

THE GREATEST WANT OF THE WORLD

The greatest want of the world is the want of men-- men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall.

—Ed 57.3

The history of Joseph and Daniel is an illustration of what He will do for those who yield themselves to Him and with the whole heart seek to accomplish His purpose.

—Ed 57.2

FAMILY HISTORY

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- Both came from God-fearing homes.
- *In his childhood, Joseph had been taught the love and fear of God. [Ed 52.1]*
- *Daniel and his companions had been faithfully instructed in the principles of the word of God. [Ed 55.1]*
- *A well-ordered Christian household is a powerful argument in favor of the reality of the Christian religion—an argument that the infidel cannot gainsay. [PP 144.3]*

FAMILY HISTORY

- Both came from God-fearing homes.
- Both were brought up in country homes, and later went to minister in the cities.
- Both were taught their Bibles.
- Both learned faithfulness in the little things.
- Both developed a deep, personal connection with God.
- Daniel's Family vs. Joseph's Family

JOSEPH'S FAMILY HISTORY

- Lying (Abraham, Isaac, Laban, Jacob)
- Polygamy (Abraham, Jacob)
- Jealousy & Backbiting (Sarah/Hagar, Rachel/Leah)
- Sexual immorality (Reuben, Judah)
- Genocide (Levi, Simeon)
- Parental Favoritism (Jacob)
- Selling a brother into slavery (10 brothers)
- Many inherited and cultivated tendencies to evil

FAMILY DYSFUNCTION

- It is possible for a home to have severe dysfunction even though God is taught. (i.e. Eli with Hophni and Phinehas, Lot and his children, Saul and Jonathan.)
- It is possible to have a peaceful and well-ordered home where God is absent.
- God is able to save even in such cases!

God has not left us to battle with evil in our own finite strength. Whatever may be our inherited or cultivated tendencies to wrong, we can overcome through the power that He is ready to impart.

—MH 176.1

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

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- Both became slaves.
- Both excelled in their “academic” education.
- Both thrived in environments hostile to spiritual growth.
- Both were falsely accused as a direct result of their fidelity to God.
- Both were faithful under intense temptation.
- Both were faithful unto death.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- Both interpreted dreams.
- Both became advisors to kings.
- Both were honored in the eyes of God and man.
- Both exhibited excellence in all facets of life.
- Neither were rebuked for any sin in Scripture.
- Both were victims of the cruelest injustice and oppression.
- Both received wealth, prestige, position, and power.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

- Neither allowed themselves to be defined by their victimhood.
- Neither did they allow themselves to be defined by their privilege.
- They identified as sons and servants of the Living God.

HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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- Joseph saved the most powerful nation in the world from famine, and in so doing saved the Hebrew race and quite literally the world.
- Daniel converted the most powerful monarch in the world from heathenism and remained in the cabinet of the kingdom that overthrew Babylon. On top of that, he became the primary apocalyptic prophet in the Bible.

HISTORY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Both men had outsized and disproportionate impacts on their societies which continues even to this day! Their contributions to the temporal and eternal good of mankind truly are immeasurable.

WHAT WAS THEIR SECRET?

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But such a character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. A noble character is the result of self-discipline, of the subjection of the lower to the higher nature—the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man.

—Ed 57.4

WHAT WAS THEIR SECRET?

- There are no advantages nor disadvantages that precludes anyone from becoming such a person today.
- Joseph and Daniel's history tells us that all are given equal opportunity to be transformed into the men and women that the world needs desperately today.

And many a lad of today, growing up as did Daniel in his Judean home, studying God's word and His works, and learning the lessons of faithful service, will yet stand in legislative assemblies, in halls of justice, or in royal courts, as a witness for the King of kings.

HOW TO DO THIS?

To effect change in the church and in society, we must first effect change in ourselves. This we cannot do on our own. Only Jesus dwelling in our heart can accomplish that impossible task.

With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.

—Matthew 19:26

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