

MESSAGE 1: WHEN YOUR WORLD IS SHAKEN UP

Parts 1-3

“. . . all the foundations of society are being shaken to the core.” Psalm 82:5 (LB)

Introduction to Daniel's Life & Book: Daniel 1:1-7

WHAT TO DO

1. _____
“Dear friends, don't be shocked or surprised when you suffer through painful tests and trials as if something strange is happening to you.” 1 Peter 4:12

Jesus: “In this world you WILL experience difficulties! But take heart! I have conquered the world! I've told you this so that in trusting me, you will be UNSHAKABLE and deeply at peace.” John 16:33 (Mes)

4 sources: _____, _____, _____, _____

2. _____
God says: “The plans I have for you are plans for good and not to harm you. They are plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

- GOD SHAKES THINGS UP _____

“The Lord searches our hearts and examines our deepest motives so he can give to each person his right reward, according to how he has lived.” Jeremiah 17:10 (LB)

“. . . God led you all the way in the desert these forty years, to humble you and to test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you'd keep his commands.” Deuteronomy 8:2 (NIV)

ASK:

- GOD SHAKES THINGS UP _____

“God corrects all of his children, and if he doesn't correct you, then you don't really belong to him . . . God corrects us for our own good, because he wants us to be holy, as he is. It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace.” Hebrews 12:8-11 (CEV)

“When God spoke from Mount Sinai his voice shook the earth, but now he says, ‘I will not only shake the earth but the heavens too.’ By this he means that he will sift out everything without a solid foundation so that only the UNSHAKABLE things will be left.” Hebrews 12:26-27 (LB)

“Consider yourself fortunate when God all-powerful chooses to correct you.” Job 5:17 (CEV)

ASK:

- GOD SHAKES THINGS UP _____

“A person may plan his own journey, but the Lord directs his steps.” Proverbs 16:9 (GW)

“Sometimes it takes a painful experience to make us change our ways.” Proverbs 20:30 (TEV)

“I have thought about my life, and I’ve directed my feet back to your written instructions.”
Psalm 119:59 (GW)

ASK:

- GOD SHAKES THINGS UP _____

“God has led you away from danger, giving you freedom.” Job 36:16

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good . . .” Genesis 50:20 (NIV)

ASK:

- GOD SHAKES THINGS UP _____

“After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who calls you to share his eternal glory in union with Christ, will himself perfect you and give you firmness, strength, and a sure foundation.”
1 Peter 5:10 (TEV)

“We can rejoice when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they are good for us — they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it . . .” Romans 5:3-4 (LB)

ASK:

3.

“Since the Lord is directing our steps, why try to understand everything that happens along the way?” Proverbs 20:24 (LB)

“Trust the Lord with all your heart. Don't depend on your own understanding. Honor the Lord in everything you do and he will give you success.” Proverbs 3:5-6

MESSAGE 2: WHEN YOU'RE PRESSURED TO CONFORM

Parts 1-3

"Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the Lord tests the heart." Proverbs 17:3 (NLT)

Before every blessing _____

"We speak God's message because God tested us and trusted us to do it. When we speak, we are not trying to please people, but God, who tests our hearts." 1 Thessalonians 2:4 (NCV)

God _____ with stress before he _____ with success

"The king ordered that the young men should eat the same food and wine served at the king's table while they were being trained. After that they were to become servants of the king of Babylon . . . But Daniel resolved not to defile himself by eating the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way." Daniel 1:5, 8

DEFILE — to pollute, contaminate, or corrupt. A loss of purity

Daniel's first test shows . . .

4 QUALITIES GOD LOOKS FOR IN YOUR LIFE

1.

"Daniel resolved not to defile himself . . ." Daniel 1:8a (NIV)

"Don't conform yourself to the values of this world. Instead, let God transform you by a complete change of how you think. Then you will be able to know the will of God . . ." Romans 12:2 (TEV)

2.

"Daniel made up his mind not to eat the food and wine given to them by the king." Daniel 1:8a (LB)

"Do not let any part of your body become a tool of wickedness used for sinning; instead give yourself completely to God . . . because you want to be a tool in the hands of God used for his good purposes." Romans 6:13

3.

