



DARK
NESS

VS



G
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GOOD
NESS



DANIEL 4:1-3 NIV

“To the nations and peoples of every language, who live in all the earth:
May you prosper greatly!

² It is **my** pleasure to tell you about the miraculous signs and wonders
that the Most High God has performed **for me**.

³ How great are His signs,
how mighty His wonders!
His kingdom is an eternal kingdom;
His dominion endures from generation to generation.”

Who said this?

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- KING NEBUCHANEZZER

THREE CHAPTERS EARLIER..



GOD IS GOOD

1. **Even when it doesn't look like it** (*Daniel 1*)
2. **Even when we don't deserve it** (*Daniel 2*)
3. **Therefore we can be bold for Him** (*Daniel 3*)
4. **And He alone is to be worshipped** (*Daniel 4*)

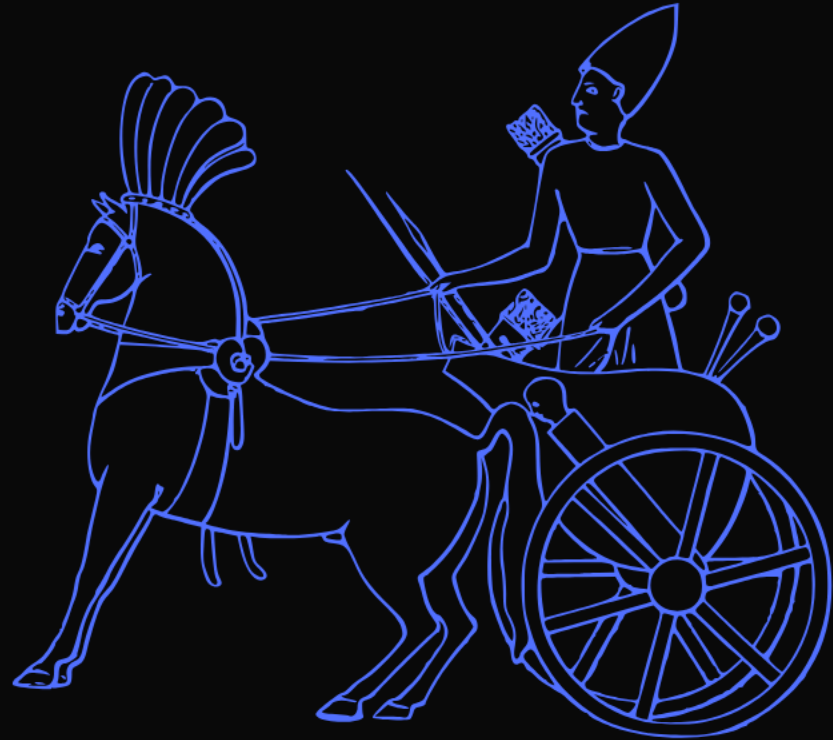
GOD IS GOOD (EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT)

KEY THINGS FROM DANIEL 1:

Jerusalem is besieged by King Nebuchadnezzar (to include the destruction of Solomon's temple) & the Israelites are exiled to Babylon

The articles from the temple of God is carried to the Babylonian temple to honor their god

Israelites are stripped from their family and stripped of their identities (*ex. Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, and Daniel*)



GOD IS GOOD

(EVEN WHEN IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT)

Hananiah- *"Hath been gracious"*
(renamed Shadrach)

Mishael- *"Who is what God is"*
(renamed Meshach)

Azariah- *"Jehovah has helped"*
(renamed Abednego)

Daniel- *"God is my judge"*
(renamed Belshazzar)

God's people are no stranger to the reality of darkness and its toll. But in the midst of darkness, they still trust Him and believe in His goodness.

"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" (Daniel 1:17)

GOD IS GOOD (EVEN WHEN WE DON'T DESERVE IT)

KEY THINGS FROM DANIEL 2:

- King Nebuchadnezzar is troubled by his dreams, so he summons the magicians, enchanters, sorcerors, and astrologers.
- He doesn't tell them his dream, but commands that they tell him what he dreamed THEN interpret it. If they cannot, he will have them "cut into pieces/torn limb from limb", and their houses made rubble. They couldn't, therefore he orders all wise men be executed.
- Daniel prays to God with his "brothers" for the answer, gives it to the King, and they are spared, along with the other pagan wise men.



