

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

UNLEASHING THE POWER OF GOD

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PART 13: DANIEL'S RISE TO POWER

Nebuchadnezzar became king of Babylon in 605 B.C. and reigned until 562 B.C. for a period of 43 years. Daniel was taken to Babylon in 604 B.C., trained for three years and began to serve King Nebuchadnezzar in 601 B.C. When Belshazzar became king in 556 B.C., Daniel was around 66 years old.

Daniel was not included among the leaders and people of Babylon commanded to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue because his office was located in the king's palace and he was chief of the governors and wise men. Daniel was exempt since he was second in command after the king. **Daniel 2:48-49**

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

After the fiery furnace and the supernatural intervention by Jesus to rescue Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, Nebuchadnezzar recognized the awesome power of God in protecting the lives of these three men, but he still had not understood that their God was supreme and that all other gods were nothing but fallen angels or demons masquerading as gods. **Daniel 3:28-30**

Nebuchadnezzar published an official letter that was read by local officials throughout the Babylonian empire where he emphatically stated that he finally had come to the conclusion that the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was supreme and there were no other gods beside Him. **Daniel 4:1-3**

God later gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream that no one in the kingdom could interpret except for Daniel. It would not have been easy for Daniel to tell Nebuchadnezzar that if he did not give praise and worship to God, he would be stricken with insanity and driven out of his palace for a season. **verses 19-26**

Daniel warned the king to pay attention to his spiritual life by bringing glory to God, which Nebuchadnezzar had failed to do. As a result, God's holy angels struck him with insanity and Nebuchadnezzar spent time living like an animal until he had learned from his error and repented. **verses 27-33**

King Nebuchadnezzar spent the remainder of his life worshiping the living God with Daniel as a co-ruler. **verses 34-37**

TURMOIL IN BABYLON

There is no record from Daniel as to what happened after the death of Nebuchadnezzar, so it is necessary to examine secular historical records as to what took place. Amel-Marduk, the son of Nebuchadnezzar, became the next king but he was murdered by Nergal-Sharezer, who was a son-in-law to Nebuchadnezzar. Nergal declared himself the new king of Babylon and ruled from 560 B.C. until he died in 556 B.C. Nergal had a young son that became the next king but he was murdered in a conspiracy nine months after he took power and was replaced by Nabonidus, who reigned from 556-539 B.C.



Nabonidus had a son by the name of Belshazzar, who became a co-ruler with his father, who did not enjoy staying in the city of Babylon. Daniel was around 83 years old when Babylon was conquered by King Cyrus of Persia in 539 B.C.

THE WRITING ON THE WALL

Daniel was not called upon during the many palace coups and he did not write down what transpired during these 23 years of instability in the Babylonian empire. When Belshazzar was confronted by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Daniel was once again called upon to come and interpret the message. **Daniel 5:1-12**

Daniel was no longer a young man; he was at least 83 years old but in excellent health because of his devotion to God and for eating the correct food that God had set forth in the Bible. He was not impressed by the much younger King Belshazzar and entered his presence as a man of God without any fear. Daniel spoke with boldness as he told Belshazzar that God was finished with him and there would be no second chance or place for repentance. Daniel told the king that he had an appointment with death. **verses 13-31**

SUMMARY

Daniel had been appointed a prophet with access to God the Father through the Holy Spirit. Daniel did not live in fear even though there were many conspiracies and murders as different men fought for the throne of Babylon. He was confident because he knew that God is the one that rules in the affairs of men; he had learned about the holy watchers, who carried out the will of God on this earth. His faith in God had been repeatedly tested and he had come to the place where he knew that God was supreme and would sustain him into eternity. **Hebrews 11:1-6**

Every believer in Christ can be baptized in the Holy Spirit and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? Are the gifts of the Holy Spirit operating in your life? **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?