

# INSIDE THE MINORITY MINDSET

## DANIEL 7-12

Craig James was a college football analyst with Fox Sports. He was recently terminated from his job.

Craig's fireable offense came in a political debate last fall when he made an unsuccessful bid for the US Senate. In one exchange he commented that homosexuals "would answer to the Lord for their actions." He referred to homosexuality as a "choice."

There's speculation that other issues were involved in his ouster, but the explanation Fox Sports conveyed to the public were Craig's comments on homosexuality.

Evidently, the network assumed the reason that would best resonate with their viewers was their disapproval of Craig's biblical view on homosexuality.

Fox Sports realizes the biblical perspective on sexuality is no longer the majority view in our society.

America is not the Christian nation we once may've been, or some people today like to posture us to be.

If we define Christianity as Bible-inspired belief and behavior then serious Christians are the minority.

The Gallup Poll reports only one in three Americans believe you can take the Bible literally. If you're determined to live out a Bible-based faith in meaningful ways you may find the journey to be a lonely one.

Harvard professor, Mary Ann Glendon, notes an interesting contradiction. She says that on the one hand, social commentators insist that America is full of decent people with an inclination toward doing good.

Yet on the other hand, the same commentators point out how the *abortion mentality*, and *divorce mentality*, and the *porn mentality*, and the *greed mentality* have seriously eroded the American character.

Professor Glendon says you can't have it both ways. Moral erosion doesn't produce good, decent people. There comes a tipping point where the decent people get outnumbered by those invested with the evil.

Glendon says she doesn't believe we've reached the point of no return - but we're obviously getting close.

I tend to disagree. I'm afraid the numbers are no longer in favor of biblically-based moral judgments.

From 1996 to 2013 the percentage of Americans supporting same-sex marriage jumped from 27% to 54%. Today, the belief that marriage should be reserved for a husband and wife is a minority position.

In our nation's most recent election both Washington and Colorado voted to decriminalize marijuana.

In 2011 the fastest-selling paperback of all time flew off bookshelves. The novel, [Fifty Shades of Grey](#), sold 70 million copies. The story's theme revolves around sexual bondage and dominance - not exactly the Bible's view of spiritual, loving, and committed intimacy.

America may've once loved the innocence of Hannah Montana, but today Uncle Sam is twerking with Miley Cyrus. Our nation's Christian heritage is fading fast. Biblical belief and behavior is not the norm.

Novelist Walker Percy begins one of his stories with these words, "Once upon a time in the latter-day, Christ-haunted, Christ-forgetting United States..."

That's us... *"the Christ-forgetting United States."*

I'm afraid "the latter day" has become "today."

And yet, minority status is nothing new for believers in Jesus. The very first Christians were born on the heels of the execution of their leader. People alive at the time, the leaders of their community, had hands that were guilty of the blood of Jesus. The earliest Christians were born again with a target on their backs.

That remained the case throughout much of Imperial Rome. Christianity was the one, intolerable religion.

Over and over again throughout history Christians have operated as a minority... *From Papal Feudalism, to Marxist Atheism, to Islamic Fundamentalism, to European secularism...* Serious Christians practiced their faith without the sanction of the ruling majority.

Today, *in Buddhist countries, Hindu countries, Muslim countries, Communist countries, post-Christian countries* - believers live and worship amidst differing levels of tolerance and persecution - but in all these places we're outnumbered. We have minority status.

Christian missionaries to foreign fields have always understood they have to

function as a suspect minority.

For 240 years Christians in America were blessed to constitute a majority. And yet today, it's time to adjust.

A Christian minority needs a specific mindset.

And this is what we've found illustrated in the life of Daniel and his fellow Hebrews living in pagan Babylon.

Around the beginning of the 6th century BC the Babylonians conquered the city of Jerusalem. A small group of Hebrew royalty - young men of faith - were taken back to Babylon to serve in the oriental court.

Imagine Daniel and his friends surrounded all day by lewd, sexually deviant, idol-worshippers. It was a culture shock. Transitioning from Jerusalem to Babylon was like going from Bible College to Las Vegas.

Virtues applauded in Jerusalem were thought to be odd in Babylon. Daniel's devotion was misunderstood. Peers grew jealous. His faith was continually tested.

This is what we've seen over the last four weeks...