"Never follow the crowd in doing wrong, and don't be swayed in your testimony by the mood of the majority." Exodus 23:2 (GW/LB)

"Stand true to what you believe. Be courageous. Be strong!" 1 Corinthians 16:13

“Then Daniel asked chief official for permission to eat other things instead. Now God had given the chief official great respect for Daniel. But he said, ‘I’m afraid of my lord, the king, who ordered that you eat his food and wine, And If you aren’t as healthy as the others, I fear the king will have me beheaded!’

“So next, Daniel talked it over with the guard appointed to look after Daniel and his three friends. Daniel offered a suggestion: ‘Just test us for ten days on a diet of vegetables and water. Then see how healthy we look compared to the young men eating the king’s food. Then you can decide whether or not to let us continue eating our diet.’ So the attendant agreed to try Daniel’s suggestion.

“At the end of the ten days, Daniel and his friends looked healthier and better nourished than any of others in the king’s training program. So after that, the guard let them eat their own food . . . When the 3-year training program was completed, all the young men were brought to King Nebuchadnezzar, who talked with each one individually. None impressed the king as much as Daniel and his 3 friends. So they were each promoted to positions in the king’s service.”

Daniel 1:8b-16, 18-19

HOW TO MAKE A CASE TO AN AUTHORITY

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

WHAT GAVE DANIEL THE COURAGE TO STAND ALONE?

“Don’t become partners with those who reject God. How can you make a partnership out of right and wrong? That’s not partnership; that’s war. Is light best friends with dark? Does Christ go strolling with the Devil? Do trust and mistrust hold hands? Who would think of setting up pagan idols in God’s holy Temple? But that is exactly what we are, each of us a temple in whom God lives. God himself put it this way: ‘I’ll live in them, and move into them; I’ll be their God and they’ll be my people. So leave the corruption and compromise. . . . I’ll be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters!’ With promises like this, dear friends, let’s make a clean break with everything that defiles or distracts us, both within and without. Let’s make our entire lives fit and holy temples for the worship of God!” 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1 (Mes)

MESSAGE 3: WHEN YOUR BELIEFS ARE BELITTLED

Parts 1-3

“Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn
And you will prosper.” Proverbs 19:8 (TEV)

“Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life,
so guard it well.” Proverbs 4:13 (TEV)

“Wisdom brings strength, and knowledge gives power.” Proverbs 24:5 (CEV)

DANIEL'S THIRD TEST: CHALLENGES TO HIS FAITH

“King Nebuchadnezzar commanded: Select young men . . . and make sure they are well versed in every branch
of learning . . . Teach these young men all the language and literature of the Babylonians . . . They are to be
trained for three years, then some will serve the king after they graduate.” Daniel 1:4-5

“God gave these four young men an unusual aptitude for learning the literature and science of that time.”
Daniel 1:17a

“When the three-year training was completed, the chief official brought all the young men to King
Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with each of them, and none impressed him as much as Daniel, Hananiah,
Mishael, and Azariah. So they were appointed to his regular staff as advisers! In all matters requiring wisdom
and balanced judgment, the king found the advice of these young men to be ten times better than that of all the
magicians and enchanters in his entire kingdom!” Daniel 1:18-20

HOW TO EXCEL IN YOUR EDUCATION

and not lose your faith.

1. _____

“Daniel made up his mind not to defile himself . . .” Daniel 1:8a

“Start with God — the first step in learning is bowing down to God; only fools thumb their noses at such
wisdom and learning.” Proverbs 1:7 (Mes)

“Reverence for the Lord is an education in itself.” Proverbs 15:33a (TEV)

“All wisdom comes from the Lord, and so do common sense and understanding. God gives helpful advice to
everyone who obeys him and protects all of those who live as they should.” Proverbs 2:6-7 (CEV)

2. _____

“Wise men and women are always learning, always listening for fresh insights.” Proverbs 18:15 (Mes)

“Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that isn't ashamed.” 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

“Those who get wisdom do themselves a favor, and those who love learning will succeed.” Proverbs 19:8 (NCV)

KNOWLEDGE: information gained from education or experience

WISDOM:

1. _____

“Study God’s Word continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that’s written in it. If you do you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8

I must _____ the truth in order to _____ the lies.

