

# Steadfast in a Sovereign God

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## Nurturing Our Relationship With God ♦ Daniel 1-2

### FOR THE GROWING CHRISTIAN:

Read Daniel 1:3-7. In the midst of being uprooted from their homeland, these four wise Israelite teenagers remained vigilant in their faith. They understood the objective of the enemy: which was to systematically replace their relationship with the True Living God with false wisdom and religion. Christians should be just as wise to the scheme of our enemy, Satan.

Read through the following scriptures this week and prayerfully consider how you can protect and nurture your relationship with God against the attack of the enemy.

Ephesians 6:10-18 - The real enemy is Satan working through sin in the world to pull us away from God. Prepare with God's armor before the attack.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15 - Satan will tempt with half-truths that sound good. Studying God's Word will solidify for us what the real truth is.

1 Peter 5:6-11 - Humility is confessing to God that we need His protection and trust His design for our life. This is the way to success.

### January 2025 Growth Goals

- ❑ Read the Book of Daniel.
- ❑ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ❑ Watch the Bible Project videos on the Book of Daniel (available on the website).
- ❑ Consider taking ten days this month to replace a small daily comfort or activity with scripture reading and prayer.

### FOR CHILDREN:

Do you think you're smarter than a fish? If you've been fishing you know how easily a fish can be fooled by a lure that looks like their favorite prey, or by a simple worm on a hook. Fish are pretty stupid, right? Well, sometimes people foolishly fall into sin when deceived by temptation. Read 1 Peter 5:8-9. When the prophet Daniel was a teenager, he and his friends knew the Babylonians would try to tempt them away from God, so they chose to remember and trust God through their daily activities. This kept them safe from falling for the Babylonians tricks. Be smart and protect yourself from temptation by growing closer to God each day!

### FOR THE MATURE CHRISTIAN:

Read Daniel 1:1-2. Nebuchadnezzar did not conquer Judah by his ability alone. The defeat of Jerusalem and Judah was ultimately the work of the Lord. This was not the first time, nor the last, that God used foreign kings and nations to His own end. Through Isaiah we see God use Assyria to discipline Northern Israel. God then used Babylon to judge Assyria for its sins. In Daniel we see God use Babylon to discipline Judah. Then within Daniel's lifetime God uses Cyrus of Persia to punish Babylon for its sins. God continued to direct history through the Greeks, to the Romans, to His incarnation in Jesus, to His presence in His Church! And God continues to remain in authority now and forever! Remember this truth when tempted to be troubled by the headlines of world events, and pray for God to help you be comforted by His sovereign control over history. Read Psalm 47:7-8; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17

### Weekly Memory Verse:

"To You, God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power;"

Daniel 2:23

**Weekly Affirmation:**  
**God, I Need Thee  
Every Hour!**