



Cutting A New Path
Building a Better Foundation (Part 1)
(You Must Listen Before You Build)

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts... (Hebrews 3:7, NIV)

Date: March 10, 2019

Question: How well do you listen?

Text: Daniel 1:1–21 (NKJV)

Series Summary: To build a better path for your life you must do four things

1. Build a Better **You** (What decisions can you make that will make your life better?)
2. Build a Better **Vision** (How far do you see down the road? Can you see beyond your script?)
3. Build a Better **Foundation** (What are you building for yourself and those that follow you?)
 - If you wait too long and refuse to listen to good advice, you may be building bondage.
4. Build a Better **Financial Foundation** (What kind of financial foundation have you built?)

Building a Better Foundation
A Broader Look at Volume 1

1. Learn to **listen** before you build (Daniel 1:1-2, Jeremiah 25:1-11)
2. Learn how to build in a **hostile** environment (Daniel 1:3-4)
3. Learn how to **train** and be ready for a hostile environment (Daniel 1:5-21)
4. Learn in your youth to be **focused** (Daniel 3,6 and Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, don't use your age as an excuse)

I. The Results of Waiting Too Long to Listen
(Daniel 1:1-2, NKJV)

1. Judgment (God gave Jehoakim ...into his hand")

- In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the articles of the house of God, which he carried into the land of Shinar to the house of his god; and he brought the articles into the treasure house of his god.

2. Desolation (Jeremiah 25:11)

- 11 And this whole land shall be a **desolation** (*or complete emptiness*) and an **astonishment**, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. (NKJV)

Question: Why did God give King Jehoakim into the hands of an enemy?

- A. The nation was divided and could not defend itself (North and South were divided).
- B. They refused to listen to godly advice even after Jeremiah and the prophets warned them.



II. The Danger of Waiting Too Long to Listen Jeremiah 25:1–11 (NKJV)

1. You can run out of time (He had spoken to them for 23 years)

- 25:1 The word that came to Jeremiah concerning all the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah, king of Judah (which was **the first year of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon**), 2 which Jeremiah the prophet spoke to all the people of Judah and to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying: 3 “From the thirteenth year of Josiah the son of Amon, king of Judah, even to this day, this is **the twenty-third year in which the word of the Lord has come to me; and I have spoken to you**, rising early and speaking, but **you have not listened**. 4 And the Lord has sent to you all His servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, but **you have not listened** nor inclined your ear to hear.
- 5 They said, ‘**Repent now** everyone of his evil way and his evil doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord has given to you and your fathers forever and ever.

2. You can provoke God to anger

- 6 **Do not go after other gods** to serve them and worship them, and **do not provoke Me to anger** with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.’ 7 Yet **you have not listened** to Me,” says the Lord, “that you might provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt.

3. You can impact your family’s freedom

- 8 “Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘**Because you have not heard My words**, 9 behold, **I will send and take all the families of the north**,’ says the Lord, ‘and Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant, and will bring them against this land, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an **astonishment**, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.

4. You can impact your family’s joy

- 10 Moreover **I will take from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness**, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the sound of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 11 And **this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment**, and **these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years**.

Conclusion:

Next Time: How Do You Build a Better Foundation in a Hostile Environment?

Text: Daniel 1:3-4

Big Question: How do you survive in a hostile environment?