“Your commandments give me great understanding. It’s no wonder I can see and hate every false way of life.” Psalm 119:104 (NLT)

“A wise person is hungry for truth, while the fool feeds on trash.” Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

2. _____

“Do not be misled: ‘Bad company corrupts good character.’” 1 Corinthians 15:33 (NIV)

“Stay away from fools, or you won't learn a thing.” Proverbs 14:7 (CEV)

“Fools show their stupidity by the way they live; it's easy to see they have no sense.” Ecclesiastes 10:3 (CEV)

“The happiest people — the ones God blesses — don’t WALK with those who suggest doing wrong, don’t STAND with those who like to sin, and don’t SIT AROUND with cynics who deny God.” Psalm 1:1-2

3. _____

All 3 are essential for input, output & support

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another . . .” Hebrews 10:25a (NIV)

“It is God's will that you live such a good life that it silences those who foolishly condemn the Gospel without knowing what it can do for them.” 1 Peter 2:15

4. _____

Jesus: “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.” Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

1. _____

All 3 are essential for input, output & support

“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another . . .” Hebrews 10:25a (NIV)

“It is God's will that you live such a good life that it silences those who foolishly condemn the Gospel without knowing what it can do for them.” 1 Peter 2:15

2.

Jesus: "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:11-12 (NIV)

MESSAGE 4: WHEN YOU'RE ASKED TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

Parts 1-3

"Nobody can do what you ask! . . . What you're asking is impossible . . ." Daniel 2:10-11 (Mes)

WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT PREDICTING THE FUTURE

1. _____
"No one can tell the future!" Ecclesiastes 8:7 (CEV)

2. **ALL PSYCHIC & MEDIUMS** _____
God: *"I make fools of psychics and fortunetellers and I frustrate the predictions of astrologers... their 'wisdom' is foolishness."* Isaiah 44:25

God: *"I am against anyone who goes to mediums or fortune-tellers for advice, because that person is being unfaithful to me. So I will cut him off."* Leviticus 20:6 (NCV)

3. **THE TEST OF A TRUE PROPHET OF GOD IS** _____
"If you want to know if a prophet's message is really from God, here's how to test him: If any part doesn't come true, that prophecy is false and not from God. He was presumptuously speaking his own ideas and you should pay him no attention nor fear him." Deuteronomy 18:21-22

"Check their predictions against my Word,' says the Lord. 'If their predictions are different from my Word, it is because there is no light or truth in them.'" Isaiah 8:20

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'RE ASKED TO DO THE IMPOSSIBLE

1. _____
"When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion." Daniel 2:14 (NLT)

2. _____
"Daniel asked the king's captain, 'Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?' So Arioch told him all that had happened." Daniel 2:15

3. _____
"Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time so he could interpret the meaning of the dream for the king." Daniel 2:16

4. _____
"Then Daniel went home and told his 3 friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. Then he said, "PRAY that the God who rules from heaven will be merciful and explain this mystery, so that we and the other advisors won't be put to death." Daniel 2:17-18

5. _____
God: *“Call to me and I’ll answer you, and I’ll show you marvelous and wondrous things that you could never figure out on your own!”* Jeremiah 33:3 (Mes)

“If you need wisdom, ask God, and he will gladly give it to you. He won’t resent you asking. But when you ask him, be sure that you expect him to answer; for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.” James 1:5-7

6. _____
“During the night God revealed and explained the mystery of the dream to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.” Daniel 2:19

• _____
“Then Daniel praised God saying, ‘Our God, your name will be praised forever and forever! You are all-powerful, and you know everything!’” Daniel 2:19b-20 (CEV)

• _____
*“YOU control human events. YOU give rulers their power and YOU take it away. YOU are the source of wisdom and knowledge. YOU explain deep mysteries, because even the dark is light to you! YOU are the **God** worshiped by my ancestors.”* Daniel 2:21-23a (CEV)

