BYKOTA Verse by Verse Journey Through The Book of Daniel

Week 4

Daniel 1: 4 (NASB)

and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.

Daniel 1: 5 (NASB)

The king appointed for them a daily ration from the king's choice food and from the wine which he drank, and appointed that they should be educated three years, at the end of which they were to enter the king's personal service.

Daniel 1: 7 (NASB)

Then the commander of the officials assigned new names to them; and to Daniel he assigned the name Belteshazzar, to Hananiah Shadrach, to Mishael Meshach and to Azariah Abed-nego.

Daniel 1: 8 (NASB)

But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; so he sought permission from the commander of the officials that he might not defile himself.

Question

What does it mean to "*make up your mind*" about something?

To make a firm decision or commitment that cannot be changed. To take a stand.

Question

Did Daniel allow them to change his name?

Did Daniel allow them to teach them their history and their false doctrine?

Question

Then why did Daniel decide to take a stand on not eating the king's food or drinking his choice wine?

Because it was not against the Law of God to change your name or to learn about other cultures and beliefs, but it was against the Law of God to eat food sacrificed to idols, to eat pork and to get drunk on wine.

Also, to take part in sharing the king's delicacies is to associate yourself with the king's wickedness

Psalm 141: 3-4 (NASB)

Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth; Keep watch over the door of my lips.

Do not incline my heart to any evil thing, To practice deeds of wickedness with men who do iniquity; and do not let me eat of their delicacies.

Proverbs 23: 1-3(NASB)

When you sit down to dine
with a ruler, consider carefully
what is before you, and put a
knife to your throat if you are
a man of great appetite.

Do not desire his delicacies,
For it is deceptive food.

Question

Who did Daniel speak to about his conviction to not eat the king's food or drink?

Daniel 1: 8 (NASB)

*But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank; **so he sought permission from the commander of the officials** that he might not defile himself.*

Question

This is a reference to Ashpenaz, who is in charge of the captives from Judah.

It is important to note that this man would be similar to a prison warden and would be greatly feared by the captives.

Question

What did Daniel say was the reason why he was refusing to eat the king's food and drink?

Because he did not want to defile himself!

Question

Do you think it would offend the king to be told that his choice food was defiling?

What could possibly happen to Daniel for making this statement?

Question

What can you tell about Daniel's character from this statement?

At the young age of 14 years old he was not afraid of speaking Truth.

Question

What happens when you put God first and are unashamed and not afraid to speak His Truth?

The hand of God is with you!

Question

Why did Ashpenaz not kill Daniel for insulting the king by calling his food defiling?

Daniel 1: 9 (NASB)

Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,

Question

Why did Ashpenaz not kill Daniel because he insulted the king?

Because God is in control!

