



## The Tale of Two Cities

January 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2019

SERIES: Daniel

SPEAKER: John Williamson (Timberlake), Josh Allen (Altavista), Theo Griffin (Downtown) STUDY GUIDE: Christopher Shafer

**Read: Daniel 1:1-2**

### Introduction to Daniel

- The secret to living as people of conviction in a culture of compromise is to live in deep SPIRITUAL INTIMACY.
- The secret to living as people of conviction in a culture of compromise is knowing that God cannot be CONTAINED in our everyday stories.
- The secret to living as people of conviction in a culture of compromise is knowing we can understand enough to know God is in CONTROL, even if we are UNCERTAIN about the SPECIFICS.

### The Tale of Two Cities (Daniel 1:1-2)

- Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon TOOK Jerusalem (v.1)
- God, the Sovereign King is ACTIVE in historical events (v.2a)
- Tension: God's FAITHFULNESS is sometimes hard to recognize (v.2b-d)

**Bottom Line:** The strongest force on earth can neither change nor stop the power and purpose of God.

### For those not yet living a Jesus-centered life

1. Choose your CITY carefully.

### For those living a Jesus-centered life

1. Choose your CITY carefully.
2. Memorize \_\_\_\_\_ promises this month. It will sustain you in hard times.
3. WRITE and SHARE about a harsh reality in your life that you've had a difficult time processing through the lens of God's sovereignty.

#### Discussion Questions:

1. Before starting this week's small group off, take 9 minutes and watch the Bible Project's overview video on the book of Daniel. This video will act as both a teaching tool and a reference point for the remainder of our study in Daniel. The link is provided below or you may simply google, "The Bible Project Daniel" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cSC9uobtPM>
2. How does the military and political background for the book of Daniel already show how good and faithful God is?
3. How should we mirror Daniel's understanding of God as "Adonai" or "Sovereign Ruler" change our perspective on politics and rulers? How have you allowed the nations raging to distract you from the eternal Kingdom you are to partake in and help grow?
4. Discuss the reality of this D.A. Carson quote, "The aim is to never become a master of the Word, but to be mastered by it." Have you been seeking to be mastered by the Word this week? Or better yet, has it even been worth your time at all?
5. What harsh reality did the Spirit remind you of that made no sense at the time, but was later used by God for His sovereign purposes? Who do you plan to tell this story to and how can the group both encourage you and hold you accountable to do that this week?
6. How has the gospel been good news to you this week?

#### Additional Resources:

Three reasons to preach through Daniel:

<https://www.9marks.org/article/3-reasons-to-preach-through-daniel/>