• _____
“Now I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what I asked for and revealed to me what the king demanded.” Daniel 2:23 (NLT)

7. _____
“Then Daniel rushed to see Arioch, who’d been ordered to execute all the king’s advisors. He said ‘Call off the execution, and take me to the king and I’ll explain the meaning of his dream.’” Daniel 2:24

8. _____
Daniel replied, *“No wise man or psychic or fortune teller or astrologer can explain the mystery of your dream. **BUT there is a God in heaven** who reveals mysteries and he has chosen to show you what will happen in the future . . . And now, God has revealed this mystery to me, not because I’m smarter than everyone else, but for your benefit, so that you O king may understand it.”* Daniel 2:27-30

MESSAGE 5: WHEN THE HEAT IS ON

Parts 1-3

DANIEL 3: SIMILARITIES TO US TODAY

“The king made a giant gold image of himself to be worshiped”

1. **The world creates** _____
See Daniel 3:1-7

2. **I’m tempted to create** _____

3. **If I reject the world’s idols,** _____
See Daniel 3:8-12

4. **Doing the right thing always** _____
See Daniel 3:13-15

WHAT SHOULD I DO WHEN THE HEAT IS ON?

1. **DON’T** _____
“Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied, ‘O Nebuchadnezzar, we don’t need to defend ourselves in this matter’” Daniel 3:16

2. **REMEMBER** _____
“IF we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we worship is ABLE to save us.”
Daniel 3:17a

3. _____
“And HE WILL save us from your power, O king.” Daniel 3:17b

“WHEN you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. WHEN you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown! WHEN you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you! For I am the Lord, your God!” Isaiah 43:2-3a (NLT)

4. _____
“BUT EVEN IF God DOESN’T save us, we will never serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up.” Daniel 3:18

Faith in the furnace: Daniel 3:19-23

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I TRUST GOD IN THE FURNACE?

1. God _____

“But suddenly, Nebuchadnezzar jumped up in amazement and asked his advisers, ‘Didn’t we tie up three men and throw them into the furnace?’ ‘Yes, we did.’ they said, ‘Well look now!’ he shouted. ‘You can see four men now, unbound, walking around freely in the fire, unharmed! And the fourth man looks like a son of the gods!’” Daniel 3:24-25

2. God _____

“I have refined you but not in the way silver is refined. Rather, I have refined you in the furnace of suffering.” Isaiah 48:10 (NLT)

3. God _____

“You let captors set foot on our neck; then we went through fire and water and you led us out to freedom.” Psalm 66:12 (NAB)

4. God makes sure _____

“Then Nebuchadnezzar came as close as he could to the door of the flaming furnace and shouted: ‘Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out! Come out at once!’ So the 3 men stepped out of the fire. Then the princes, prefects, governors, and advisers crowded around them and saw that the fire had not touched them. Not a hair on their heads was singed, and their clothing was not scorched. They didn’t even smell of smoke!” Daniel 3:26-27

5. _____

“Then the king said, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego who sent his angel to rescue his servants. THEY TRUSTED IN HIM. They defied my command and were willing to die rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.” Daniel 3:28

“Therefore, I make this decree: If anyone says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be put to death, and their houses will be destroyed. There is no other god who can save anyone like this!’ Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to even higher positions in the province of Babylon.” Daniel 3:29-30

6. God will _____

“Each of us must be careful how we build (our lives), because Christ is the only solid foundation. Whatever we build on that foundation will be tested by fire . . . If what we built is left standing, we will be rewarded! But if what we’ve built is burned up by the fire, we will lose our reward. Yet we will be saved, like someone escaping from flames.” 1 Corinthians 3:10b-15

MESSAGE 6: WHEN GOD TESTS YOU WITH SUCCESS

Parts 1-3

DANIEL 4:1-37 WHAT GETS US INTO TROUBLE

1.

