

Standing Tall in a Slouching Word: Daniel

Daniel's circumstances as compared to our circumstances:

1. He grew up in his country in a time of spiritual blindness.
2. He was put into a world that wanted to tap his skills but not honor his faith.
3. His fellow countrymen did not value what he valued.
4. He grew up in a time when he had little, if no, examples of what it meant to stand tall in a slouching world.
5. He lived in a time where God's wrath was closer to his world than God's mercy and grace.
6. He had **someone** teach him Biblical truth as that will come out in his story of life.

Point #1 - Standing tall in a time of governmental crisis:

(Daniel 1:1-7)

1a- **Rest** in the knowledge that God establishes and controls all governments (Daniel 1:1-2) - However, we tend to **wRestle** in these times.

See also:
(Psalms 75:6-7; Psalm 2; Daniel 2:21-22; Isaiah 45:1,5-7; John 11:49-53).

1b- **Recognize** when God is actively wiring in our lives and puts us where He wants us for His plan and glory (Daniel 1:3-4). However, we tend to want to **Rescue** (ourselves and others) in these times.

1c- **Ready** yourself for the attempted indoctrination by the world's ungodly system (Daniel 1:5-7). However, we tend to **Resign** ourselves to these influences.

NOTE: The wRestle, Rescue and Resign were provided by Mark. Thanks Mark.

Point #2 - Standing tall when facing the demand to conform to the world:

(Daniel 1:8-21)

2a - The **Resolve** (Daniel 1:8a)
Perhaps the greatest decision we can make once we believe in Christ is what our resolve will be living for Him day-by-day (2 Cor. 9:7)

2b - The **Request** (Daniel 1:8b)
Having an inward resolve means nothing if you are not going to put yourself in a situation to demonstrate that resolve.

2c - The **Redemption** (Daniel 1:9)
We can do nothing if God doesn't first redeem our suffering.

2d - The **Review** (Daniel 1:10-16)
The testing period is the darkest part of the journey that comes before any revelation of light.

2e - The **Reward** (Daniel 1:17-21)
God rewards with His favor those who diligently seek His favor.

Point #3 - Standing tall when facing a real life and death crisis:

(Daniel 2:1-16)

(Note the difficulty with the time of this event. Compare 2:1 with 1:1 and 1:5)

What does a slouching world look like?

- 3a - **Troublesome leadership** (2:1).
God stirred up trouble in the king's heart. God creates hardship and trouble in this world's leadership. (See Esther 6:1; Prov. 20:24; 21:1)
- 3b - **Unreasonable demands** (2:2-9)
The world demands more from the world system than it can supply.
- 3c - **Inadequate counsel** (2:10-11)
The philosophies and strategies and the gods of this world are inadequate to respond to the deepest concerns of man's life.
- 3d - **Outlandish reactions** (2:12-13)
When the world can't get what it wants it makes unreasonable decisions.

What does standing tall look like?

- 3e - **1). Standing tall in wisdom** (2:14)
2). Standing tall in faith (2:15-16)

Standing Tall in a Slouching Word: Daniel

Point #4 - Standing tall when needing wisdom to approach unknown problems: (Daniel 2:17-45)

4a - Solicit others' wisdom/prayers (17)

- *Proverbs 15:22
- *Proverbs 11:14
- *Proverbs 18:20

4b - Solicit God's revelation (18-)

- *Mercy - vs 18a (Heb. 4:15-16)
- *Mystery - vs 18b (James 1:5-8)
- *Might - vs 18c (Psalm 91)

4c - Praise God for His revelation (19-23) **Acknowledge:**

- *God's blessings (19)
- *God's eternity (20)
- *God's sovereignty (21)
- *God's wisdom (22-23)

4d - Solicit God for favor over man (24-25)

- *Appeasement - Proverbs 16:14
- *Patience - Proverbs 25:15
- *Respect - Romans 13:1; 1 Pet 2

4e - Solicit praise from others to honor God, not self (26-45)

- Acknowledge
- *God's wisdom (26-30)
- *God's sovereignty (31-45)

Point #5 - Standing tall when getting promoted: (Daniel 2:46-49)

5a - Daniel 2:46

When the world bows at your feet (How to handle the praise of men.)

1. Let others praise you (Prov. 27:2, 21)
2. Don't seek glory (Prov. 25:27)
3. It is foolish to self promote (2 Cor. 12:11)
4. God exalts humility (James 4:6)

5b - Daniel 2:47

When the world bows at God's feet (How to handle the praise of God from non-believers.)

1. Did this draw the king to God? (4:34ff)
2. The purpose of prophetic message is to draw people to God, not exalt the prophet (good teaching creates a Fear of the Lord).
3. We are to solicit their praise (Matt. 5:16 vs Daniel 2:20, 23, 28, 37, 44-45).

