

Standing Amid Culture's Currents

Daniel 1:1-2

Intro: Life at the Margins

'We may not often be persecuted, but we are marginalized. Faith in our culture is allowed to be privately engaging but is excluded from public life. We need to wake up to the fact that Christians live at the margins. Our society has not time for the message of Jesus, and our allegiance to Jesus as Lord puts us on a collision course with the priorities of the culture.'

Tim Chester and Steve Timmis, *Everyday Church*

The Lord has Daniel as our study so we can see his kingdom beyond what our natural eyes comprehend resulting in life with courage and hope. The book of Daniel shows us how to stand in faith in an ever-changing culture.

1. Flyover of Daniel

God used the exile to judge the faithlessness of his people. And he used the exile to highlight faith in everyday life.

2 Chronicles 36

The book of Daniel offers us a clear picture of the battleground of faith and unbelief.

2. Themes of Daniel

- God speaks and reveals
- Suffering and divine rescue
- Man's wisdom is deficient and God's wisdom rules
- Kings and kingdoms come and go, but God lasts forever and gets the praise
- Steadfast faith evidenced in courage under fire

3. The Kingdom and its King

The Kingdom revealed and anticipated in Daniel:

1. A kingdom lost
2. A kingdom coming - a rock will come
3. A king revealed in fire
4. A sovereign kingdom
5. A reckoning kingdom
6. An enduring kingdom
7. A ruling kingdom - 7:13-14
8. Forerunners to the kingdom
9. A righteous kingdom
10. The kingdom is opposed
11. A future kingdom
12. A kingdom for a particular people

Conclusion: The current of the Kingdom of Christ

Colossians 3:1-4 - *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.*

Acts 7:54-60 - *Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*

2 Timothy 4:16-18 - *At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*