

Kingdom Devotion

Daniel 1

Six Dependable Actions of God

"The LORD will bring a nation against you from far away, from the end of the earth, swooping down like the eagle, . . . "They shall besiege you in all your towns, until your high and fortified walls, in which you trusted, come down throughout all your land." (Deuteronomy 28:49-51 [ESV](#))

"Behold, the days are coming, when all that is in your house, . . . shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the LORD. And some of your own sons, . . . shall be taken away, and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon." (Isaiah 39:6-7 [ESV](#))

Main Idea: God knows what He is about. He is effectively working in a broken world to bring glory to His Name. What we think about God defines how we live every day.

Quality #1: God rules over the nations.

So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above." (John 19:10-11 [ESV](#))

And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place," (Acts 17:26 [ESV](#))

Quality #2: God disciplines the unfaithful.

"God would rather have His people living in shameful captivity in a pagan land than living like pagans in the Holy Land and disgracing His name." Warren Wiersbe

"And when your people say, 'Why has the LORD our God done all these things to us?' you shall say to them, 'As you have forsaken me and served foreign gods in your land, so you shall serve foreigners in a land that is not yours.'" (Jeremiah 5:19 [ESV](#))

"And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives" . . . he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it." (Hebrews 12:5-6, 10-11 [ESV](#))

Application: Let us listen intently to the warnings of God. They are given in love so that we avoid disaster.

Quality #3: God ordains trials for His faithful.

TRUTH: God has purposes for our trials that we cannot see when we are in them. Though God often uses evil, His purposes are good. We can trust Him to be faithful to us and to never let evil take from us the blessing God establishes for us.

“For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.” (2 Corinthians 4:17-18 [ESV](#))

Quality #4: God instructs His faithful.

I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.” (John 17:14-17 [ESV](#))

Truth: If we are willing to obey, the LORD is willing to instruct us. He does not leave us in the dark about the most important issues of life.

Application: Ask the LORD to help you see all that your culture pushes you toward that defiles you spiritually. Would you take some time for that today?

Quality #5: God favors His faithful.

Truth: No one ever loses by obeying the LORD. No one. Ever.

Truth: If we learn nothing of the Gospel . . . it is that the Gospel brings eternal blessing to all who believe it. God is not calling us to forfeit personal blessing when we follow Jesus. God is calling to claim His blessing by committing to Christ as our King.

Quality #6: God commissions His faithful.

Truth: We are created by God to know Him, to love Him, to serve Him and to be used by Him to bring glory to His name in this dark world.

“Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.””(Jeremiah 9:23-24 [ESV](#))