.

Numbers 11:33-34

33 And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.

34 And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted.

Why are most professed Christians sick with the worldly lifestyles diseases of diabetes, heart disease, cancers, and high blood pressure?

Exodus 15:26

26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

The disease of the Egyptians are the same diseases we have today because of the violation of God's moral and physical health laws. Every part of the human body runs on God's laws. Anything that comes and violates it the person get sick, either intentionally or not. The promise of healing comes ONLY if we go back and follow God's plan of eating and drinking and no longer defiling the body.

King of kings Table in Heaven

All of God's remnant in the last days MUST have a character like Daniel who purposed in his heart NOT to eat of the kings meat and drink his wine. We MUST purpose in our hearts not to corrupt the body and the mind that God has given to us. **Daniel was not willing to compromise to eat the corrupted foods and drink from the kings table and miss out on eating at the King of kings table!**

“Should they compromise with wrong in this instance by yielding to the pressure of circumstances, their departure from principle would weaken their sense of right and their abhorrence of wrong. The first wrong step would lead to others, until, their connection with Heaven severed, they would be swept away by temptation.”
Ellen White, Prophets and Kings, p. 483

What was Daniel request?

Daniel 1:8 (last part) "...therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself."

This was not an act of rebellion but an act to remain faithful to the God of Heaven. He knew his request was a great risk to his life.

Daniel 1:9

9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

What was the prince of the eunuchs response?**Daniel 1:10**

10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

Did Daniel give up? NO, eventhough this was a great risk to his life.

Daniel 1:11-13

11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse (plant based) to eat, and water to drink.

13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

After 10 days they were healthier than all of the others who were eating the kings food and wine. They were allowed to continue God's diet for the remainder of their three years of training.

How did God bless their faithfulness and their characters that reflected the glory of God?

Daniel 1:17

17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

After their training was complete what was the results? Let's look at the fruit!

Daniel 1:18-20

18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

The same faithful character that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah had, we MUST have in these last days. There is NO exceptions or excuses. We will find as we study Daniel, ONLY those who have this type of character WILL NOT receive the mark of the beast. They will remain on the mountain of Truth instead of being

in Babylon. Those who refuse to have this type of character WILL receive the mark of the beast and be drunk on the wine of Babylon. Eating and drinking false doctrine!

“The spirit that possessed Daniel, the youth of today may have; they may draw from the same source of strength, possess the same power of self-control, and reveal the same grace in their lives, even under circumstances as unfavorable. Though surrounded by temptations to self-indulgence, especially in our large cities, where every form of sensual gratification is made easy and inviting, yet by divine grace their purpose to honor God may remain firm. Through strong resolution and vigilant watchfulness they may withstand every temptation that assails the soul. But only by him who determines to do right because it is right will the victory be gained.” Prophets and Kings, p. 489-490

“The same mighty truths that were revealed through these men, God desires to reveal through the youth and children today. The life of Daniel and his fellows is a demonstration of what He will do for those who yield themselves to Him and with the whole heart seek to accomplish His purpose.” PK p. 490