When he was pressured by the king to compromise his beliefs, Daniel “**purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.**” He swam upstream. He navigated the situation, and trusted God with the outcome

With all hope of navigation and negotiation gone, Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had a choice to make. They set their face toward the fire, and refused to bow to anyone but God.

And God's Son joined them in the furnace. We're told all that burned were the ropes that bound them.

When the handwriting appeared on the wall, and the king sent for Daniel - again the old man had nerve.

Daniel may've been in the minority, but he never doubted the supremacy of his God. The Most High God would judge King Belshazzar that very night.

And later, when the laws were used against Daniel, he remained steadfast. He didn't go looking for trouble, but when it came looking for him, he didn't back down.

Daniel maintained *his routine of holiness* and saw God deliver him in *an extraordinary way*. An angel met Daniel in the den of lions, and locked the lions' jaws.

But there was more to the faith of Daniel than what meets the eye. He had a mindset - a mentality - an outlook - that all believers in the minority should adopt.

This morning we're going to sweep through the last six chapters of Daniel, and pull out five perspectives that apply to "[A Christian Minority](#)." Here's the title of this final message, "[Inside the Minority Mindset](#)."

Let me lay out for you five main points - then we'll go back and unpack each one...

**Overarching vision.**

**Overwhelming introspection.**

**Other-worldly perception.**

**Overcoming intercession.**

**Out-of-this-world salvation.**

I realize that's a mouthful, but it sums up the mentality Christians need when they're in the minority.

The first observation you make when you read passed chapter 6 - and on into chapters 7, 8, and 9 - is the **overarching vision** that God gives to Daniel.

Remember, Daniel is an exile, a POW, a refugee. He's been displaced from the land of his fore-fathers.

He'd prefer to be home in Jerusalem, but he's half-way around the world in a pagan place. His world has been rocked. His life has been turned topsy-turvy. He desperately needs to know that God is still in control.

To some degree, that's the purpose for these visions.

God gave Daniel incredible insight into His plan for the ages. He was shown *the precision of God's sovereignty*. God does exactly as He pleases in human affairs. Nothing happens to God's people by accident.

At first glance Daniel 7-8 looks like a roster of NFL football teams. There's the *Lions, Eagles, Bears, Saints, and Rams*. We also have several kings or *Chiefs* - including the *Chief of all chiefs*, God Himself.

In Daniel 11 you have a host of invading armies. Call them *Raiders* or *Chargers*. Daniel though is a devout Jew, a *Patriot*. And there's an unnamed beast. He's "**dreadful and terrible**" - let's hope it's not the *Falcons*.

By the way, this morning's Bible study should end up lasting a little less than 50 minutes - making it a *49er*.

The parade of animals Daniel saw was a progression of mankind's self-rule. Word-dominating empires that would rise in Daniel's day, and even into the future.

His vision doesn't climax until the end of time.

Remember in chapter 2 the Babylonian King saw human government in the form of a metallic man.

Head of gold, arms of silver, etc. - *a glorious statue*.

But that came from the perspective of a pompous, prideful dictator. God sees man's attempts to rule on Earth a little differently - *as beasts rising from the sea...*

What man sees as shiny, God sees as beastly.

Daniel saw a lion or Babylon - a bear or the Medes and Persians - a leopard that represented the Greeks.

Incidentally, the leopard had wings and four heads.

Alexander the Great conquered the world in lightning speed. In just 10 years he dominated the known world.

At the age of 33 he said he "**had no more worlds to conquer.**" And when he died four "**heads**" or leaders rose in his stead. It divided Greece into four kingdoms.

The fourth beast was "**dreadful and terrible.**" It devoured the nations with "**iron teeth**" - a *Steeler* no doubt... This fourth beast was the empire of Rome.

Understand, Daniel received this vision in 533 BC. Rome didn't come on the scene until 146 BC - *nearly 400 years later*. Daniel is seeing way down the road.

In fact, this last beast speaks of more than just Rome. He sees “ten horns” - then “a little horn” - here’s a man speaking “pompous words.” This “little horn” is synonymous with a coming emperor called Antichrist.

Daniel gets this panoramic view of human history.

Then he says in **7:13**, “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him. Then 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 the one which shall not be destroyed.” In the end, the Son of Man (or our Lord Jesus) will prevail. It’s His Kingdom that’s eternal.

