

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## TEACHING SERIES ON THE PROPHET DANIEL

RLJ-1058

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### PART 2: THE FIRST PROPHECY

#### THE NAME CHANGE

Very few people have taken the time to study the name change that happened to Daniel and his three friends.

- Daniel is Hebrew for “God is my judge,” his name was changed to Belteshazzar, which means “the lord’s leader” in the Chaldean language.
- Hananiah is Hebrew for “Yahweh was favored,” his name was changed to Shadrach, which meant “moon god” in the Chaldean language.
- Mishael is Hebrew for “Who is like God,” his name was changed to Meshach, which means “Who is that with Aku,” which was the moon god in the Chaldean culture.
- Azariah is Hebrew for “Helped by Yahweh,” his name was changed to Abednego, which means “Servant of Nebo,” which was the Babylonian god of wisdom.
- These four young boys had names which brought glory to the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the Babylonian leadership wanted to erase their names which gave testimony of the living God and change them to ones that gave credit to their own demon gods. Despite their meddling, God overruled the Babylonian leadership, and established that He was superior to their demon gods.

#### HISTORICAL FACTS

- The Babylonian kingdom had only been in existence since 625 B.C., and when Nebuchadnezzar came against Jerusalem in 604 B.C., he was not the king, but the son of King Nabopolassar, a Chaldean warlord who had been able to drive the Assyrians out of Babylon in 625. Thus, the city of Babylon had only been in the hands of this family for 21 years when Daniel and his three friends were brought there. Nebuchadnezzar had been in charge of the Babylonian Army for some years, and so in 604 B.C., when he was oppressing Jerusalem, news came that his father had died. As a result, he had to hurry home in order to secure the throne for himself.
- Since Nebuchadnezzar was not a native Babylonian, he tried to suppress the local population and leadership by bringing in brilliant people from other captive nations to build up his empire. This was the reason he brought the brightest and best from Jerusalem.



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## **GOD ESTABLISHES DANIEL AS THE MAN OF GOD**

- ❑ It was going to take a supernatural event to convince Nebuchadnezzar that his demon gods were inferior to the Creator. Thus, God gave him a dream that shook him, but when he woke up from the dream, all he could remember was that he had had a dream. **Daniel 2:1**
- ❑ The King called his occult handlers to find an answer. **verses 2-6**
- ❑ It is obvious that the king asked these men to do something that no human can do in the flesh, not even with the power of demons, and they told him so. **verses 7-11**
- ❑ When the king realized that his occult handlers could not take care of this situation, he became furious and decided to have them killed. **verses 12-13**
- ❑ At this time, Daniel could not have been older than around 15 years, and even if he had been introduced to the king as a future advisor, he was still too young to be part of the royal court. Daniel was still together with his three friends, but since they were advisors in training, they were also to be killed. **verse 13**
- ❑ Here was a 15 year old boy with his teenage friends, facing death by decapitation, even though they had done nothing to deserve it. It seemed like a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. But instead of being gripped with panic, Daniel requested an audience with the king. When he stood before Nebuchadnezzar, he asked the king for time to seek an answer from his God to the king's dream. **verses 14-16**
- ❑ Daniel told his friends what they were up against, and they started a prayer meeting, not a lame wimpy one, but one where they got hold of the throne of God. **verses 17-18**
- ❑ Since God had prepared Daniel and his three friends to have faith in Him, they received an answer at once. **verse 19**
- ❑ Daniel recorded his prayer of thanksgiving. **verses 20-23**
- ❑ It is important to note that Daniel gave thanks to God in faith, even though he had not yet spoken to the king, who would instantly know the dream once Daniel spoke to him. **Mark 11:20-23**
- ❑ ***It is easy to thank God after He has blessed us, but it is more pleasing to God when we thank Him and praise Him before we have seen the answer. Hebrews 11:6***
- ❑ Daniel went in confidence to the military commander of the palace and told him to hold off the executions because he had the answer and wanted to see the king immediately. **verse 24-25**
- ❑ King Nebuchadnezzar must have been very surprised to see this young boy walk in with confidence and hear that he had the answer which the king sought. **verses 25-28**

- ❑ Daniel made it very clear to Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel in himself did not have the power to reveal the dream, it was the total work of God. Daniel did not take any credit but gave it all to God. **verses 29-30**

## **THE PROPHETIC DREAM**

- ❑ First, Daniel described in detail the dream for the king, which when he heard it, remembered it. **verses 31-35**
- ❑ Then Daniel gave the interpretation:
  - The first kingdom was Babylon; it would only last some 84 years before it ended with Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's son. **verses 36-38**
  - The second kingdom was the Persian/Median Empire, which existed between 539-330 B.C., a total of 209 years.
  - The third kingdom was the Greek Empire, which lasted from 330-63 B.C., a total of 267 years. **verse 39**
  - The fourth kingdom was the Roman Empire, which came to rule the entire land mass around the Mediterranean Sea from 63 B.C. to 410 A.D., when the empire split in two and Rome itself was conquered by Germanian forces from Central Europe. Thus, the Roman Empire lasted 473 years, while the Eastern Roman Empire (Byzantine) lasted until the year 1453. **verses 40-43**
  - Daniel then prophesied about another kingdom that would last forever and would be known as the Kingdom of God. **verses 44-45; Revelation 20:1-1-15**
- ❑ Nebuchadnezzar was captivated by the awesome power of God displayed in this 15 year old boy and made him the governor of the province of Babylon. **verses 46-48**
- ❑ Daniel did not forget his friends. **verse 49**

**DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?**

**ARE YOU PRAISING GOD**

**OR**

**COMPLAINING AND PRAISING THE DEVIL?**