

THE STORY
Daniel in Exile
Daniel 1-4, 6
Chapter 18 January 28, 2024
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There is an unseen God who loves us and rules over us and at the same time gives us room to make our own decisions and mistakes.

Mankind sees themselves as gods worthy of being worshipped

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: Daniel 2:26-28 NIV

The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries." Daniel 2:47 NIV

Later in the story the now King Darius is tricked into decreeing that no other god may be worshipped. Daniel is caught in his usual prayers and the king is forced to put him in the lion's den for the night. First thing in the morning the king returns to find Daniel alive.

Then King Darius wrote to all the nations and peoples of every language in all the earth: "May you prosper greatly! 26 "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end. 27 He rescues and he saves; he performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions." Daniel 6:25-27 NIV

Idolatry is putting anyone or anything in God's place in your life.

In the pride of your heart you say, "I am a god; I sit on the throne of a god in the heart of the seas." But you are a mere mortal and not a god, though you think you are as wise as a god.

Ezekiel 28:2 NIV

The message is this; there is a God and you're not Him.

THE KING ACKNOWLEDGES GOD

I, Nebuchadnezzar, was at home in my palace, contented and prosperous. 5 I had a dream that made me afraid. As I was lying in bed, the images and visions that passed through my mind terrified me. Daniel 4:4-5 NIV

Because of his great arrogance God will bring him low until he understands who God is.

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 4:27 NIV

Here are a few questions to help us see if we are like Nebuchadnezzar.

1. What is my motivation? Why do you do what you do?

2. What is the source of your strength?

"Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?"

Daniel 4:30 NIV

3. What is the purpose of your life?

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. Daniel 4:34 NIV

What will you endure before you allow God to be your God?