

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **I. INTRODUCTION**

- Daniel was among the first of the captives taken from Judah in 606 BC.
- Although we associate Daniel with visions and miracles, these miracles occurred at the end of a miracle drought.
- Realizing this we can better appreciate the faith exhibited by Daniel and his friends.
- Try to put yourself in their position.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **II. Self programming of mind**
 - **A. Test of the King's table – 1:3-20**
 - **DAN 1:8 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.**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **1. Daniel made up his mind beforehand.**
 - **a. Too often we fail tests because we don't make up our minds before we're faced with a situation.**
 - **1) Before going on a date**
 - **2) Before joking with our buddies**
 - **3) Before a deal with a dishonest business partner.**
 - **4) Before being faced with the choice of doing God's work, such as visiting the sick, and doing our own projects.**
 - **5) Before being tempted to cheat on our income tax.**
 - **6) Before our co-workers make comments that contradict our beliefs.**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **Daniel made up his mind beforehand.**
 - **b. Daniel knew of the coming situation and determined beforehand what stand he would take.**
 - **1) No one else really has our interests at heart**
 - **2) If we wait to be influenced even by good friends, in matters of faith, our interests will be compromised.**
 - **3) Like Daniel, our decision must be wholehearted**
 - **An almost resigned attitude, to be at peace with our set decision.**
 - **Similar to Daniel's three friends.**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **A. Test of the King's table (cont.) – 1:3-20**
 - **2. Took incredible courage for a young man of perhaps 20.**
 - **To confront his captor, the government of that had conquered and crushed his people.**
 - **9 Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials,**
 - **God rewarded Daniel's courage**
 - **God can do this same thing for us,**
 - **Granting us favor in the eyes of our superiors, with whom we may have difficulties.**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **A. Test of the King's table (cont.) – 1:3-20**
 - 15 And 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.
 - Nutrition or miracle?
 - 20 And 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.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **2. God blessed and preserved Daniel.**
 - **Whether providence or miracle, God is fully capable of working things out for his faithful.**
 - ROM 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to {His} purpose.
 - **Even though we don't see a solution , there is one.**
 - 1CO 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **2. God blessed and preserved Daniel.**
 - Consider the pressure Daniel may have had from the other young men, his peers.
 - This may also be considered a case study in peer pressure.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **B. The fiery furnace – 3:13-28**
 - DAN 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter."
 - This “matter” - referring to their unwillingness to submit to the command to bow to Nebuchadnezzar’s image.
 - These three are not disrespectful, but letting the king know that based on their past lives, he knows that they won't compromise.
 - 17 "If it be {so,} our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 "But {even} if {He does} not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."
 - Put their complete trust in God, without the slightest notion of how God would deliver them.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **B. The fiery furnace – 3:13-28**
 - DAN 3:19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with wrath, and his facial expression was altered toward Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego. He answered by giving orders to heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated.
 - Showing that "seven times" was a figure of speech for "maximum"
 - 25 He answered and said, "Look! I see four men loosed {and} walking {about} in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of {the} gods!"

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **B. The fiery furnace – 3:13-28**
 - **DAN 3:27** And the satraps, the prefects, the governors and the king's high officials gathered around {and} saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire {even} come upon them.
 - God did deliver them

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **III. Personal sacrifice**
 - **A. Daniel's friends were commended for giving up their bodies to God – 3:28**
 - **28 Nebuchadnezzar responded and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who has sent His angel and delivered His servants who put their trust in Him, violating the king's command, and yielded up their bodies so as not to serve or worship any god except their own God."**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **III. Personal sacrifice**
 - **A. Daniel's friends commended for giving up their bodies to God – 3:28**
 - This pagan recognized their faith as willing to give up everything.
 - Of all the things he had seen, this truly impressed him.
 - As we are too, Rom.12:1
 - **ROM 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, {which is} your spiritual service of worship.**
 - Sometimes, a bit at a time, doing God's work rather than our own.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **IV. Meekness, discretion and discernment**
 - **A. Revelation of Nebuchadnezzar's first dream – 2:14-30**
 - **DAN 2:14 Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon;**
 - Having proper respect for even a pagan king, recognizing that in fact God had allowed Nebuchadnezzar to be where he was.
 - As we aren't to speak evil of our rulers.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **IV. Meekness, discretion and discernment**
 - 18 in order that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.
 - Requesting compassion not from Nebuchadnezzar, but God.
 - Daniel's outlet for his fear was to turn his concern over to God.
 - Just as the early Christians. Acts 4:29
 - ACT 4:29 "And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Thy bond-servants may speak Thy word with all confidence,
 - Just as Hezekiah had done, II Kings 19

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **IV. Meekness, discretion and discernment**
 - 21 "And it is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men, And knowledge to men of understanding.
 - Theme of book of Daniel -> God Rules!

