

Serving God at ANY Age

YOUTH Dan 1:1-7

Dan.'s age when taken captive – *teenager?*

Dan. 1:1...10:1 = c. 70 yrs

- **Away from native land, family, religion – pagan environment**
- **Selected for serving in king's court – opportunity, pride**
- **Special educ. 3 yrs by pagans – cmpr coll. educ. today**
- **Pagan names**

YOUTH Dan 1:8 *“made up his mind”*

“purposed in heart” KJV, NKJV, ASV; **“resolved”** ESV

Contrast

- **passiveness** (to be influenced by culture, friends ...)
- **indecisiveness** (choices dependent on convenience ... consequences [difficult, unpleasant, hurt] ... circumstances) ...

Josh 24:15; 1Ki 18:21

Some NEVER choose...Some choose later after wasting years

Challenge to young people – *“make up your mind”*

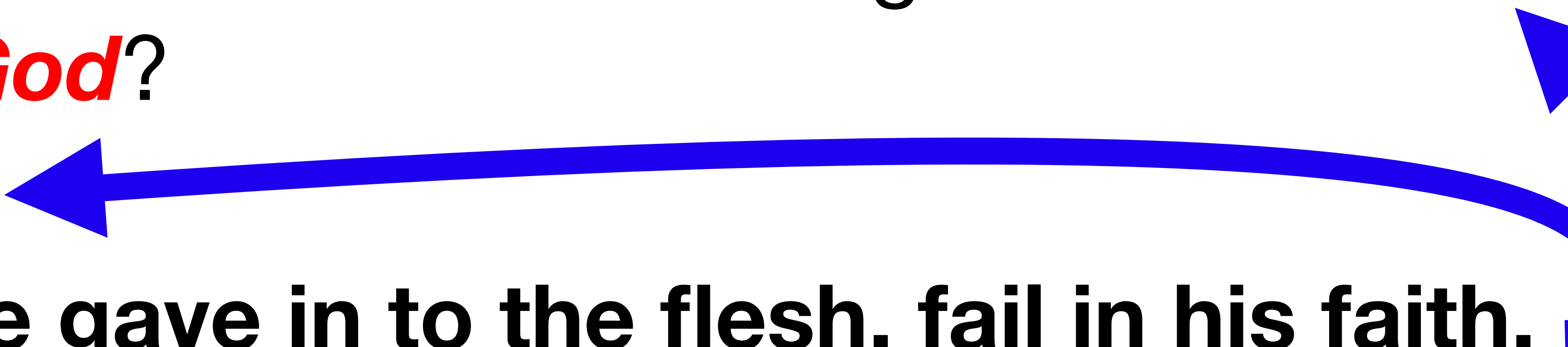
Make choices NOW ... time ... friends ... study ... prayer ...

YOUTH Dan 1:9,17 “God granted”

God involved in their lives

Others... Joseph ...
Josiah ... Jeremiah ...
Mary ... Timothy

Cmpr. Joseph – **Gen 37...39** (c. 17-28 yrs. old)

- “Lord with him”! **39:2,3,21,23**
- **39:9!** “How then could I do this great evil and **sin** **against God?**
- **45:5,7-8!** 
- What if he gave in to the flesh, fail in his faith, resolve...?

YOUR future...??

PRIME OF LIFE Dan 3:1-7... 13-18

Shadrach, Meshach, Abed-nego — ages? “men”
vv13,21,23,25,27

Others... Joshua
... John the Baptist
... Paul

Excuses ...

- Young...before us
- Usefulness if dead? Influence? Represent Jews?
- Everybody else doing it!
- Away from home
- Just this once
- He acknowledged our God (ch2) ... only fair we acknow. his

CONVICTION ruled!

SENIOR YEARS

Dan 6

Dan.'s age ... 80s?! Dan.1:1...5:30 – 66 yrs

Others...

Zacharias & Eliz.

Lk 1:6-9,13 ...

Anna Lk 2:36-37 ...

Paul – 2 Tim ...

Moses – 120 yrs old

- Still a man of integrity, **v4**
- Still a man devoted to prayer, **v10**
- Still a man who read the Scriptures, **9:2**
- Still a man steadfast in spite of danger, **6:13**

Excuses ...

- Only 30 days
- Can't serve if dead!
- Not mandatory pray 3 times day
- Served God 65 years...Old man...

WHY steadfast ...

“trusted in God”! 6:23

Dt 10:12 “Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul!”

Mt 22:36-38 “‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?’ And He said to him, ‘YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. This is the great and foremost commandment.’”