God elaborates on this to Daniel in verse 18, “But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever...”

This is what Daniel, and all people of faith who live in the minority, need to grasp. *Though we’re currently outnumbered - and momentum is against us - and the winds of culture blow contrary - don’t lose heart.* Jesus will prevail and He’ll give the Kingdom to His followers.

And understand these prophecies are not just some vague hope or generic predictions. They’re precise.

God is the God of yesterday, today, and forever. He knows the end from the beginning. Daniel calls Him “*the Ancient of Days*” - *but He also rules the future.*

Daniel’s visions are so precise chapter 9 predicts the exact day Jesus rode His donkey down the Mount into Jerusalem... Chapter 11 gives a play-by-play of the

Greek wars that occurred between the Testaments, and their impact on Israel... It's as if you're reading history, but it was written 300 years before it occurred.

It was God's assurance to a small band of believers in Babylon that hope was not lost. He was in control!

In the 5th century AD, when Christian Rome fell to the Goths and Vandals, Christians didn't know how to react. Rome was the center of Christianity. It was the seat of the Pope and the Church. *For Rome to fall to the barbarians - was this the defeat of Christianity?*

At the time Augustine addressed the fall of Rome in a book he entitled, "The City of God." In his book he differentiated between the *city of man* and *city of God*.

Rome was the **city of man**. Despite its Christian cathedrals, and clergy, and shrines, and trappings it was just an earthly city contaminated by man's sin.

But Christianity is the **city of God**. The Church isn't confined to a physical city. It's spiritual - it lives on in believers united in faith and in allegiance to Jesus. The *city of man* had fallen, but the *city of God* is eternal.

This lesson could also be applied to America.

It's shocking to hear someone like me say, "America is no longer a Christian country." For some of us, that probably sounds *unpatriotic - even treasonous*.

You're proud of America's glorious past, and it's Christian foundations. *The faith of the pilgrims, and the framers of the constitution, and the two Great Awakenings, and the missionary expansion launched from our shores - you want to hold on to this legacy.*

But the political apparatus called America is **the city of man**. Human entities come

and go - even those once shaped and used by God. Don't be confused, the city of God has always been bigger than America.

*Am I writing America's obituary?* Not hardly. I pray for my country that God will shake us and wake us spiritually, and bring us to faith in the living Lord Jesus.

But God isn't dressed in red, white, and blue. The American flag doesn't wave over the pearly gates.

God is on our side only when America deliberately chooses to be on His side. The *city of God* is growing today in third world countries - in Africa, Latin America, Korea. Today, South Korea is sending missionaries to evangelize America. The white man is no longer the missionary. The third world sees us as a pagan nation.

Here's my point, a Christian Minority has an **overarching vision**. We realize God's Kingdom - *the city of God* - is bigger than one nation or race. And in the end, only God's Kingdom and His people will prevail.

But notice another element to the mindset needed by a Christian Minority. Daniel responds to these mind-boggling visions with an **overwhelming introspection**. He takes a deep, long look at himself and His people.

Realize one of Daniel's contemporaries was the Prophet Jeremiah. While Daniel was in Babylon, Jeremiah was in Jerusalem. And Daniel read Jeremiah, specifically 29:10-11. *And I'll bet you've read it too...*

These verses adorn more Christian plagues, and coffee cups, and ornamental keepsakes that almost any other... Verse 11 reads, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope."

But it was verse 10 that caught Daniel's eye, "Thus says the Lord: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place."

*The Hebrews would remain in Babylon for 70 years.*

Well, **9:1** identifies the time of this writing. It's the year 535 BC, and the 70 years in captivity is almost up.

Daniel realizes the time has come. Their sentence has been served, and the Jews are about to return to their land. *But there's one bit of unfinished business...*

*The people of Israel still owe God an apology!*

Daniel knows it'll do no one any good to return to *a holy land* without *a holy heart*. Israel needs to repent, and turn from their sin - before they return to their land.

I've heard it said, "Most people would learn from their mistakes if they just admitted they made any."

In chapter 9 Daniel confesses both his sins and the sins of his nation. He prays one of the most humble and heartfelt prayers in all the Scripture.