Question

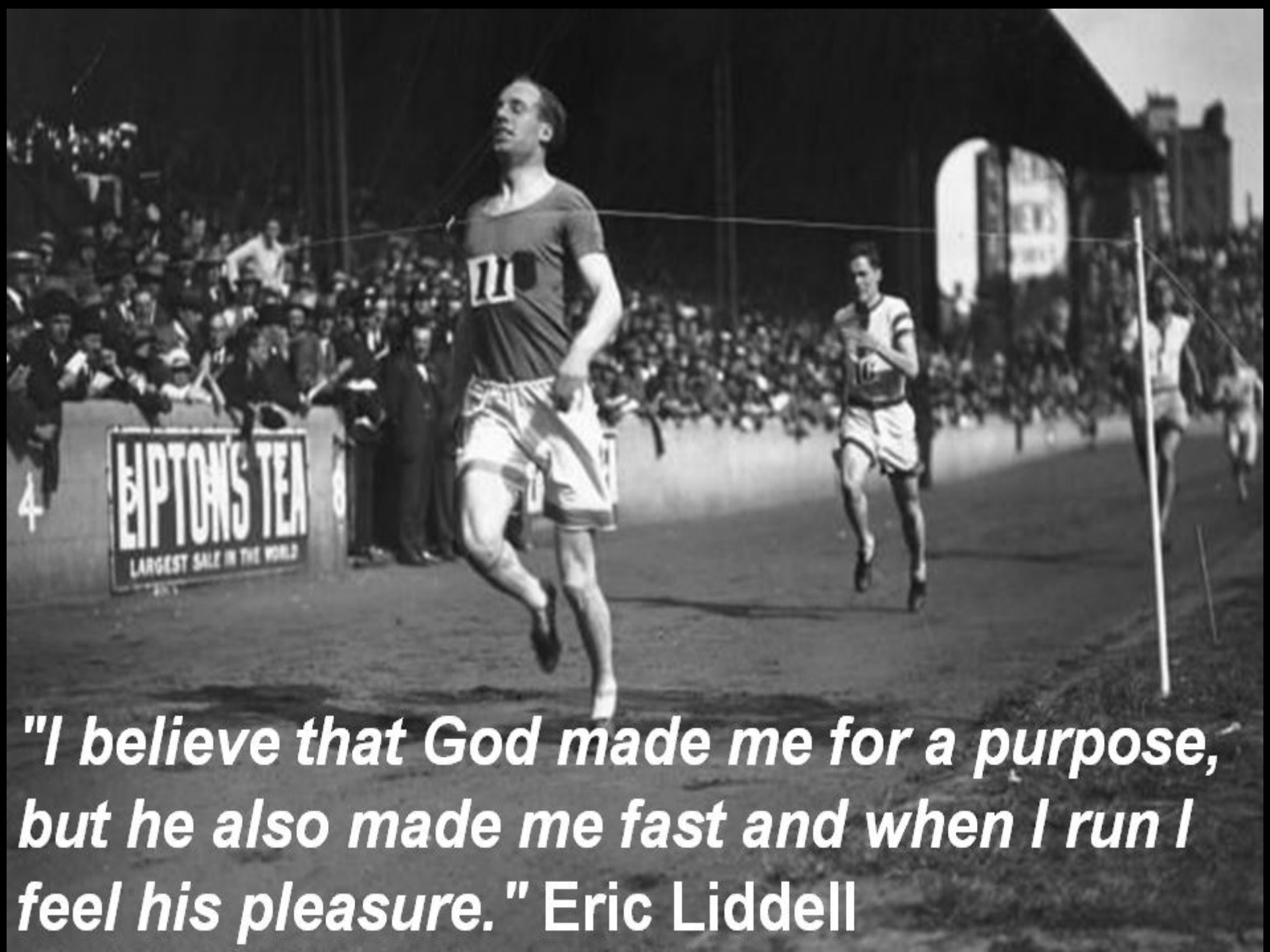
The world is in desperate need of a Daniel today. Can you think of any Daniel's?

Do you know the story of Eric Liddell

Circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously, working out His wonderful plan of love.

— Eric Liddell —

AZ QUOTES



"I believe that God made me for a purpose, but he also made me fast and when I run I feel his pleasure." Eric Liddell

Eric was the favorite to win the gold medal in the 100m race in the 1924 Olympics. Eric had been training for years for this single race.

Do you know the rest of the story?

Eric found out the 100m race was scheduled on a Sunday and as soon as he found out he made it perfectly clear that he would take no part in any race scheduled to take place on the Lord's day.

Eric said according to the Word of God Sunday was a day of rest and worship, it was not a day for sports.

Just like Daniel Eric new that if he ran this race on a Sunday, that he had trained so hard to win, he would defile himself.

Many ridiculed Liddell and others tried tried to get him to make a compromise based on the fact that the Continental Sabbath finished at midday; he replied that *"His Sunday lasted all day"!*

The British Olympic Council made an appeal to the International Olympic Committee that ‘Athletes who object to running or taking part in any Game on Sunday, be given a chance to have their race or event arranged on another day.’

In a reply dated 22 January 1924, the IOC indicated that they were not prepared to ask any other committee, or the host country, to make such changes at that point.