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **IV. Meekness, discretion and discernment**
 - 27 Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians, {nor} diviners are able to declare {it} to the king. 28 "However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind {while} on your bed.
 - Side note: Consistent with the image of the vision, the “latter days” referred to the coming of God’s kingdom during the days of Rome.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **IV. Meekness, discretion and discernment**
 - 29 "As for you, O king, {while} on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place. 30 "But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than {in} any {other} living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.
 - Daniel was very careful to set himself aside and point to God for all the credit.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **B. Daniel's prayer for his people – 9:18-19**
 - Daniel has read Jeremiah's prophecy and realizes that the 70 year captivity is almost over.
 - **DAN 9:18 "O my God, incline Thine ear and hear! Open Thine eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Thy name; for we are not presenting our supplications before Thee on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Thy great compassion. 19 "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Thine own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Thy city and Thy people are called by Thy name."**
 - Pleading for mercy not on his, or his people's merit, but God's
 - Hint: Construct our own prayers, in terms of God's interests, beginning with our own attitudes, Jam.4:3
 - JAM 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **B. Daniel's prayer for his people - 918-19**
 - **The realization of his sin, is the same attitude of a Christian. Rom.3:21-28**
 - **ROM 3:21 But now apart from the Law {the} righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even {the} righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. {This was} to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **B. Daniel's prayer for his people - 918-19**
 - **The exact attitude of a Christian. (cont.)**
Rom.3:21-28
 - **ROM 3:26 for the demonstration, {I say,} of His righteousness at the present time, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. 27 Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. 28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law.**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **B. Daniel's prayer for his people – 9:20**
 - 20 Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the \Lord\ my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God,
 - God pardons His people who confess their sins to Him. IJn.19
 - 1JO 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **V. Confidence that God is truly in control**
 - **A. The fall of Jehoakim**
 - **DAN 1:1** In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **V. Confidence that God is truly in control**
 - **A. The fall of Jehoakim**
 - It wasn't the king of Babylon, or Mardoch, who brought Jehoiakim down, but the God of His own people.
 - **As Jeremiah had foretold, Jer.32:28, 29:21, 28:14**
 - Even referring to Nebuchadnezzar as God's servant, Jer.27:6
 - JER 27:6 "And now I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, My servant, and I have given him also the wild animals of the field to serve him.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **V. Confidence that God is truly in control**
 - **B. Revelation of Nebuchadnezzar's first dream** –
2:21,37-38,44
 - DAN 2:21 "And it is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men, And knowledge to men of understanding.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **V. Confidence that God is truly in control**
 - **B. Revelation of Nebuchadnezzar's first dream** –
2:21,37-38,44
 - 37 "You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength, and the glory; 38 and wherever the sons of men dwell, {or} the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given {them} into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.
 - It was God who had set Nebuchadnezzar in place,
 - And said that He would even give him rule over the animals, Jer.27:6

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **V. Confidence that God is truly in control**
 - **B. Revelation of Nebuchadnezzar's first dream** – 2:21,37-38,44
 - 44 "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and {that} kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.
 - God's kingdom will never be destroyed.
 - Realizing that God's kingdom refers to His sovereignty, His rule, not a lineage of subjects. 4:3, 31

