

# Sermon Reflections

---

## ***Trusting God in Troubled Times*** (Daniel 1:1-21)

Associate Pastor Stephen Boom

**Summary:** In troubled times – do not compromise; instead, be faithful to God’s Word, so that in difficult days His mercy shines through you.

### ***Four Truths for Troubled Times:***

#### **1. When it seems God is losing, know He is Lord (vv. 1-2)**

- What are situations today that could make someone think “God is losing”? What Scriptures or truths should we turn to in those moments of doubt?
- What does “be faithful to God’s Word” mean? What does that mean to you?
- How can the fact of “God being Sovereign” be welded into your being [heart, soul and mind]?

#### **2. When the world crowds in, resolve to never compromise (vv. 3-8)**

- There was an emphasis on the avoidance of compromise, especially in troubled times. What are some personal commitments that one can make to achieve success in avoiding compromise?
- In what ways does the world crowd in on us today? Are there areas in your life where you are willingly letting the world in? Where?

In the review of these Hebrew youths’ “brain washing” by the Babylonian king, there were four aspects noted: Isolation; Indoctrination; Indulgence; ‘new’ Identity. For each one of these activities, what is an opposite (but more powerful) activity that can be used in your life to counter that aspect of brain washing?

- Were any (or all?) of these four aspects [Isolation; Indoctrination; Indulgence and a ‘new’ Identity] present in the garden conversation/situation when Satan was talking with Eve?
- Where do you see isolation, indoctrination, indulgence, or new worldviews having an impact on people today? What about those in the church, or your own life?

#### **3. When you need to stand, be steadfast and shrewd (vv. 9-14)**

In your daily life today what are the absolute, non-negotiables (commitments) that you have put “in place” in your life such that in your relationship with God, with Jesus, with the Holy Spirit, with God’s Word and the church — that each of these ***will never be*** displaced from your life?

#### **4. When God sees faith, He shows His favor (vv. 15-21)**

In Daniel’s life there are recorded evidences of God’s faithfulness to Daniel. Daniel had obviously given some thought to God’s faithfulness to him no matter the circumstances and while serving under each of the four kings that reigned over Daniel. Give some thought to those evidences of God’s faithfulness and His favor to you in the troubled times [and the ‘good’ times, too!] that you have experienced in your life. Choose a few evidences where you can point to God and say unequivocally that He is the One Who blessed you or yours. Now take a moment to give thanks and praise God for His faithfulness.