God is in Control: Inside the Heart of Daniel
Daniel 1:1-21

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How are we to live through tumultuous political changes? What does the Bible say about living under the governance of controversial leaders? Are there insights that may help us in our day-to-day lives – when unexpected changes occur – as we find ourselves going in a direction we did not plan? Daniel the prophet lived in a foreign land where kings and empires changed multiple times. Through it all he said, in essence, "I was born during a time of reform. My heritage includes those who chose to be loyal to God. I am anchored in the Lord regardless of my circumstances. Therefore, I am assured that God is at work in and through me during times of change."

Spiritual Insights #1

1. God REFASHIONS me through change. (vv. 1-6)

2. Change is God's way to develop me (on the inside) from where I am now to where he determines me to be in the future. (vv. 3-4a)

3. Change is God's way to ground me in new experiences and new environments for extended periods of time. (vv. 4b-5)

Spiritual Insights #2

1. God REPOSITIONS me through conviction. (vv. 7-16)

2. Godly conviction creates opportunity to display God's greatness. (vv. 8-10)

3. Godly conviction creates opportunity to testify of God's power. (vv. 11-16)

Spiritual Insights #3

1. God REWARDS me through confirmation. (vv. 17-21)

2. God confirms me by revealing insights that distinguish me in service of others. (vv. 17b-20)

3. God confirms me by instilling peace in the midst of change. (v. 21)

REFLECTION

What spiritual insight relates best with you in this particular period in your life? Why? How will you apply God's word in your life this week?