Psalms 51:17 tells us, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and contrite heart - these, O God, You will not despise." Haughtiness is often the attitude of the majority. But minority status comes with a humility and brokenness that's beautiful to God.

Here Daniel shows us "*a broken and contrite heart.*"

In **9:5** he cries, "we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly

and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments...”

Daniel lets it all hang-out. There’s no cover-up here.

“*Sin*” means “miss the mark.” “*Iniquity*” means “warped.” “*Wickedly*” is “deliberate defiance.” “*Rebel*” is “hatred for authority.” “*Departing*” means “to thumb your nose in God’s face and ignore what He tells you.”

**And Daniel says we’ve done it all!** “*We’ve blown it. We’re warped, defiant, we hate God’s authority, and we’ve ignored God like a pompous, stuck-up little brat.*”

And this is from Daniel - *the pick of the litter*. The man with a godly resume. Not a single evil gets blamed on Daniel. Yet even in his heart, he knew he’d sinned.

Verse 8 he confesses on behalf of “kings,” “princes,” “fathers” - but he adds, “**we have sinned against you.**”

I like this summary of verses 8-9, “Shame belongs to us - but mercy and forgiveness belongs to God.”

It reminds me of the fire fighter visiting the school, explaining to the first grade class what they should do in case of a fire. “**First, you go to the door and feel if it’s hot... Second, you drop to your knees...**” He asked, “Does anyone know why you drop to your knees?”

One little boy answered, “*Sure, to ask God to get you out of the mess you’re in...*” Maybe the mess you’re in today is the direct result of your sin and stubbornness.

The only real way out is to drop to your knees!

Daniel goes on to recount some history. All the trouble that came upon Israel had been predicted in the Law of Moses. God warned them of their calamity.

Daniel prays for *a new start* in verse 17.

And he prays for mercy in verse 18, “we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies.”

Neither Daniel, nor Israel, *nor you, nor I* deserve God’s mercy, but it wouldn’t be mercy if we deserved it.

All that Daniel asks is based not on what he’s earned or deserves, but on God’s “*great mercies*” - specifically those mercies demonstrated in His Son, Christ Jesus!

Mark Twain wrote, “Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit you would stay out and your dog would go in.”

Here’s a great way to define Christianity - Christians are folks who expect to be judged on *mercy not merit*.

And notice the three exclamation points at the end of Daniel’s prayer - verse 19, “O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name.” Daniel put his heart into this prayer. He didn’t just *say prayers*, he *prayed prayers*.

When Christians are a majority - when there’s money and clout - when advances come easy - they don’t always feel the necessity to pray and confess their sin.

But when Christians are in the minority it creates the opposite attitude. “*A broken and contrite heart*” is a must. Believers in the minority want to be sure nothing in their life is blocking or impeding God’s blessing.

It prompts an *overwhelming introspection*.

And the third attitude I'd identify as part of a minority mindset is an **other-worldly perception**. Daniel was acutely attune to the spiritual realm around him...

In chapter 6 when King Darius came to the lion's den to check on his friend, Daniel told him, "My God sent His angel to shut the lion's mouth..." Daniel doesn't say he saw the angel, but he knew he was on the scene.

And this wasn't his only brush with an angel. In chapter 8 Daniel was confronted by the angel Gabriel.

Still another angel appears to Daniel in chapter 10.

Daniel just had a sensitivity to spiritual realities.

Whether it was dreams, or interpretations, or visions, Daniel traveled in the realm of the supernatural.

Babylon was one of the most impressive physical cities in the ancient world - *from its red brick pavement, to its colossal walls, to its extravagant palaces and hanging gardens...* yet Daniel lived in two worlds...

Daniel had his feet firmly on the ground in Babylon.

He was a government diplomat - a git-R-done kind of guy. He was an administrator. In fact, there were times when he occupied the highest seats of government.

Yet he prayed regularly - three times a day.

He made appointments with God he refused to break, not even to save his own skin - and God rewarded Daniel by revealing to him divine secrets, and bestowing visions, and giving him interpretations.

There must've been a rare depth to Daniel that he cultivated in his times of prayer. He took stuff to heart.

The spiritual visions he saw affected him physically.

In 7:28 he says, "As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly troubled me, and my countenance changed, but I kept the matter in my heart." After his vision in chapter 8 he writes, "I, Daniel, fainted and was sick for days..."

