

Daniel – the Finisher (as against *“the backslider in heart”* Proverbs 14:14)



“They brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions” Daniel 6:16¹

Daniel’s name means God is my judge². God judged Daniel favourably because the Lord calls Daniel *“greatly beloved”* 3 times, in Daniel 9:23, 10:11, 19. The expression *“greatly beloved”* is not found anywhere else in scripture.

One reason that Daniel was *“greatly beloved”* is that he was a finisher. It’s interesting that the expression *“the end,”* like you see in films, occurs 150 times in the Bible. It is found 24 times in Daniel, which is a very high number. Only Matthew exceeds Daniel, with 40 times and Matthew is twice as long as Daniel.

One reason that the expression *“the end”* occurs so often in Daniel is that Daniel prophesies in detail about the End Times. The Book of Daniel is therefore rightly seen as the Old Testament companion to the Book of Revelation³. We’ll come back to that association.

The expression *“the end”* applies to Daniel himself because as a finisher, he was there at *“the end,”* in at the finish, faithful, where God wants the Christian to be. Daniel 12:13 is the last verse in the book and the Lord says to Daniel:

“But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.”

Daniel is a good example for the Christian because God wants the Christian to be a finisher *“and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.”* Paul therefore urges the Christian to be *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;”* Hebrews 12:2 because both Jesus and Paul finished what God had for them to do, John 17:4, 2 Timothy 4:7. That’s what God wants for you and I. So how is Daniel a good example of a finisher?

One part of being a finisher is to stick with *“the scripture of truth”* Daniel 10:21. Daniel did so. Daniel 1:8 states:

“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:”

Daniel stuck with *“the scripture of truth,”* which no doubt included the Book of Leviticus with its dietary restrictions and God got him through the situation. God can get you through a situation if you stick with *“the scripture of truth.”*

The king even promotes Daniel and he becomes an adviser to 3 kings. It should be observed that Solomon, also a king, states in Proverbs 22:29 ***“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.”*** It proved true for Daniel. In principle, it can for you and I.

Daniel was a good, hard worker at his calling. So should you be. That’s part of being a finisher but it can bring challenges. Not everyone likes a good worker.

Daniel 6:4 states ***“Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.”***

Eventually, Daniel’s enemies got him ***“cast...into the den of lions”*** Daniel 6:16. Again, God got him through the situation but one reason for Daniel being cast into the den of lions was that he had to be found faithful in worship.

Daniel 6:10 states ***“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.”***

It appears therefore that Daniel was faithful in worship but note Daniel 2:46, after Daniel had interpreted the king’s dream of ***“a great image”*** Daniel 2:31.

“Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.”

That was sacrilege by both the king and Daniel. God corrects Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4 and Daniel in Daniel 6. God puts Daniel in an Acts 5:29 situation.

“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”

God in Daniel 6 tests Daniel to make sure he obeys God, not men, in worship. Faithful worship is another part of being a finisher. Daniel is found faithful.

Daniel 2, 6 have an interesting postscript in Revelation 19:10, 22:8, 9. These verses underline how Daniel and Revelation are connected, as indicated earlier. John tries to worship ***“the angel which shewed me these things”*** not once but twice. Each time the angel says ***“See thou do it not...worship God.”***

I believe that the angel is Daniel, *glorified*. That is how God fulfilled His promise to Daniel that he would ***“stand in thy lot at the end of the days.”***

Daniel was a finisher right to ***“the end,”*** even to the last page of the Bible. He was a finisher because he stuck to the scripture, was diligent in his calling and faithful in worship. That’s God’s will for the Christian. One verse that sums up Daniel’s life is 1 Corinthians 15:58. It should be memorized. Jesus said in John 14:23 ***“If a man love me, he will keep my words.”*** That’s w-o-r-d-s, words.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” May 1 Corinthians 15:58 be true for you and I.

References

¹ fineartamerica.com/featured/daniel-in-the-lions-den-emerson-l-freese-jr.html

² *New Compact Bible Dictionary*

³ *Ruckman Reference Bible*, p 1136