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **V. Confidence that God is truly in control**
 - **B. Revelation of Nebuchadnezzar's first dream** – 2:21,37-38,44
 - 47 The king answered Daniel and said, "Surely your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery."
 - Even this pagan recognized God's power, authority and sovereignty.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree - 41-37**
 - **DAN 4:1** Nebuchadnezzar the king to all the peoples, nations, and {men of every} language that live in all the earth: "May your peace abound! 2 "It has seemed good to me to declare the signs and wonders which the Most High God has done for me. 3 "How great are His signs, And how mighty are His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion is from generation to generation.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree - 41-37**
 - **DAN 4:14 'He shouted out and spoke as follows: "Chop down the tree and cut off its branches, Strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit; Let the beasts flee from under it, And the birds from its branches.**
 - **God is going to cut down the most powerful man on earth.**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree - 41-37**
 - **DAN 4:17 "This sentence is by the decree of the {angelic} watchers, And the decision is a command of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, And bestows it on whom He wishes, And sets over it the lowliest of men."**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree - 41-37**
 - 25 that you be driven away from mankind, and your dwelling place be with the beasts of the field, and you be given grass to eat like cattle and be drenched with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you recognize that the Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind, and bestows it on whomever He wishes.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree - 41-37**
 - **Seven periods is not necessarily seven units, but perhaps whatever time it takes to do the job.**
 - **Note usage of “seven” in the heating of the furnace, 3:19**
 - **Perhaps signifying a time of completion**
 - **Point – God is able to do whatever it takes to do the job.**
 - **OR perhaps there were seven phases (experiences) that he'd go through before he learned his lesson.**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree – 4:1-37**
 - DAN 4:26 'And in that it was commanded to leave the stump with the roots of the tree, your kingdom will be assured to you after you recognize that {it is} Heaven {that} rules. 27 'Therefore, O king, may my advice be pleasing to you: break away now from your sins by {doing} righteousness, and from your iniquities by showing mercy to {the} poor, in case there may be a prolonging of your prosperity.'
 - God had expectations of even this pagan.
 - Though Nebuchadnezzar wasn't under the Law of Moses, he was still under law.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree – 4:1-37**
 - **DAN 4:30 "The king reflected and said, 'Is this not Babylon the great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?'**
 - **Nebuchadnezzar's arrogant attitude.**
 - **Do we give God the credit?**
 - **Such as,**
 - » **“look at the house God has enabled me to build (or buy)”**
 - » **“God has certainly blessed me with the success of this project (job, career, business.)”**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree – 4:1-37**
 - DAN 4:31 "While the word {was} in the king's mouth, a voice came from heaven, {saying,} 'King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared: sovereignty has been removed from you,
 - Same word as "kingdom"
 - Nebuchadnezzar's subjects weren't taken away, but his rule.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree – 4:1-37**
 - DAN 4:34 "But at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; “For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom {endures} from generation to generation. 35”
 - “And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But He does according to His will in the host of heaven And {among} the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?’”

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree – 4:1-37**
 - **DAN 4:36 "At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me.**
 - **Nebuchadnezzar was reestablished following his recognition of God's rule**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **C. Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the tree – 4:1-37**
 - **DAN 4:37 "Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise, exalt, and honor the King of heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride."**
 - **Though we may not know why events (international etc.) are working out, we know that God is in control TODAY.**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **D. Downfall of King Belshazzar – 5:18,20,21,23**
 - DAN 5:18 "O king, the Most High God granted sovereignty, grandeur, glory, and majesty to Nebuchadnezzar your father.
 - 20 "But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so proud that he behaved arrogantly, he was deposed from his royal throne, and {his} glory was taken away from him.
 - We have no reason to believe that God doesn't take notice of the hearts of today's rulers, just as he did then.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **D. Downfall of King Belshazzar – 5:18,20,21,23**
 - **DAN 5:21 "He was also driven away from mankind, and his heart was made like {that of} beasts, and his dwelling place {was} with the wild donkeys. He was given grass to eat like cattle, and his body was drenched with the dew of heaven, until he recognized that the Most High God is ruler over the realm of mankind, and {that} He sets over it whomever He wishes.**
 - **Belshazzar had the same lesson to learn, but would not have the second chance his father had.**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **D. Downfall of King Belshazzar – 5:18,20,21,23**
 - DAN 5:23 but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines have been drinking wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood and stone, which do not see, hear or understand. But the God in whose hand are your life-breath and your ways, you have not glorified.
 - ACT 17:28 for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said,' For we also are His offspring.'
 - God's control isn't limited to international events
 - Our job, our health, our relationships, our lives are all within His reach.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **D. Downfall of King Belshazzar – 5:18,20,21,23**
 - vs.23 - If God expected this pagan to glorify Him, what of His children?
 - **1CO 6:20 For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.**
 - 1392g doxazo_ - to render or esteem glorious (in a wide applic (19)
 - **1PE 4:16 but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.**
 - Cause Him to be well spoken of