I think it's safe to say that **God speaks to the man who cares!** What if I had a great joke and was dying to tell it, to whom do you think I'd go... *The vast majority of you who think my jokes are corny? Or to the rare few who share my sense of humor and always laugh?*

I would go to the few folks who always laugh!

And this is how God rolls! He speaks to the person who listens - who loves His word - who wants to know His heart... The Daniels of this world seek God, but more importantly I believe God seeks out the Daniels.

Ephesians 6:12 conveys a truth that I believe Daniel knew well, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

When Christians constitute a majority, and can throw their weight around, they tend to forget this truth. They think the battle will be won at city hall, or in the election booth, or in the courts, or on the sidewalk... or through brilliant logic... clever persuasion... political maneuvers.

We forget the battle we fight is spiritual.

The Gospel of Jesus is good news. Most people, unshackled from their spiritual blinders, would run to the truth like thirsty throats on a hot day. But it's Satan that keeps them closed, and opposed, and resistant.

No country would engage in a nuclear war using conventional weapons. And for the same reasons you don't fight spiritual battles with earthly techniques.

In 2 Corinthians 10:4 Paul is adamant, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds..." *Spiritual fights against spiritual foes, are won with spiritual firepower.*

And you're far more aware of this when you're in the minority. When there's no manpower, and money, and media - when all you can do is pray - then suddenly you've done what's been most strategic all along.

This is certainly what Daniel experienced. He had an **other-worldly perception** that led to an **overcoming intercession** - another aspect of the minority mindset.

Look at the bizarre story we find in **Chapter 10**...

In Chapter 9 God makes amazing promises to Daniel and the Jewish people about their future and hope.

He says 490 years is set for Israel "to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness" - *among other blessings...*

Daniel was excited about the prospects of these new possibilities, but the timeframe was discouraging - 490 years is a long, long time. Daniel groans in 10:1, "The message was true, but the appointed time was long..."

In verse 2 he takes his concern to God. He prays, “In those days I, Daniel, was mourning three full weeks.

I ate no pleasant food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled.” For three weeks Daniel sought the Lord. No trips to Golden Corral - no snacks - for 21 days he grieved for His people. He didn't even bathe.

If it were me, three weeks with no shower, and I'd be ripe. *Here's my wife!* I'd reek to high heaven. And that's what Daniel wanted - he was after heaven's attention.

And Daniel wasn't disappointed, for on the 21st day he saw a vision of a man - a glorious man. He was probably an angel. He wore a golden belt, his face was bright like lightning, his eyes were like torches of fire, his arms and feet like polished brass... *Quite a dude!*

We're told in verse 9, “while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.” Daniel must've fainted. He passed out.

Verse 10, “Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands...” He's on all fours, still trembling and shaking.

“And he said to me, “O Daniel, man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for I have now been sent to you.’ While he was speaking this word to me, I stood trembling.” He's gone from trembling on all fours to standing and trembling.

Verse 12, “Then he said to me, “Do not fear, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand, and to humble yourself before your God, your words

were heard; and I have come because of your words.” Notice, *why the angel came?* It was due to Daniel’s words. Daniel’s prayer had moved heaven.

*Don’t think your prayers are meaningless... Or that God lures us to pray, just to keep us out of trouble... or so we’ll spend time with Him... There’s more to it than that!* Prayer is effectual and powerful. It gets stuff done.

**God responds to prayer!** It’s said, “Prayer is the slender nerve that moves the muscle of omnipotence.”

This angel would’ve never showed up if Daniel had not interceded for His people and sought the Lord.

And notice too, *when was Daniel heard by God?*

On the first day he began to pray. But this is Day 21 - three weeks later - *what took this angel so long?*

He tells us, verse 13, “But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.”

Obviously, this angel is not talking about Cyrus, the earthly king of Persia. A human - even a mighty despot like Cyrus - would be no match for an angelic creature.

In 2 Kings 19 a single angel wipes out a whole army.

Apparently, this prince of Persia was a demon dispatched by the devil with jurisdiction over the nation of Persia. Just as Christians have *guardian angels*, it seems the pagan nations have *disturbing demons*.