“I, Nebuchadnezzar, was enjoying a time of peace and prosperity in my kingdom and palace. I was taking it easy, without a care in the world!” Daniel 4:4

“I said to myself ‘Just look at this great city of Babylon that I have created! I, by my own mighty power, have built this beautiful city for my glory. I built it to show my power, my might, my majesty, and my glory!’” Daniel 4:30

“The Lord despises pride; You can be sure that the proud will be punished.” Proverbs 16:5

2.

Because you’ve been arrogant and you’ve ignored God, you’re about to lose your kingdom & your sanity.

(See Daniel 4:24-25)

“Here’s what you should do: Repent of your sins and start doing what is right. Then begin to show merciful kindness to the poor and oppressed. Then perhaps God will allow you to keep prospering.” Daniel 4:27

3.

“Twelve months later, all of what King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed did actually happen to him. He was taking a walk on the flat roof of his royal palace in Babylon. As he looked out across the city, he boasted to himself . . . As the words were still on his lips, a voice came from heaven, ‘This is what God decrees for you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your power is being taken away and you are no longer the ruler of this kingdom! You’ll be deposed from the palace, ostracized by everyone, and forced to live with the wild animals. Immediately it all happened.’” Daniel 4:28-33a

STEPS TO RECOVERY

1.

“After this time had passed, I, Nebuchadnezzar, looked up to heaven and my sanity returned.” Daniel 4:34a (NLT)

2.

“My sanity returned, and I praised and worshiped the Most High and honored The One who lives forever.” Daniel 4:34b (NLT)

We get better when we replace _____ with _____

“Remember how God led you through the wilderness these past forty years . . . He humbled you by letting you go hungry . . . and he tested you with hardships many times . . . to test your character and to see if you will obey whatever he commands you to do . . . Now God is bringing you into a good land — a land with plenty of water . . . with bountiful crops . . . orchards full of fruit . . . abundant copper and iron in the ground. and you

will lack nothing! So when you are full and satisfied and prospering PRAISE the Lord with gratitude for all he has given you!

“BUT BE CAREFUL that you do not forget the Lord and that you continue to always obey every command of God! Otherwise when you have built your fine houses and your gold and silver have multiplied, your heart will become PROUD and you will forget that it was God who saved and delivered you out of your slavery and gave all this to you!

“And when you become successful, do not think ‘I did all this by my own strength and I became rich by my own power.’ Instead remember that it is God, your Lord, who gives you the ability and strength to produce wealth!

“I warn you: If you ever forget God and begin turning things into idols that you worship, God will destroy it all and your nation, just as he has destroyed other nations before you who forgot God.” Deuteronomy 8:2-20

TRUTHS ABOUT GOD THAT STABILIZE MY LIFE

• _____
“God’s rule is everlasting, and his kingdom is eternal!” Daniel 4:34c (NLT)

• _____
“All the people of the earth are nothing compared to him.” Daniel 4:35a (NLT)

• _____
“He has the power to do whatever he pleases — among the angels of heaven and with those who live on earth. No one can stop him or challenge him, or even question what he does . . . And those who walk in pride he is able to humble” Daniel 4:35b, 37

“When God restored my sanity, he also gave me back my honor and kingdom. All my leaders returned to me, and my kingdom became greater than ever! So now I praise and exalt and glorify the King of Heaven because everything he does is always right and true and fair.” Daniel 4:36

• _____

3. _____
“King Nebuchadnezzar sent a letter to the people of every race and nation and language throughout the world: May you prosper! I want to tell you all about the wonderful miracles that God has done for me!” Daniel 4:1-2

MESSAGE 7: ARE YOU LEARNING FROM THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE YOU?

Parts 1-3

DANIEL'S REPUTATION

(The queen said) "This man Daniel . . . has a sharp mind and is filled with knowledge and understanding. He can interpret dreams, explain the meaning of mysteries and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what it means." Daniel 5:12

(The king said) "I have heard that the Spirit of God is in you, that you possess brilliant knowledge and extraordinary wisdom." Daniel 5:14

"Always remember what you have learned. Your education is your life, so guard it well." Proverbs 4:13 (TEV)

HOW CAN I BECOME WISE LIKE DANIEL?

1.