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **E. Vision of the four beasts – 7:1-27**
 - Representing Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece & Rome
 - DAN 7:18 'But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.'
 - 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was passed in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom.
 - God's rule means that His people will be victorious.
 - As God disposed of each of these world empires, He is able to dispose of whatever threatens His saints.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **E. Vision of the four beasts – 7:1-27**
 - **God is the final judge**
 - In the first century, Christians were maligned by the Jews and pagans
 - Today, Christians are maligned by humanists, etc..
 - Yet, it is God who will set the matter straight.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **VI. Honor in secular life**
 - **A. Failure of Daniel's enemies to find valid accusation against him. – 6:4-5**
 - **DAN 6:4 Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel in regard to government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or {evidence of} corruption, inasmuch as he was faithful, and no negligence or corruption was {to be} found in him.**
 - Do we attempt to walk blamelessly?
 - Can the same be said of our job performance?

Character Lessons from Daniel

- VI. Honor in secular life
 - Even our secular labor as a service to Christ.
 - EPH 6:5 ¶ Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart, as to Christ; 6 not by way of eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart. 7 With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **VI. Honor in secular life**
 - **DAN 6:5 Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground of accusation against this Daniel unless we find {it} against him with regard to the law of his God."**
 - **His enemies concluded that the only way to dispose of him was to use his faithfulness to God against him. - vs.5**

Character Lessons from Daniel

- VII. Upholding personal rights
 - A. Continuing to pray despite Darius's decree – 6:10-23
 - DAN 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.
 - Daniel didn't have to continue to pray three times daily as he had done, to be faithful to the law of Moses.
 - We too often, compromise our liberties to serve God in order to make peace with our fellow man.
 - In so doing, we don't stand out and don't teach by example.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- VII. Upholding personal rights
 - A. Continuing to pray despite Darius's decree – 6:10-23
 - vs.11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before his God.
 - vs.14 Then, as soon as the king heard this statement, he was deeply distressed and set {his} mind on delivering Daniel; and even until sunset he kept exerting himself to rescue him.
 - The king will want to deliver Daniel, but rather than trusting in his friendship with the king, Daniel relied on the King of kings.
 - vs.16 - Daniel is then thrown into the lion's den.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- VII. Upholding personal rights
 - A. Continuing to pray despite Darius's decree – 6:10-23
 - DAN 6:18 Then the king went off to his palace and spent the night fasting, and no entertainment was brought before him; and his sleep fled from him.
 - 20 And when he had come near the den to Daniel, he cried out with a troubled voice. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you constantly serve, been able to deliver you from the lions?"
 - This pagan king had more faith in God than many of God's own people exhibit.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- VII. Upholding personal rights
 - A. Continuing to pray despite Darius's decree – 6:10-23
 - DAN 6:21 Then Daniel spoke to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 "My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, inasmuch as I was found innocent before Him; and also toward you, O king, I have committed no crime." 23 Then the king was very pleased and gave orders for Daniel to be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no injury whatever was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.
 - The essence of Daniel's salvation and ours is trust (faith) in God.

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **VIII. Hope**

- **A. Michael's message to Daniel – 12:1-13**

- DAN 12:1 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands {guard} over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. 2 "And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace {and} everlasting contempt.

- The resurrection of ICor.15

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **VIII. Hope**
 - **A. Michael's message to Daniel – 12:1-13**
 - DAN 12:3 "And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **VIII. Hope**
 - **A. Michael's message to Daniel – 12:1-13**
 - DAN 12:13 "But as for you, go {your way} to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise {again} for your allotted portion at the end of the age."
 - **As Daniel had hope of the resurrection, so do we.**
 - Something to expect and set before us a goal.
 - How often do we think of the resurrection?
 - » Daily? As often as we would a goal?

Character Lessons from Daniel

- **IX. CONCLUSION**

- **A. From the book of Daniel, we should be better able to appreciate, emulate and cultivate:**

- **1. Predetermination - a preprogrammed mind**
- **2. Personal sacrifice**
- **3. Meekness, discretion and discernment**
- **4. Confidence in God's rule**
- **5. Honorable secular life**
- **6. Courage to stand up for our rights**
- **7. Hope**