

Advancing the Kingdom in Perilous Times IV

“The Diet Test”

Over the past two plus years we have seen crisis and perilous times. Some people have gained ground, some have lost ground, and some have seized ground. One thing about a crisis is you never come out the same. In crisis you may come out better, you may come out worse, but you never come out the same. No matter what conditions arise, followers of Jesus are called to find the opportunity to advance the kingdom of God in perilous times.

To advance means to accelerate the growth or progress of something or someone, such as to advance a cause.

To advance means to bring or move forward, such as to advance a pawn in chess.

To advance means to raise to a higher rank, such as to advanced from clerk to assistant manager.

Jesus' kingdom is not of this world.

Mess Daniel 1:3 The king told Ashpenaz, head of the palace staff, **to get some Israelites from the royal family and nobility —⁴ young men who were healthy and handsome, intelligent and well-educated, good prospects for leadership positions in the government, perfect specimens! —and indoctrinate them in the Babylonian language and the lore of magic and fortunetelling.**

How did Daniel advance the kingdom in perilous times?

Daniel had to pass many tests to advance in perilous times.

Daniel first passed the diet test.

When you are chosen to advance you must consume the right thing.

What are you consuming?

I

First Daniel determined in his mind not to defile himself.

To determine means to come to a decision.

KJV Daniel 1:8 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.

Amp Daniel 1:8 But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile (taint, dishonor) himself with the king's finest food or with the wine which the king drank; so he asked the commander of the officials that he might [be excused so that he would] not defile himself.

To defile means to make unclean or impure.

Bad boys like to defile pure, innocent girls.

To defile means to corrupt the purity or perfection of someone or something.

Nasty girls like to corrupt innocent, clean boys.

To defile means to make physically unclean especially with something unpleasant or contaminating.

Rotten food will spoil good food.

KJV 1 Corinthians 15:33 Be not deceived: **evil communications corrupt good manners.**

NLT 1 Corinthians 15:33 Don't be fooled by those who say such things, for "**bad company corrupts good character.**"

- Defilement is contagious.
- Holiness is a decision.

II

KJV Daniel 1:9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

God will bless you with favor when you make up your mind.

God's favor is given by divine choice.

God's favor is given for divine purpose.

God's favor is given to create divine positioning.

KJV Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh **even his enemies** to be at peace with him.

God's favor can reach oppressors, captors, and enemies.

To determine means to come to a decision.

- Be determined to start right and stay right.

III

Remember God has many people who have not compromised.

Remember your stand will attract others who stand for righteousness.

KJV Daniel 1:17 **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...**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.²¹ **And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.**

- Preferences get weaker under pressure.
- Convictions get stronger under pressure.

In the case of a conviction, the choice is tied to the understanding and conviction of what God says is the right choice vs. the wrong choice.

A preference does not necessarily have to have any Biblical influence. Instead, a preference is left up to the individual.

In God's kingdom we are to be people of conviction.

When you stand on your convictions God will stand with you. Vs 17b

- Your uncompromising righteous life will produce longevity and endurance.

Your longevity and endurance will convince others to stand.

Your longevity and endurance will connect you to different people.

Your longevity and endurance will create new relationships.

*Rhema Christian Center
Bishop La Fayette Scales
Saturday & Sunday, January 28 & 29, 2023
9:30 a.m.*