5c - Daniel 2:48

When the world promotes you to influential positions (How to handle the assimilation into the non-believer's system.)

1. What about Joseph? (Genesis 39-41)
2. What about Esther? (Esther 2-4)
3. What about Nehemiah? (Nehemiah 1)
4. How did Daniel 1 impact this moment?
4. Be part of the world, not of it (Jn 17:16).

5d - Daniel 2:49 (compare with Dan 3:30)

When the world gives you a chance to promote your friends (How to use your position to promote others of like faith.)

1. How does this compare to power today?
2. Ps 75:6,7; Dan 2:21.; James 1:9

Point #6 - Standing tall when facing pressure to follow the crowd: (Daniel 3:1-30)

When we stand tall we inspire others to stand tall, as well!!

6a - Daniel 3:1-7

1. False images need a place to *dwell* (Dura = *dwelling*) to be seen (v. 1)
2. False images use crowd sourcing to support their false premises. (v. 2-7). (Note: Satan hijacks music.)

6b - Daniel 3:8-12

1. Standing tall for good will always solicit anger from those who stand for evil (v. 8)
2. Standing tall for God means we have to *pay no attention* to those who stand for evil (v. 9-12)

6c - Daniel 3:13-18

1. When we stand tall, the world will threaten to *cancel* us (vs 13-15)
2. Those who stand tall in a slouching world stand firm only by faith in God's power, nothing else (vs.16-18) (Pro. 29:25 vs Pro. 14:26)

6d - Daniel 3:19-25

1. When the world attempts to hurt us it damages its own (vs 19-22)
2. When the world attempts to hurt us it can cause us genuine pain (vs 23-25)

6e - Daniel 3:26-30

1. Our stand is not alone (vs 25-26)
2. Our stand solicits praise (vs 27-28)
3. Our stand is rewarded (vs 29-30)

Standing Tall in a Slouching Word: Daniel

Point #7 - Standing tall when deliberating bad news to powerful people:

(Daniel 4)

7a - Daniel 4:1-3 - Mankind can sing God's praises from His lips and yet have God a long way from their hearts. (Isaiah 29:13 and Matt. 15:8)

7b - Daniel 4:4-8 - God can often speak to men in ways that stirs their minds and discomforts their hearts, but still does not awaken their spiritual hunger for Him.

- Crowds that followed Jesus - John 2:23-25
- Pharaoh - Exodus 4-10
- Saul - 1 Samuel 15

7c - Daniel 4:9-18 - God puts believers in the position to ignite the flame of truth God has already put into man's consciousness.

- 2 Corinthians 3:18-4:4
- 2 Timothy 1:6-7

7d - Daniel 4:19-27 - God gives us wisdom when we need it to interpret life for those who lack it. (James 1)

7e - Daniel 4:28-33 - Mankind does not always respond to God's Word when it is spoken (Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's entire ministry)

7f - Daniel 4:34-38 - Mankind must repent before the veil of His glory can be removed - 2 Timothy 2:24-26; 2 Corinthians 3:16

Point #8 - Standing tall by consistent love for God and His truth; not man's reward:

(Daniel 5)

8a - Daniel 5:1-4 - A son turns to folly.

- Proverbs 22:15
- Possibly 10k-15k were at this party

8b - Daniel 5:5-9 - A son is confronted.

- When God writes on the wall it should make your knees knock.
- Proverbs 21:15; 29:1
- Notice God's timing for correction (compare Daniel 5:5 with 4:30-31)

8c - Daniel 5:10-12 - Advice from the Queen

- *Pull yourself together!*
- *Seek counsel from a Godly man!*
- (See Proverbs 1)

8d - Daniel 5:13-28 - A son seeks truth:

- Acknowledge the truth sayer.
- Don't attempt to purchase truth if you lack a heart for truth (Proverbs 17:16).
- Learn lessons from the past.
- Be humble (Proverbs 11:12)
- Confess your sins (2 Timothy 2:25)

8e - Daniel 5:29 - A son rewards the truth teller.

- Proverbs 23:4,5; 11:28

8f - Daniel 5:30-31 - A son suffers for his folly.

- Proverbs 19:3
- Proverbs 18:3

Point #9 - Standing tall when facing A den of hungry lions because of your faith:

(Daniel 6)

9a - Daniel 6:1-3 - Daniel's truth telling and Godly character advance his influence.

9b - Daniel 6:4-9 - Daniel's downfall is that he lived in a way no one could find fault.

9c - Daniel 6:10 - Daniel remains truth in testimony and Godly character despite plots of entrapment and destruction.

9d - Daniel 6:11-18 - The only way the ungodly can trap a believer is to create environments that are contrary to truth.

9e - Daniel 6:19-24 - Daniel's testimony and Godly character recuses him from danger.

9f - Daniel 6:25-28 - Daniel's testimony and Godly character impacts his entire culture and society.