

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR SEPTEMBER 9

BENEFITS OF TOTAL ABSTINENCE.

LESSON TEXT—Daniel 1.
GOLDEN TEXT—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 1:8.

The book of Daniel, with the great prophecies, fulfilled and unfulfilled, one of the most interesting and important in the Bible. Without a grasp of the prophecies of this book it is absolutely impossible for one to know the New Testament and the times in which we live. Daniel gives an outline of the entire period of time from the passing of supremacy to the Gentiles in Nebuchadnezzar to the final overthrow of the Gentile empire, to the establishment of the millennial kingdom. The course, character and end of Gentile domination are given. It is that period known in Scriptures as the "times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24).

The book of Daniel falls into two parts: Part I (chapters 1 to 6), in which the prophet appears as the divinely chosen interpreter of dreams; part II (chapters 7 to 12), in which the prophet appears as the mouthpiece of God, setting forth in visions, not dreams, the times of the Gentiles. The book is written in two languages, Hebrew and Aramaic—chapter 1:1-2:3 and chapters 8 to 12 (Hebrew); chapters 2:4-4:23 (Aramaic). The part which concerns the Hebrews was written in their own tongue and the part which concerns the empires of the world is written in their tongue.

I. Daniel's Home Leaving (v. 1-4). He was carried away to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar in the first siege of Jerusalem. This was a great trial for his own heart. He seems to have been about fourteen years of age.

II. Daniel's Trials and Difficulties (vv. 5-33). It was the custom for the best of the captives to be selected and trained for service in the land of captivity. They usually selected those of the royal house for such training.

1. Change of name. Among the Hebrews names were given to children; where significant. Daniel means "God is my judge." The significance of the name there was that all problems of life were submitted to God for decision. This was the secret of Daniel's life. This purpose of his parents seems to have been instilled into his very life and being. So thoroughly did he imbibe this spirit that in all things he made God arbiter of his plans and purposes. The object no doubt in the change of name was to obliterate his national and religious connection and identify him with the heathen people. The king of Babylon evidently liked Daniel's appearance and scholarship, but was averse to his religion. It is the same today. Nations and individuals are perfectly willing to recognize and utilize the scholarship and efficiency of Christian ministers and missionaries, but are not willing to embrace their religion.

2. His conscience tested (vv. 5-8). It was with reference to the king's meat and the king's wines. It is ever to be borne in mind that conscience is the groundwork of human character. It is the law which must be followed. No doubt Daniel was taunted and laughed at for his fidelity, just as all men and women today who are loyal to their convictions must experience, for all who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall undergo persecution.

3. His religious life. This involved his refusal to eat meat and drink wine which was contrary to his teaching. Also involved his praying three times a day.

III. His Success (vv. 14-21). 1. Physical health (v. 15). Godly and temperate living pays. The king's meat and wine would have been pleasant to the palate, but would have meant compromise of conscience.

2. Mental growth (v. 20). He was ten times superior to his comrades. It is always true that those who are free from indulgence in the use of wine have clearer minds and are mentally better equipped for their work than those who indulge.

3. Social. Daniel stood before the king. No higher position of honor could have been given him.

4. Temporal. He became president of the College of Wise Men and principal minister of the nation. This position he continued to hold through several dynasties.

5. Spiritual (v. 17). Because of Daniel's loyalty to God, Nebuchadnezzar's dream was revealed to him and he was giving visions sketching the whole history of the world.

IV. The Secret of His Success. The following may be set down as the things which made Daniel successful:

1. He was conscientious. If we would succeed in the world, let us see to it that in all things we live in good conscience.

2. Loyalty to God. He made God the judge of everything that pertained to his life. No pleasure was indulged in or problem disposed of without its submission to God.

3. Decision of character. With him that which had been submitted to God was shown to be right before God, was the law of his life.

THE KITCHEN CABINET

This world's no blot for us,
Nor blank; it means intensely and it means good;
To find its meaning in my meat and drink.

OUT OF DOORS DISHES.

For the nature lover there is no pleasure equal to a meal prepared and eaten out of doors. If one has the habit, an equipment is a great convenience, getting just the lightest, most essential and most compactly packed. Potatoes and corn may be roasted in the woods and they never taste better. If one can wait until they are cooked.

The potatoes should be buried in hot ashes fully half an hour before anything else is started. If one does not care to bother to cook, or will forgo that pleasure, ice cream may be carried now in the bottles and receptacles made to conserve the temperature.

Paper plates and cups will do away with weight in carriage, and work in caring for them, as they may be burned before camp is broken, and much time is saved for more profitable amusement.

A heavy square of sheet iron is a most useful camp utensil. It may be used on which to set the various dishes while cooking over the coals or may be used as a toaster, broiler or as a grill for cakes. In fact, its repertoire has not yet been exhausted.

Long sharp sticks will be needed to roast frankfurters, or for boiling corn, as every member of the camp has some special duty to perform the preparation for the meal is shared. To be a good camper, one must not be afraid of work and the necessary preparation of the primitive man in himself when he gets into the woods, conventionalism is forgotten, and the picnicer has the excitement and fun of making fire and preparing a meal like a true savage.

Eggs may be cooked in hot water or fried after the bacon in the frying pan, and if cold boiled potatoes are at hand they may be also fried. One can eat and digest fried food in the woods, exercising and tramping, when it would cause serious trouble at other times.

Red hot coals should be ready for broiling meat. Apples, peapods, potatoes and corn all take kindly to a roasting.

After all is over, the fire burning up all rubbish, is carefully put out so that no danger of fire will result from the day's pleasure.

All things are possible, except perhaps to find an opportunity you never had.

MEATLESS DISHES.

Macaroni is one of the foodstuffs of which the average cook does not avail himself nearly so much as he might do, to an economical advantage.

As macaroni is lacking in fat, the addition of cheese or rich sauces supply that element, making it a most acceptable food.

To properly cook, it should be dropped into rapidly boiling salted water and continue boiling until the macaroni is tender. Drain and plunge it into cold water to prevent its sticking together, and then it may be dressed in various ways for the table.

Nut Loaf.—Mix together in a pint of soft bread crumbs, two tablespoons of melted butter, a half cupful of milk, salt, pepper, and poultry dressing, a half cupful of nuts, two beaten eggs, all well mixed and formed into a loaf. Bake in a shallow pan about a half hour. Serve with tomato sauce.

Rice and Cheese Timbale.—Heat a cupful of milk and add a cupful of boiled rice, one tablespoonful of butter, a half cupful of cheese, and a fourth of a teaspoonful of salt and a fourth of a teaspoonful of pepper with one egg beaten light. Pour into buttered custard cups, set in a pan of hot water and bake one hour. Drain and add a tablespoonful of butter, a half cupful of cream, and let it stand for a few minutes. Then season with mushroom catsup, salt, pepper and minced parsley. Serve it once.

Meat Substitute.—Wash a cupful of rice and cook in plenty of boiling salted water until tender. Remove the seeds and membrane from a green pepper and chop it fine, add it to the rice with a small onion, chopped, a slice of tomato and a half cupful of sweet bacon fat with salt and pepper to taste.

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