

In the Fire

Part 2

Daniel 1

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 delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— **4** young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. **5** The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. **7** The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

8 But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. **9** Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, **10** but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

11 Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, **12** “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. **13** Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” **14** So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

15 At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. **16** So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

17 To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. **19** The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. **20** In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

Vs. 1,2

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 delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand,

2 Kings 23:37

And he (Jehoiakim) did evil in the eyes of the Lord

Rabbinical literature describes Jehoiakim as a godless tyrant who committed atrocious sins and crimes. He is portrayed as living in incestuous relations with his mother, daughter-in-law, and stepmother, and was in the habit of murdering men, whose wives he then violated and whose property he seized.

- Jehoiakim was a wicked king...
- Jehoiakim most likely believed it would never happen that Judah would fall...
- But it fell because the Lord delivered Jehoiakim into the hands of the Babylonians...

God honors those who honor him and those who dishonor him he also dishonors...

1 Samuel 2:30 NIV

The word of the Lord to Eli the Priest:

...Those who honor me I will honor, but those who despise me will be disdained. (cursed, insignificant)

2 Timothy 2

11 Here is a trustworthy saying:

If we died with him,
we will also live with him;

12

if we endure,
we will also reign with him.

If we disown him,
he will also disown us;

13

if we are faithless,
he remains faithful,
for he cannot disown himself.

We serve a supernatural God
He is not given to political correctness or social acceptance
He is not a social activist
He is not committed to systems
He is committed to people who walk in fellowship with Him
He is Holy
He honors Relationship

Story of Jeff passing:

Proverbs 15:29

The Lord is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

1 Peter 3

12

For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous
and his ears are attentive to their prayer,
but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”

Jehoiakim took the Lord for granted and did evil in the eyes of the Lord, therefore the Lord handed him over to his enemy...

This week something happened that really caught my attention: It is all over the internet; the footage of the Turkish law maker who fell dead Monday after condemning Israel in the name of Allah?

On Dec 11th, Hasan Bitmez, a Pro-Hamas Turkish Law Maker died from a heart attack in Parliament immediately after a speech declaring Israel would face "the wrath of Allah".

Video:

- This is the kind of stuff you see in the Bible...
- This is like the 1 Kings 18 - Elijah and the prophets of baal contest of the God who answers by fire he is the Lord.
- This is like when the Holy Spirit killed Ananias and Saphirah for lying to the Holy Spirit... Acts 5
- Friends we are witnessing God honoring his covenant to Israel and his people...

God honors his agreement and covenant with us...

Vs. 3-7

3 Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— **4** young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.

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6 Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. **7** The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

The King of Babylon looked for the best of Judah...

The Spirit of Babylon in the world today is at work to do the same...

1. Ashpenaz was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians.
2. They were assigned food and wine from the king's table.
3. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

While in Slavery Babylon:

1. Took control of their language and education
2. Took control what they ate.
3. Took control of their identity. Their names

Vs. 8.9

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. **9** Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,

David Guzik comments:

"Daniel and his friends considered the king's food defiled for at least three reasons. First, it undoubtedly was not kosher. Second, it was probably sacrificed to idols. Third, eating the king's food implied fellowship with Babylon's cultural system."

- Daniel practiced restraint out of conviction and reverence for God...

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no revelation, people **cast off restraint**; but blessed is the one who heeds wisdom's instruction.

- Daniel's relationship with God was in place and that grew when in the fire of opposition and trial...
- Daniel didn't shrink back, Daniel rose up and excelled...

Vs. 9 Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,

There is a difference between pacifying the Devil and Pleasing the Lord...

I think some people get this confused
When we go along with the World - We pacify the Devil
When we allow for compromise or sin - We pacify the Devil

But when we stand like Daniel - We Please the Lord
When we step out and Honor God - We Please the Lord
When we care more about what God thinks than what man thinks - We Please the Lord...

We can't please God and pacify the devil at the same time...

Matthew 6:24

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Vs 18-20

18 At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. **19** The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. **20** In every

matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, **he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.**

Without compromise to Babylon, Daniel and the 3 Hebrew boys were ten times better than the rest...

- While walking in integrity...
- While honoring the Lord...
- While maintaining their walk with God and standing out from the crowd...
- God raised them up in spite of opposition and their unwillingness to compromise...
- God made them to shine above the rest...

Closing Song:

The book of Daniel is an old testament picture of Babylon, but the Bible speaks of another Babylon in the book of Revelation...

This tells us there is a spiritual significance to this and one that is at work in our day today...

In the book of Revelation I can't help but wonder if the Babylon mentioned isn't America

This is what it says in Revelation 18

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!”

She has become a dwelling for demons
and a haunt for every impure spirit,

a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.

3

For all the nations have drunk
the maddening wine of her adulteries.
The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,
and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive
luxuries.”

4 Then I heard another voice from heaven say:

“Come out of her, my people,
so that you will not share in her sins,
so that you will not receive any of her plagues;

5

for her sins are piled up to heaven,
and God has remembered her crimes.

6

Give back to her as she has given;
pay her back double for what she has done.
Pour her a double portion from her own cup.

7

Give her as much torment and grief
as the glory and luxury she gave herself.
In her heart she boasts,
‘I sit enthroned as queen.
I am not a widow;
I will never mourn.’

8

Therefore in one day her plagues will overtake her:
death, mourning and famine.
She will be consumed by fire,
for mighty is the Lord God who judges her.

9 “When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and mourn over her. **10** Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city,
you mighty city of Babylon!
In one hour your doom has come!’