*And I think America’s demon is having a field day!*

When God's messenger was dispatched to Daniel he was confronted by the Prince of Persia. A struggle ensued. It was an angelic slugfest. A spiritual brawl.

This was MMA before MMA - a heavenly cage match. They were fighting it out in the spiritual octagon!

Finally on the 21st day God sent reinforcements. The angel Michael doubled teamed the Prince of Persia, and Daniel's messenger was able to break through.

Obviously, we don't see it, but I believe that right now in this room spiritual forces are slugging it out over you. They're wrestling for your attention. Demons are trying to thwart and distract you from God's Word. Angels are wanting to move you toward God's truth and grace.

But here's the provocative point. The spiritual battle lasted 21 days - the duration of Daniel's intense prayer.

It's not mentioned here, but other passages teach a correlation between prayer and spiritual breakthroughs.

If Daniel had stopped praying on Day 3, or Day 20 *would the angel have broken free and arrived on Day 21?* Perhaps not. Prayer is a key to spiritual warfare!

Here, in verse 19, the angel tells a depleted Daniel, "O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you, be strong, yes, be strong!" Daniel tells us what happened next, "So when he spoke to me I was strengthened..."

Prayer itself is a cage match. In our reaching to God we empty ourselves of ourselves - of our pride, and our strength, and our wisdom... then in turn, God fills us up with Himself - His Spirit, fresh strength, new insights.

The angel who fought the demon, strengthened Daniel. God's people always gain strength in prayer!

Trijicon Corporation is a weapons manufacturer that supplies rifle scopes to the US Army and Marines.

In its mission's statement Trijicon says it supports biblical values and morality. In fact, up until recently all of the scopes it supplied to the US Armed Forces had a code embedded behind the scope's serial number.

Notice the last six digits: "JN8:12" - or "John 8:12." The verse reads, "Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."

Trijicon's rifles have been dubbed the "Jesus Rifles."

Of course, this has created quite an uproar among opponents of Christianity. They accuse the US military of endorsing religion - giving preference to Christianity.

Well, I'm sorry, but if I'm in battle, being shot at, and I need to shoot back - I want a rifle dedicated to Jesus!

Actually, every believer does have a **Jesus Rifle** - it's called prayer! And with it I can empty a magazine of spiritual ammo exactly where I'm aiming that can *touch lives*, and *soften hearts*, and *speak truth*, and *sow love*.

Prayer is the ultimate **Jesus Rifle** - *ready, aim, fire...*

And finally, along with an **overarching vision**, an **overwhelming introspection**, an **other-worldly perception**, and an **overcoming intercession...** There's one final facet to the mindset of a Christian Minority...

We offer an **out-of-this-world salvation**.

Notice in **Daniel 12:3**, “Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.” It sounds like a description of Daniel himself.

His life shined like a twinkling star against a thick night sky. God-given wisdom made Daniel a star. He shined in a pagan land, and it gave him opportunities to turn the king, as well as many others, to the Lord.

Whether Christians find themselves in *the majority* or *the minority* this is our ultimate mission. We want to go to heaven, and we want to take someone else with us.

Sadly, there've been times in history when *Christians in the majority* tried to pressure the heathen around them to put their faith in Christ. This is probably the most *unChristian* act a person can be guilty of doing.

Jesus never forced anyone to follow Him. His overtures were always full of love and compassion.

Folks forsook all and radically followed Jesus - not because they had to - but in light of His love, truth, and beauty it was the only sensible response. Today, Jesus adds to His Kingdom by wooing folks with our witness!

Some of us grew up hoping to be a star - *in sports, or in the movies, or in music* - but it never happened...

Well, now it can! You can be a star in God's Kingdom *by shining His light and turning many to righteousness!*

I've heard it put, "It's easier to curse the darkness than it is to light a candle." The tendency of a Christian Minority is to mourn our losses, and succumb to fear.

But Jesus says no one lights a candle and hides it under a basket. You put it on a lamp, so all will see.

This was the life Daniel lived in one of the darkest places in history. This is the life you and I need to live.

Let's shine His light and offer God's great salvation.

Here's the mindset of a Christian Minority...

**Overarching vision.**

**Overwhelming introspection.**

**Other-worldly perception.**

**Overcoming intercession.**

And an **Out-of-this-world salvation.**

Let's dare to be a Daniel, and shine like stars!