Eric found out that the 400m race was being ran on a Thursday and Friday so although he never ran the 400m he entered it anyway.

Do you know the result?

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TAGS

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LIDDELL FINDS SALVATION WITH RECORD-BREAKING 400M TRIUMPH

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His widow Florence later recalled that ‘Eric always said that the great thing for him was that when he stood by his principles and refused to run in the 100m, he found that the 400m was really his race.

He said he would never have known that otherwise. He would never have dreamed of trying the 400m at the Olympics.’

"The secret of my success over the 400m is that I run the first 200m as hard as I can. Then, for the second 200m, with God's help, I run harder."

Do you know how Eric Liddell died?

Eric's parents were missionaries in China and God had called him to China. During this time missionaries in China were likely to be shot without question. Eric discussed it with his wife and though it was hard to leave, he knew he was the best person to go.

Eric was captured in China for sharing the good news of Jesus and was placed in a prison camp with no running water, the bathrooms did not work, and they were given only a small bowl of soup and bread at each meal.

Eric had a stroke and died after serving almost two years in prison for Christ. During his time in prison he set up church services, schooling for the children, sporting activities, and helped take care of the sick.

Daniel 1: 10 (NASB)

and the commander of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has appointed your food and your drink; for why should he see your faces looking more haggard than the youths who are your own age?

Question

Why is Ashpenaz afraid to tell the king what Daniel has said or allow Daniel to not eat the king's food?

Daniel 1: 10 (NASB)

Then you would make me forfeit my head to the king.”

Question

Why is Daniel not worried about losing his head?

Because he knows God is in control!

Question

What do you see in someone during a crisis if they know God is in control?

Patience, confidence, peace and joy beyond understanding.

Daniel 1: 11 (NASB)

But Daniel said to the overseer whom the commander of the officials had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah,

Daniel 1: 12 (NASB)

“Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.

Daniel 1: 12 (NASB)

“Please test your servants for ten days, and let us be given some vegetables to eat and water to drink.

Daniel 1: 13 (NASB)

Then let our appearance be observed in your presence and the appearance of the youths who are eating the king's choice food; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

Question

What is Daniel clever to add to his test?

"let our appearance be observed **in your presence**"

He is protecting Ashpenaz from the king.

Question

After 10 days Daniel tells Ashpenaz to *"deal with your servants according to what you see"*. What does this demonstrate about Daniel's character?

A tremendous faith in God!

Daniel 1: 14 (NASB)

So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days. At the end of ten days their appearance seemed better and they were fatter than all the youths who had been eating the king's choice food.

Question

Why did Ashpenaz listen to Daniel?

Daniel 1: 9 (NASB)

Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,

Daniel 1: 15 (NASB)

So the overseer continued to withhold their choice food and the wine they were to drink, and kept giving them vegetables.

Question

Do you think the king knew that his orders were being disobeyed?

Who do you think was enjoying the king's choice food and wine that was supposed to be given to these young men?

Question

Who was being brainwashed by the choice food of the king?

Ashpenaz not Daniel!

Daniel 1: 16 (NASB)

As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom; Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.

Question

Why did God award these young men?

Because they refused to compromise the Truth.

Question

Daniel was given a special gift that only he received, what was it?

The ability to understand all kinds of visions and dreams.

Question

Do you think these young men knew that they had received these special gifts from God?

Does God give us special gifts today?

Daniel 1: 18 (NASB)

Then at the end of the days which the king had specified for presenting them, the commander of the officials presented them before Nebuchadnezzar.

Question

How long had the king specified they needed before being presented to him?

Three years.

Daniel 1: 19 (NASB)

The king talked with them, and out of them all not one was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's personal service.

Question

What is this describing?

An oral exam by the king to test these young men.

Question

Who passed the test?

What does it mean to enter the king's personal service?

Question

Why did they pass the test?

Daniel 1: 20 (NASB)

As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.

Question

Where did they get this great wisdom and understanding?

Daniel 1: 21 (NASB)

And Daniel continued until the first year of Cyrus the king.

How long is this?

70 years!