

REDEMPTION

— ONE AUTHOR. ONE STORY. ONE SAVIOR. —

SIDE A —

01 JOSEPH

02 JOB

03 DAVID & GOLIATH

SIDE B —

04 DANIEL

05 JONAH

06 NOAH



"He who has ears, let him hear."

MATTHEW 13:9

“What’s Your Why?”

July 27, 2026

INTRO – Love/hate relationship w/Tenet – Christopher Nolan

- When it comes to playing YOUR part in the redemption story, God outlines what your “position” or “role” looks like!

United States (2026 AD) & Babylon (587 BC)

- Hard time seeing that history repeats itself for Spiritual difficulties as well
 - The culture that opposes God primarily attacks the YA season of life
 - Shaping season
- Daniel
 - 15-18 years old when culture attempts to influence him
 - 80 years old when the culture attacks Daniel for his faithfulness
 - God has rewarded him for this! And people around him take issue with that!

Daniel 6:1-5 *It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; 2 and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. 3 Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. 4 Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was **faithful**, and no error or fault was found in him. 5 Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel **unless** we find it in connection with the **law of his God.**”*

- Over the last 60+ years we don’t see any huge “stuck between a rock and a hard place” moments for Daniel...BECAUSE of his faithfulness!
- When people can’t find fault with you because of WHAT you do, they’ll move to attacking the WHY.

What & Why

What

- Prayer

Daniel 6:10 *When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.*

- Obedience

Daniel 6:4 *Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him.*

Daniel 1:5,8 *The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. 8 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.*

- Clear example of faithfulness: steadfast loyalty, trustworthiness, and unwavering commitment...1) Over 60 years... 2) In the “position” and “role” that God put him

Why

- Daniel's priorities were different than those around him

Daniel 6:6-9,11-13 *Then these high officials and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live forever! 7 All the high officials of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an ordinance and enforce an injunction, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the injunction and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." 9 Therefore King Darius signed the document and injunction. 11 Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. 12 Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, "O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered and said, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked." 13 Then they answered and said before the king, "Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day."*

Daniel 7:13-14 *"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.*

Can people in your life find a WHAT and a WHY for the things that you do, and the way you live your life?

Matthew 6:25-33

Philippians 2:14-16 *Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.*

Exiles in this World

1 Peter 1:1,17 *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, 17 ...conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile,*

1 Peter 2:11-12 *Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. 12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.*

Where in 5th Century BC Babylon or 21st Century AD America, those walking in Christ are exiles in this world that serve a different, everlasting Kingdom.

The redemption story is not your story. We are parts and pieces in God's redemption story. God's command and purpose for our lives DO MATTER and DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE in that story.

Daniel 6:19-23,25-27 *Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. 20 As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" 21 Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! 22 My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm." 23 Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of harm was found on him, because he had trusted in his God. 25 Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. 26 I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion people are to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring forever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. 27 He delivers and rescues; he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions."*

- **Prayer (Relationship)**
- **Obedience**

[illegible]

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Daniel lived faithfully for over 60 years, and even his enemies couldn't find anything wrong with the way he lived.
 - What stands out to you most about Daniel's life?
 - Why do you think his consistency is so impressive?

2. Tonight we talked about how people eventually stopped attacking what Daniel did and started attacking why he did it.
 - What are some "WHATS" people could observe in your life? (church, serving, kindness, Bible reading, honesty, etc.)
 - If someone asked *why* you live that way, what would your answer be?

3. Daniel's priorities looked completely different from everyone around him.
Read Matthew 6:25–33.
 - What priorities does our culture constantly push to us?
 - Which of those do you find yourself chasing the most?
 - What would it look like to "seek first the Kingdom of God" this week?

4. Comparing Daniel's life in Babylon with our lives today as followers of Christ.
Read 1 Peter 2:11–12.
 - What do you think it means to be an exile without isolating yourself from the world?
 - Where do you feel the most pressure to fit into culture rather than follow Christ?

5. Daniel wasn't remembered because of one heroic moment. He was known for decades of faithfulness.
 - Why do you think we often want big spiritual moments more than daily faithfulness?
 - What's one ordinary area where God is calling you to be more faithful right now?

Examples: Prayer, Integrity at Work, Purity, Relationships, Time with God, Honesty, Forgiveness

6. Harrison ended by reminding us that we're not living for our own story - we're living as part of God's redemption story.
 - If someone watched your life for a month, would they clearly see that Jesus is your highest priority?
 - Is there an area where your "why" has become more about comfort, success, approval, or yourself than God's Kingdom?
 - What's one step of obedience you believe God is calling you to take this week?



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