"Commit yourself to instruction; and tune in your ears to hear words of knowledge." Proverbs 23:12

"If an ax is dull and its edge is unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success." Ecclesiastes 10:10 (NIV)

"Do yourself a favor and learn all you can; then remember what you learn and you will prosper." Proverbs 19:8 (TEV)

2.

"Ask the former generations and find out what their fathers learned, for we were born only yesterday and we know so little." Job 8:8-9

"These things occurred as examples to warn us and keep us from wanting to do the same evil things they did. For Scripture says that we should avoid drunken parties, sexual immorality, and worshipping things that aren't God . . . We should not test the Lord's patience or grumble and complain as some did and died . . . These things happened as examples and were written down as warnings for us. . ." 1 Corinthians 10:6-11

3.

"Reverence for the Lord is an education in itself. You must be humble before you can ever receive honors." Proverbs 15:33 (TEV)

“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” James 4:6b (NIV)

4. _____
“A wise person is hungry for truth, while the fool feeds on trash.” Proverbs 15:14 (NLT)

5. _____
King Belshazzar lost everything because he failed to do this.

Daniel said, “King Belshazzar, even though YOU KNEW all that happened to your ‘father’ (Nebuchadnezzar) you DIDN’T LEARN from his life and you STILL REFUSED to humble yourself (before God) who rules from heaven.” Daniel 5:22

King Belshazzar made 3 fatal mistakes

THE LESSON

If I don’t humbly learn from generations before me,

I will end up _____

“Some people have missed the most important thing in life – they don’t know God!” 1 Timothy 6:21a (LB)

MESSAGE 8: WILL YOU STAND STRONG FOR GOD PUBLICLY?

Parts 1-3

Daniel's 8th test: Daniel 6:1-28

WHY DID DANIEL KEEP GETTING PROMOTED AT WORK?

1. HIS _____ MADE HIM STAND OUT.

“Now Daniel so distinguished himself above all the other governors and administrators (satraps) by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to put Daniel in charge of the entire kingdom!” Daniel 6:3

2. HIS _____ MADE HIM STAND OUT.

“When the administrators heard the news, they tried to find a reason to undermine Daniel in his work and accuse him of misconduct, but they were unable to do so. They could not find anything to say against him! He was honest, reliable, hardworking, and incorruptible. He was never lazy or negligent in any task.” Daniel 6:4

3. HIS _____ MADE HIM STAND OUT.

“His coworkers concluded ‘Our only chance of finding any grounds to get rid of Daniel will be to find something to accuse in his religious practices.’” Daniel 6:5

A conspiracy to trap Daniel (vs.6-9)

HOW DID DANIEL RESPOND TO THIS NEW TEST?

“When Daniel learned that the new law had been signed, he went home and knelt down to pray as usual in his upstairs room, with its windows wide open toward Jerusalem. He prayed three times a day, just as he had always done his entire life, thanking and praising God. So Daniel's enemies went together to Daniel's house to catch him praying and asking for God's help.” Daniel 6:10-11

WHY WAS DANIEL UNAFRAID TO STAND OUT AND SPEAK UP FOR GOD AT WORK?

1. HE REMEMBERED _____

2. HE HAD _____

3. HE KNEW _____

6 WAYS I BENEFIT EVERY TIME I STAND FOR GOD

1. STANDING FOR GOD IS _____

- Fear is just a feeling & it cannot _____
- Fear is uncomfortable, but it won't _____
- Fear grows when I give into it, but lessens when I move _____

Pray like the first Christians: “Lord, you know the threats people make. So help us as your servants to speak your Word without fear.” Acts 4:29

2. **STANDING FOR GOD** _____

“You must never be ashamed to tell others about our Lord. With the strength God gives you, be ready to suffer if necessary to share the Good News.” 2 Timothy 1:8

3. **IT GIVES GOD AN** _____

“At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the pit filled with lions. When he got there he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, ‘Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?’ Daniel answered, ‘O king! My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions, and they have not hurt me at all, because God knew I’ve done nothing against him or you, O king!’ The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the pit. And when Daniel was lifted out, there was not a single scratch on his body because he had trusted God.” Daniel 6:19-23

