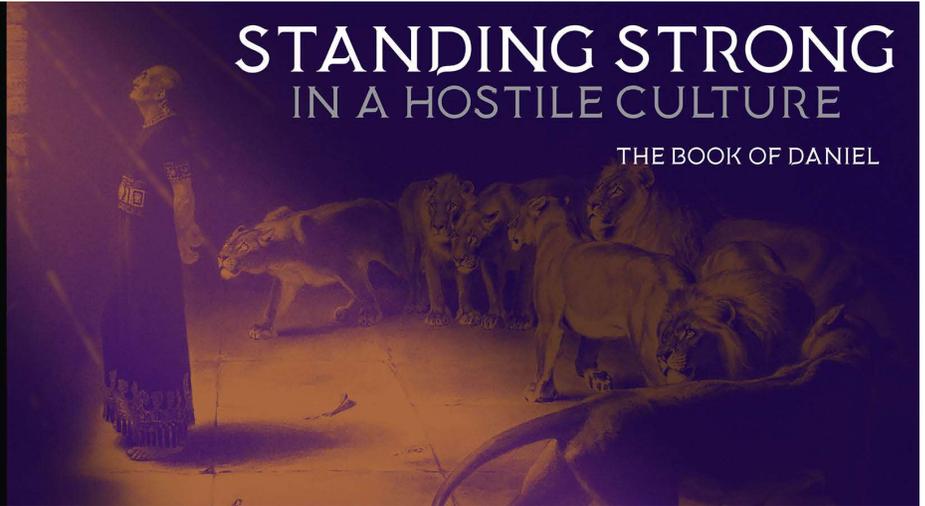


Midweek Study

Dr. Josh Franklin • Senior Pastor

STANDING STRONG IN A HOSTILE CULTURE

THE BOOK OF DANIEL



HAVE WE LOST OUR MIND?

Daniel 4:1-37

Khor Virap (Armenian for “Deep Dungeon”) is a monastery (seen in the picture) and is the believed site where **St. Gregory the Illuminator** was initially imprisoned for about 14 years by **King Tiridates III** of Armenia.

As the story goes, Gregory was the son of Anak who assassinated the father of King Tiridates, King Khosrov II. After Gregory refused to burn incense to a pagan idol, Tiridates threw him into a deep dungeon for 12-14 years and left for dead. He was only kept alive by the mercy of a woman who would come by and drop in some bread each day.

Tiridates murdered a group of Christian nuns who were fleeing persecution in Rome; and afterward went insane, vexed by demons. This was a case of lycanthropy, where some of the symptoms would be the behavior of a wild boar. Tiridates’ sister had a dream in which the only person who could free him from this vexing demon was Gregory, whom they thought was dead. They drew him out of the dungeon, he prayed for God to deliver him from the demons that tormented him, and Tiridates was fully restored to his right mind. Gregory subsequently became the king’s religious mentor, and they led the proselytizing activity in the country. **In the year 301, Armenia was the first country in the world to be declared a Christian nation.**



1) Our **Human Arrogance** Without God (4:4; 22; 30)

⁴ I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at rest in my house, and flourishing in my palace...

²² it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong; for your greatness has grown and reaches to the heavens, and your dominion to the end of the earth...

³⁰ The king spoke, saying, "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?"

- We are proud of our achievements, our abilities, and our affluence
- Read Jeremiah 9:23-24
- This pride can be seen in Satan himself in Isaiah 14:12-16.

2) The Haunting Anxiety From Our Pride (4:5)

⁵ I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts on my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

3) The Heavenly Appeal For Our Good (4:17; 27)

¹⁷ 'This decision *is* by the decree of the watchers, And the sentence by the word of the holy ones, In order that the living may know That the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, And sets over it the lowest of men.' ...

²⁷ Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by *being* righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to *the* poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity."

4) The Humiliating Affliction No Man Can Cure (4:31-33)

³¹ While the word *was still* in the king's mouth, a voice fell from heaven: "King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: the kingdom has departed from you!

³² And they shall drive you from men, and your dwelling *shall be* with the beasts of the field. They shall make you eat grass like oxen; and seven times shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, and gives it to whomever He chooses."

³³ That very hour the word was fulfilled concerning Nebuchadnezzar; he was driven from men and ate grass like oxen; his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*.

- Lycanthropy from "lukos" meaning "wolf" and "Anthropos" meaning "man".
- Boanthropy from "bos" (latin) for "cow" or "bull" and "Anthropos" meaning "man".
- Read Romans 1:18-32 – Our pride has caused our depravity and delusion.

5) The Humble Acknowledgement of a Changed Man (4:34-37; 4:1-3)

• His Private Worship (4:34-37)

³⁴ And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom *is* from generation to generation.

³⁵ All the inhabitants of the earth *are* reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

³⁶ At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.

³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works *are* truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.

• His Public Witness (4:1-3)

¹ Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.

² I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me.

³ How great *are* His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom *is* an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion *is* from generation to generation.

- See also Psalm 121:1; James 4:6; Phil 2:9-11; 1 Peter 5:5

Daniel 4:37 (NASB)– "God is able to humble those that walk in pride."