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FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 02
 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

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 INVITE A FRIEND!.....

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W E E K E I G H T
STANDING OR FALLING
 2 KINGS 20; DANIEL 7-12;
 REVELATION 17-18



NO FEAR IN BABYLON

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah faced terrible things in Babylon, yet we are given very little indication that they lived in fear. Even though they were surrounded on all sides by people of different beliefs whom they couldn't trust and were under constant threat and intimidation, **they walked with faith, courage and hope in their God when facing Babylon.**

One thing we know for certain that did cause fear for Daniel were the dreams and visions he had about end-time events (Dan. 7:15, 28, 10:8). Three times these encounters refer to "*abomination(s)*" (Dan. 9:27, 11:31, 12:11), regarding the work of the enemy. Three times the book of Revelation also repeats the word "*abomination(s)*" (Rev. 17:4-5, 21:27), describing the coming judgement and imminent **fall** of Babylon. What is depicted as a global, ruthless, pagan empire in the book of Daniel, is revealed to be a powerful demonic force in the book of Revelation.

GREAT AND GREATEST

The visions of Daniel in the Old Testament and John in the New Testament tell us that Babylon and all the strategies of the enemy will come to end at the hand of **Jesus**. (Dan. 7:9-11, Rev. 17:14, 18:21) Babylon may confuse and taunt, torture and torment, but the Lord our God is surpassingly **greater** because HE ALONE is ALL POWERFUL! The choice for us today is a matter of *standing in faith with God or falling in fear with Babylon.*

FAITH MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

First Chronicles 9:1 says, "*So all Israel was enrolled by genealogies; and behold, they are written in the Book of the Kings of Israel. And Judah was carried away into exile to Babylon for their UNFAITHFULNESS.*" (emphasis added). The children of Israel being exiled to Babylon was never a matter of God turning His back on them, but the **consequence** of them turning their backs on Him. But God is gracious and shows **mercy** which leads to repentance and restoration.

Revelation 17:14b says, "*and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and FAITHFUL.*" As Daniel and the others demonstrated, **we can all make up our minds to stand with God who has been, is, and will be faithful to us.** (Rom. 3:3-4, 1 Cor. 1:9, 10:13, 1 Thes. 5:24, 2 Thes. 3:3, 1 Tim. 1:12, Heb. 10:23) If we determine to **ALWAYS STAND for Christ, we will NEVER FALL** for the deceptions and abominations of Babylon. Through our **trust**, obedience, worship, praise, hearing, doing, being still and knowing that He is God regardless of the popularity and pressures of modern-day Babylon; we too must demonstrate our **faithfulness** to the Faithful One, Jesus Christ.

NOTES