4. **IT ENCOURAGES** _____

Paul: “Because of what I’ve been through, many of the Christians here have gained confidence and become more bold in telling others about Christ.” Philippians 1:14

5. **IT’S A POWERFUL** _____

“When the Council saw the boldness of Peter and John, they were amazed, since they knew they were just ordinary men but they had been with Jesus!” Acts 4:13

- The King becomes a believer! Daniel 6:25-28
“He is the God who rescues and saves!”
- Then 18 generations later! Matthew 2:1-2

6. **I WILL** _____

Jesus: “Consider yourself blessed if people put you down or throw you out, or speak lies about you because of me. If that happens, be happy, knowing that you will be rewarded greatly in heaven! And remember you are in good company — they did the same to all my witnesses before you.” Matthew 5:11-12

MESSAGE 9: THE KIND OF PRAYER GOD ANSWERS

Parts 1-3

DANIEL 9:1-23: HOW TO PRAY IN A CRISIS

1. _____

READ YOUR BIBLE FIRST

“It was the first year of the reign of Darius the Mede who was made king of the Babylonians (by Cyrus). During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, was studying the Scriptures. I learned from the Word of the Lord, as recorded by Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years.” Daniel 9:1-2

“God says this to you: ‘You will be kept in Babylon for 70 years. But then I’ll keep my gracious promise to bring you back to your home again. For I know the plans I have for you’ says the Lord. ‘I have good plans for you, not plans for your disaster. My plans will give you hope and a future. In those days when you pray, I will listen.’” Jeremiah 29:10-12

2 Factors: _____ & _____

2. _____

“So I turned my face to the Lord God, **SEEKING** him. . .” Daniel 9:3a (ESV)

“So I gave my attention to the Lord to **SEEK** Him by prayer. . .” Daniel 9:3a (NAS)

3. _____

“And I began pleading with God earnestly in prayer. . .” Daniel 9:3b

“I poured out my heart, baring my soul to God. . .” Daniel 9:4a (Mes)

“Then my people will join together in tears to seek the Lord. And they will ask the way to Jerusalem and they will start back home again.” Jeremiah 50:4b-5a

4. _____

“And I started fasting and went without food. To show my sadness I put on rough clothes and sat in ashes.” Daniel 9:3c

Why fast?

5. _____
“Then I said ‘Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your promises of constant love to those who love you and keep your commands.’” Daniel 9:4

“Even though we have rebelled against you, you Lord are merciful and forgiving.” Daniel 9:9

6. _____
“We have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and ignored your commands and rejected your laws! We have refused to listen to your servants, the prophets, who spoke your messages to our kings and leaders and parents, and to everyone else in our nation.”
Daniel 9:5-6

“We have brought disgrace and shame on ourselves . . . because we’ve been unfaithful to you. This is true of all of us, including our kings, leaders, and parents.” Daniel 9:7-8

“We paid no attention to you when you told us how to live, the clear teaching that came through your prophets.” Daniel 9:10 (Mes)

“We kept on sinning, never giving you a second thought, oblivious to your clear warnings. So you had no choice but to let disaster loose on us since we persistently and defiantly ignored you.”
Daniel 9:13-14

“. . . now, all the other nations mock us.” Daniel 9:16b

“O God, listen to me and hear my request . . . We do not ask because we deserve help, but because you are so merciful.” Daniel 9:18 (NLT)

GOD’S RESPONSE TO DANIEL

“While I kept on praying and confessing my sin and the sins of my people, and pleading with the Lord, suddenly the angel Gabriel appeared in my vision and said ‘Daniel, I’ve been sent to help you understand God’s plan. The moment you began praying, an answer was given, and I’m here to tell it to you, for God loves you very much.’”
Daniel 9:20-23a

GOD’S PROMISE TO HIS PEOPLE

“If my people, who are called by my name, will HUMBLE themselves and PRAY and SEEK my face and TURN from their wicked ways, then I will HEAR from heaven and will FORGIVE their sin and HEAL their land!” 2 Chronicles 7:14 (NIV)