

Sermon Outline

God's Sovereignty Demands True Loyalty

Daniel 1

I. The Covenant Despised (Background study, vv. 1-4)

- a. Set Apart By God's Covenant Love...
 - i. God's just demand for loyalty (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Mark 12:28-34)
 - ii. Suzerain (greater king) and vassal (lesser king), husband and wife
- b. ...A Disloyal Nation Descends Into Idolatry
 - i. The nature of Israel's monarchy (1 Samuel 12:14-15)
 - ii. Solomon, Ahab, and idolatry as diplomacy
- c. The Faithful Are Despised By the World (vv. 1-4)
 - i. God's people defeated under faithless Jehoiakim... (vv. 1-2)
 - ii. ...and captured by heathen Babylon, in the land of Shinar (vv. 3-4)
 - iii. The faithful are chastened and humbled (cf. Daniel 9:7-8)

II. The Covenant Treasured (vv. 5-16)

- a. Enticed By an Emperor... (vv. 5-7)
 - i. A return to palace life — and a new identity (vv. 5-7)
 - ii. The dangers of a double life
- b. ...A Loyal Remnant Commits to the LORD (vv. 8-13)
 - i. Daniel resolves not to be defiled (v. 8)
 - ii. His difficult stand against temptation is challenged (v. 10)
 - iii. God will strengthen our resolve as we seek Him!
- c. The Faithful Are Treasured By God
 - i. Daniel digs in — tactfully (vv. 11-13)
 - ii. God has softened the heart of the steward (vv. 9, 14)
 - iii. The faithful are seen as better nourished than the world! (vv. 15-16)

III. The Covenant Displayed (vv. 17ff)

- a. God Gives The Loyal Greater Wisdom (v. 17-20; cf. James 1:2-8)
- b. God Gives Daniel Greater Longevity (v. 21)