

Introduction

Taken It To His Heart

Minutes after takeoff, US Airways #1549 reported a double bird strike – internally destroying both engines.

Capt. Chelsey Sullenberger initially chose to head for a nearby airport, but likely due to concerns that their altitude and airspeed would only be enough to bring them down short of airport in the densely populated city, opted instead for a water landing on the Hudson river.



After a textbook water landing that kept the plane intact and floating, ferries and then Coast Guard and NYFD rescue personnel arrived on scene whisking escaping passengers to safety. No one was killed – the most serious injuries were a very few broken bones and mild hypothermia

Passengers reported that “Sulley” was the last man out of sinking aircraft after passing up and down the aisle twice in search of anyone who could not get out.

Sullenberger had been studying the psychology of keeping airline crews functioning even in the face of crisis, said Robert Bea, a civil engineer who co-founded UC Berkeley's Center for Catastrophic Risk Management.

Bea said he could think of few pilots as well-situated to bring the plane down safely than Sullenberger.

"When a plane is getting ready to crash with a lot of people who trust you, it is a test.. Sulley proved the end of the road for that test. He had studied it, he had rehearsed it, he had taken it to his heart."



Evidence

Circumstances for Daniel & Friends

JERUSALEM FALLS

CAPTIVITY OF THE SACRED VESSELS

"to the land of Shinar"

"to the house (הַיֵּשֶׁבֶת) of his god"

"into the treasury (בֵּית אוֹצֵר) of his god"

CAPTIVITY OF THE ROYAL SONS

Notice that one verse was given for the captivity of the vessels

Here, 5 verses describe the captivity of the royal sons

What is more important to God?

EDUCATION FOR THE KING'S SERVICE

They were to be educated and indoctrinated into the ways of

Babylon so they could return to their homelands and more

effectively extend the rule of Babylon with their understanding of society and culture

CHANGE OF THE HEBREWS' NAMES

Hebrew Name & meaning	Babylonian name and meaning
Daniel: "God is my judge"	Belteshazzar: "May [the goddess] Beltis protect the king!"
Hananiah: "Yah has been gracious"	Shadrach: "Aku's command"
Mishael: "Who is what God is?"	Meshach: (probably the name of a Chaldean god)
Azariah: "Yah has helped"	Abed-nego: "servant of Nego" Nego=Nebo

Daniel's response

PURPOSED IN HIS HEART

Two Hebrew words

1. To put, place or set
2. The inner man, mind, will, heart



Lit. "to set in the inner soul"

Daniel wasn't a legalist. He wasn't just being true to dietary laws; his purpose of heart was to be true to God (a being, not a concept)

God's Interest in the Heart

- **Isa 42:24-25** "Who gave Jacob for plunder, and Israel to the robbers? Was it not the LORD, He against whom we have sinned? For they would not walk in His ways, Nor were they obedient to His law. ²⁵ Therefore He has poured on him the fury of His anger And the strength of battle; It has set him on fire all around, Yet he did not know; And it burned him, Yet he did not take it to heart."
- **Isa 57:1** "The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil."
- **Jer 12:11** "Many rulers have destroyed My vineyard, They have trodden My portion underfoot; They have made My pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. ¹¹They have made it desolate; Desolate, it mourns to Me; The whole land is made desolate, Because no one takes it to heart."
- **Mal 2:2** "And now, O priests, this commandment is for you. ²If you will not hear, And if you will not take it to heart, To give glory to My name," Says the LORD of hosts, "I will send a curse upon you, And I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have cursed them already, Because you do not take it to heart... ⁷For the lips of a priest should keep knowledge, And people should seek the law from his mouth; For he is the messenger of the LORD of hosts. ⁸But you have departed from the way; You have caused many to stumble at the law. You have corrupted the covenant of Levi," Says the LORD of hosts.

The Gifts of God

FOR THE NATION

Daniel 1:2

The Lord *gave* Jehoiakim into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar

FOR INDIVIDUALS OF A "PURPOSED HEART"

Daniel 1:9 – the gift of favor and compassion from authorities

Daniel 1:17 – the gifts of knowledge and wisdom

Ashpenaz was supposed to teach them literature (v4)

Clearly he was not the true teacher of these boys (v17)

same word for literature used in both places

In the midst of such devastating circumstances, when God gives up a corrupt nation to its enemies, He is still available to any person who will purpose to be faithful to Him

2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.”

Conclusion

Nations, churches, denominations, fellowships, cultures. They are no more the issue than were the sacred vessels taken from the temple.

It's the hearts of the royal sons and daughters that God is concerned with.

It's your motives, desires, hopes, fears. That's what He notices; that's what He longs to bring in line (into loyalty) with Himself

You don't wade through chest deep, icy cold water inside the cabin of a sinking airplane (TWICE) if your heart's just not into it.

It was Capt. Sullenberger's heart for the safety of his 150 passengers that saved their lives.

It's the condition of your heart that will get you safely into God's eternal kingdom.

Here we touch on a solemn and powerful truth. We don't have to worry about other people's hearts. He will not lose one person who's heart is loyal to Him. And He will not save one person who's heart is disloyal.

You just be concerned about your own heart.