

In the Fire Part 3

5 Days of Prayer

January 3rd-7th

6pm - 7pm

Wednesday - *Humble Hearts*

Thursday - *Repentant Hearts*

Friday - *Israel*

Saturday - *Spiritual Awakening for America*

Sunday - *Our City/Our Church*

Daniel 1

- *The Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah over to Babylon...*
- *Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah are chosen to serve King Nebuchadnezzar.*
- *Their names are changed to Belteshazzar, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego...*
- *They are taught Babylon's language and literature...*
- *They are also assigned what to eat, from the king...*

Daniel 1

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.

Vs 18-20 NIV

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 shine above the rest...

The book of Daniel could be repackaged into a modern book called “Steps to Evangelize a Pagan Culture”

1. Devotion to God
2. Honor God
3. Pray
4. Walk in Divine Revelation

Daniel 2 NIV

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. **2** So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, **3** he said to them, “I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.”

4 Then the astrologers answered the king, “May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it.”

5 The king replied to the astrologers, “This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble.

6 But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me

gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me.”

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10 The astrologers answered the king, “There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer.

11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.”

12 This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. **13** So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

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14 When Arioch, the commander of the king’s guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. **15** He asked the king’s officer, “Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?” Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. **16** At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

17 Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. **18** He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. **19** During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision.

Vs. 1

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.

- Such a thing seems so disturbing it’s hard to believe that God could be the author of it...

- I believe the Lord caused the dream and the disruption in Nebuchadnezzar's sleep...
- Such a dream was alarming... God will cause an alarm to sound in your spirit when needed...
- Such a dream caused the King to lose sleep... God is the giver of rest in the midst of a storm, like Jesus in the boat. But when things are out of sort and need to be made right, God allowed Nebuchadnezzar to wrestle with the waves in an effort to cause a spiritual awakening...

Vs. 2,3

2 So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, **3** he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means."

- The King had a dream that he couldn't shake...
- A person might forget dreams that seem to have no meaning, but when a dream is spiritual, it grips you and you don't forget...
- King Nebuchadnezzar was looking for the Lord...

Vs.5

The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble.

- The King didn't want anything counterfeit, make believe or fake...
- The King wanted something authentic and real...
- The King was looking for a word from the Lord...

Story: When the Lord spoke to me to visit Johnny Foote's Ministry

- When deep spiritual things or even demonic attacks are happening don't look to magicians, exchangers, sorcerers and astrologers...
- Don't look to tara cards, fortune tellers or horoscopes...
- Look to the Lord...
- You can't trust a devil...
- You can trust the Lord..
- Seek God for Direction...

Vs. 11,12

11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans.”

12 This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon.

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17 Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. **18** He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery,

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19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision.

Daniel's Desperate need was an invitation for God...

Daniel's Desperation caused expectation and brought a Divine Encounter...

The Lord unlocked the vault of Heaven and showed Daniel something Supernatural...

It's only by His Mercy and Grace...

Vs. 20-23 NKJV

20 Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
For wisdom and might are His.

21

And He changes the times and the seasons;
He removes kings and raises up kings;
He gives wisdom to the wise
And knowledge to those who have understanding.

22

He reveals deep and secret things;
He knows what *is* in the darkness,
And light dwells with Him.

23

“I thank You and praise You,
O God of my fathers;
You have given me wisdom and might,
And have now made known to me what we asked of You,
For You have made known to us the king’s demand.”

- **Worship explodes when Revelation is present...**

Daniel Speaks to the King

24 Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, “Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”

25 Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, “I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.”

26 The king asked Daniel, “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”

27 Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, **28** but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and

the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:

29 “As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen.

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31 “Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. **32** The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, **33** its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. **34** While you were watching, **a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue** on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. **35** Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 “This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.

37 Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; **38** in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

39 “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. **40** Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. **41** Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. **42** As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. **43** And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

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44 “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. **45** This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

In the dream Daniel reveals 3 kingdoms after Nebuchadnezzar...

David Guzik in his Commendation says:

- The three following are Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome.
- He continues “Since Roman history provides no fulfillment of this federation of kings this prophecy must still be speaking to the future.
- This stone cut **without hands** is the Messiah
- Therefore, the final superpower of the world is thought to be a revival of the Roman Empire, a continuation of this image. This will be the final world empire that Jesus will conquer over.
- This final world empire will be according to the nature of clay mixed with iron. It will have more the image of true strength than the substance of strength.

Vs. 46-48

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. **47** The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.”

48 Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men.

- King Nebuchadnezzar thought he needed magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers...

- But He found out he really needed the Lord...

The book of Daniel is an old testament picture of Babylon, but the Bible speaks of another Babylon in Revelation 18...

This is what it says in:

Revelation 19

11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. **12** His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. **13** He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **14** And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. **15** Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **16** And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.