GOD IS GOOD (EVEN WHEN WE DON'T DESERVE IT)

“Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸He 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.** ¹⁹During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven...” (Daniel 2:17)

“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’ (Daniel 2:24)



GOD IS GOOD (EVEN WHEN WE DON'T DESERVE IT)

After Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar his dream, interprets it, and says "The Great God has shown the king what will take place in the future":

"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." (Daniel 2:46)



God's goodness was not dictated or dependent on those in the dark coming into the light.

GOD IS GOOD (THEREFORE WE CAN BE BOLD FOR HIM)

KEY THINGS FROM DANIEL 3:

- King Nebuchadnezzar has a golden statue built & commands nations and peoples from every tongue to bow down and worship it. Whoever doesn't will be thrown into a fiery furnace.
- Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah refuse to dishonor God. They do not worship the statue.
- King Nebuchadnezzar is so enraged, he has the furnace heated 7x hotter than usual, and has them thrown in it. A fourth person also appears in the fire.



GOD IS GOOD (THEREFORE WE CAN BE BOLD FOR HIM)

“Is it true that you do not serve my gods or worship the image of gold I have set up?...if you do not worship it, you will be thrown immediately into a blazing furnace. **Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?**” (Daniel 3:13-15)

They replied:

“We do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us^[c] from Your Majesty’s hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up.” (Daniel 3:16-18)



GOD IS GOOD (THEREFORE WE CAN BE BOLD FOR HIM)

After they exit the fiery furnace unharmed and unaffected, King Nebuchadnezzar says:

"I decree that the people of any nation or language **who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego** be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."
30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the province of Babylon.



[In the face of darkness, be bold in the Lord & have no fear.]

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DANIEL 4:1-3 NIV

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DANIEL 4:4-8 NIV

"I, **Nebuchadnezzar**, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. ⁵I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. ⁶So I commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream for me.

⁷**When the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners came, I told them the dream, but they could not interpret it for me. ⁸Finally, Daniel came into my presence and I told him the dream. (He is called Belteshazzar, after the name of my god, and the spirit of the holy gods is in him.)"**

Summary of the dream (Daniel 4:9-18)

The king dreamed of a massive tree at the center of the earth that grew so high it reached the heavens, providing food and shelter for creatures across the world. Then a holy watcher came down from heaven and commanded that the tree be cut down and stripped, though its stump and roots would remain bound in the ground while the one associated with it will have the mind of an animal & live amongst them.



DANIEL 4:19-27 NIV

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE DREAM

“Then **Daniel** (also called Belteshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, **and his thoughts terrified him**. So the king said, “Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you.”

Belteshazzar answered, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries!



Unlike the first dream Daniel interpreted, this one was judgement against Nebuchadnezzar, which means interpreting it truthfully could have killed Daniel.

DANIEL 4:24-27 NIV

DANIEL INTERPRETS THE DREAM

²⁵ You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you **until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth** and gives them to anyone he wishes.

²⁷ **Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice:** Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue."

**Daniel not only chose to be bold & be truthful, he chose to be truthful
in love and care.**

DANIEL 4:28-34 NIV

DREAM COMES TO PASS

All this happened to King Nebuchadnezzar. ²⁹ Twelve months later, as the king was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, ³⁰ he said, *“Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?”*

...Immediately what had been said about Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled. He was driven away from people and ate grass like the ox. His body was drenched with the dew of heaven until his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle and his nails like the claws of a bird.

³⁴ **At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored.** Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever.

"I was restored to my throne **and became even greater than before.**

³⁷ Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, **praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just.** And those who walk in pride he is able to humble." (Daniel 4:36-37)

**God is good, and He alone is to be worshipped.
When darkness comes against God's goodness, it is His goodness that will
prevail.**



*"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all" (1 John 1:5)*