

MAKE A STAND!

Make up your mind to stand for God.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ There's a quote that says, "If you don't stand for something, you'll fall for everything." This means that if you don't have strong personal beliefs and values, you can be easily influenced and misled by others.
- ❖ This phrase emphasizes the importance of having core principles to guide your decisions and maintain your integrity, preventing you from being swayed by external pressures or deceptive claims.
- ❖ The Book of Daniel begins by informing us that "...Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it" (v. 1). Nebuchadnezzar did so because the king of Judah, Jehoiakim, had stopped paying tribute to the Babylonian Empire. It was a clear act of rebellion that had Nebuchadnezzar launching a military campaign to assert Babylonian control and dominance.
- ❖ Daniel and his three friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, along with members of the royal family, were among the first group of Judeans taken captive during the first siege of Jerusalem in 605 BC.
- ❖ One can only imagine how these bright young men felt while in exile. They had been taken away from the support structures and systems they had known all their lives and were separated from their homes, friends, and family. This was done so they would abandon their old life and adopt the Babylonian lifestyle.
- ❖ Looking at it from our vantage point, we see that the world systems is designed to make you compromise your faith or lose it altogether. But while we're in the world, we're not of this world. Whether you're in school or on the job, your values will be tried and your beliefs will be tested. When those times come, make a stand!
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar's plan for Daniel and his friends was to indoctrinate them through the Babylonian style of conversion—seduction. They would wow captives by the glory of the city, waterways and roads, by the beauty of the gardens and by the grandeur of the architecture that included their 43 temples.
- ❖ Babylon wanted to capture the hearts and minds of the next generation and to wipe out any conviction in the living God. But Daniel and his friends stayed true to what they had learned in Jerusalem. Though they were in exile, their hearts were sold out to the One True God.
- ❖ In today's society, we can see mental and emotional indoctrination taking place, causing people to live and speak like the world and, ultimately, become like the world. But make a stand today for godliness and holiness.
- ❖ We're told in Daniel 1:7 that the chief official gave Daniel and his friends new names because they were trying to change their identity. Their names reflected their faith and belief in God, with Daniel meaning "God is my judge", Hananiah "Yahweh is gracious", Mishael "Who is like God?" and Azariah meaning "Yahweh has helped" or "The help of Yahweh".

KEY SCRIPTURE: Daniel 1:1-8

(all scripture in NIV unless otherwise noted)

- ❖ The new names given to them also had meaning, with Daniel being renamed Belteshazzar ("Bel protect the King or Bel's prince"—Bel referring to a Babylonian deity), Hananiah being renamed Shadrach ("under the command of Aku"—the moon god), Mishael being renamed Meshach ("who is like Aku"), and Azariah to Abednego ("servant of Nebo"—the god of wisdom).
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar knew the impact of the spiritual and wanted to wipe out any reference to the living God by replacing the names with reference to pagan gods. Nebuchadnezzar was using cultural acceptance to affect internal transformation.
- ❖ The world system doesn't change because the enemy of our soul doesn't change. As it was in Babylon, so it is today in 2025. Our culture wants to change our very identity in order to wipe out the existence of God, but our righteousness is in God. MAKE A STAND!
- ❖ Nebuchadnezzar attempted to reshape Daniel and his friends by enticing them with the finest food on the royal table. But Babylon was a place of pagan idolatry; the food and wine consumed in the palace had probably been used in ritual offerings to Babylonian gods. Whoever partook of such meals was therefore considered to be sharing a fellowship meal with these gods.
- ❖ Daniel and his friends knew better than to fellowship with these gods and refused to defile themselves with the King's food (v. 8).
- ❖ "Not to defile" is to resist compromising with the world and with idolatry, to choose a life of internal and external holiness in order to maintain a pure relationship with God. When we do so, God will pour out His favour on us.
- ❖ Daniel and his three friends made a stand that could have cost them their lives but God blessed them.
- ❖ We're constantly making choices in our everyday lives. Let's make a stand for righteousness, for holiness, for godliness. Stand for something or you will fall for everything. MAKE A STAND!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Discuss the following: "In today's society, we can see mental and emotional indoctrination taking place." How do we combat such indoctrination? Use Scripture to support your response.
2. Referring to Scripture, how does one get to a place of having a made up mind when it comes to the things of God? How does one stand for holiness in their everyday lives?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, I've made up my mind to take a stand—for righteousness, for holiness, for godliness. Amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🤔 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: Have there been any instances in your life (whether at school, work, etc.) where you had to "make a stand"? What happened?

AUGUST 31, 2025

Faith SANCTUARY

Feed Canada to Feed the World



Pastor:
Rev. Adrian W. Peel

"But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel...."
Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV)

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FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

PRAYER FOCUS: Personal spiritual growth.

24-hour Prayer: Monday, Wednesday – Friday;

Daily Devotions: Tuesday & Thursday @ 6:30 a.m. & 9:00 p.m.;

Departmental Prayer: Every Thursday (please check schedule)

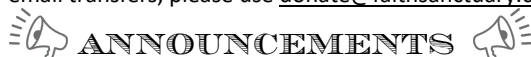
Corporate Prayer: Every Friday @ 7:00 p.m. (and in person every second Friday @ 9:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m.), Saturday morning from midnight to 3:00 a.m., and Sunday @ 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Zoom ID: 898 3191 5909 Phone Access: 647-374-4685

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

To donate online, please go to www.faithsanctuary.com/give

For email transfers, please use donate@faithsanctuary.com



FREEDOM SESSION

Freedom Session will be resuming in September.

For more information, please contact

Sis. Melva Meredith-Lewis.

PROMO VIDEO

We're filming a promo video for our upcoming Faith conference, and we want YOU to be a part of it! Come camera-ready and full of energy, and let's show the world what God is doing! For more information, contact Sis. Andrea Peel.

FAITH CONFERENCE 2025 BUILDING PEOPLE, BUILDING RESOURCES

Friday, September 19th – Sunday, September 21st, 2025

This September, join us for our Faith Annual Conference! We have a powerful weekend prepared with interactive electives during our Saturday session, and our guest speakers during the conference are Pastor Raymond Woodward and Pastor Doril Green! For more information, please contact Pastor Adrian Peel.

"Feed Canada to Feed the World"

FAITH SANCTUARY WEEKLY SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study @ 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service @ 11:00 a.m.

(Listen via phone: 1-844-268-4848)

Monday Berean Bible Study @ 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom, Facebook, YouTube)

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:30 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Friday Evening Service @ 8:00 p.m.

(In person and via Zoom)

Life Group Meetings – individually scheduled
(see ushers for information)