



FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS

POWER CHURCH

MESSAGE: 03 MAY 2026

Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/3cQzfwagva8>

**Happy LORD'S Day
and welcome to Power Church!**

**Today is Sunday, May 03,
in the year of our Lord 2026.**

Let us pray:

*Thank You, Father,
for Your grace, mercy, peace, and understanding*

*Help us, Father,
to get up when we fall,
to stand firm for You*

Lead us, Father, into Your glory

In Jesus' Name, Amen



“WIN THE RACE”

Hebrews 2:17

***For this reason, He had to be made like them,
fully human in every way,
in order that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest
in service to God,
and that He might make atonement for the sins of the people.***

While attending any powerlifting competition, you’ll see mistakes, high squats, and injuries. As competitive lifters, we train for months, even years, to be competitive at the State, National, and/or World level. Yet when we get that one shot, it only takes one mistake, and all that training can take us out of the winner’s platform.



This reality is also evident in our walk with the Lord. As believers, we make one mistake, and we're crushed as if God will never use us again and the prize has been lost.

As our friend and Pastor Jonathan Cahn teaches, maybe we've messed up. Maybe we feel that our call is over, and we can never be that close to God again.

Here's the good news. Our walk is not a powerlifting meet. God isn't an International Judge. Our hope isn't the first-place platform at the awards ceremony, but a crown atop of Mt. Zion.



God's mercies are new every morning. Many of God's people have known what it is to mess up and fall, and yet have gone on to be champions. Abraham, Moses, David, and Peter all messed up. However, after they messed up, they got up, kept going and won the race.

We must do the same. The most important time of rising up, is when we feel least worthy of it. The walk isn't on the competitive platform. It's greater.



*So is God's mercy –
and we are called to win the race.*



Thank you so much for joining us for today's "Power Church" message.

Until next Sunday: ***"Be strong in the Lord, and the power of His might."***



FAITH, FREEDOM, & FITNESS

DAILY BREAD

Monday, May 04

Daniel 1:17, 19

*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.

*The king talked with them,
and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah;
so they entered the king's service.*



All of us have “bent the knee” to either peer pressure or political pressure, or both. Whether it’s calling a lift good when we know the lifter did not squat deep enough, yielding to a position we know is both incorrect and morally wrong, or not having the strength to stand firm and acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we have all fallen short of God’s glory in this regard.

The four “young men” mentioned in today’s verse from Daniel 1:17 have already demonstrated willingness to maintain their faith despite intense pressure:

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.

Based on the content of this chapter, it seems not all the captured Jewish youths were so committed.

While Nebuchadnezzar intended to make these boys into assets for his royal court, the Lord God was ultimately in control of their destiny. All four are credited with impressive skills in logic, insight, academia, and intellect – as given to them by God. Daniel was gifted further with the ability to interpret dreams and visions.

In verse 19 we learn that after interviewing all the youths who completed the three-year training, Nebuchadnezzar appointed Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azaariah to prestigious positions in the court:

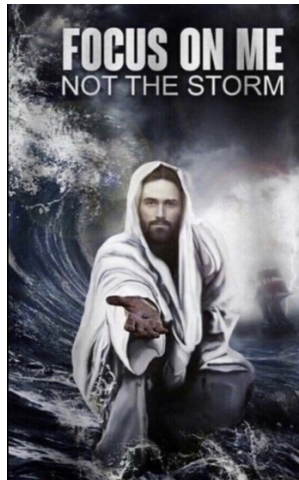


***The king talked with them,
and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah;
so they entered the king's service.***

Although they were far from home and the temple, they remained devoted to God and His Word. Neither political pressure nor peer pressure caused them to dishonor God.

Proverbs 22:29 states, “Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings.” Though all four had been given Babylonian names, they are labeled here with their original Hebrew names. This is meant to emphasize that their God, the God of Israel, had worked in their lives to advance them to prominent positions.

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**Tuesday, May 05
Daniel 2:1-2, 10, 12-13**

*In the second year of his reign,
Nebuchadnezzar had dreams;
his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.*

*So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters,
sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed.*

*The astrologers answered the king,
“There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks!
No king, however great and mighty,
has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or
astrologer.*

*This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the
execution of all the wise men of Babylon.*

*So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death,
and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends
to put them to death.*



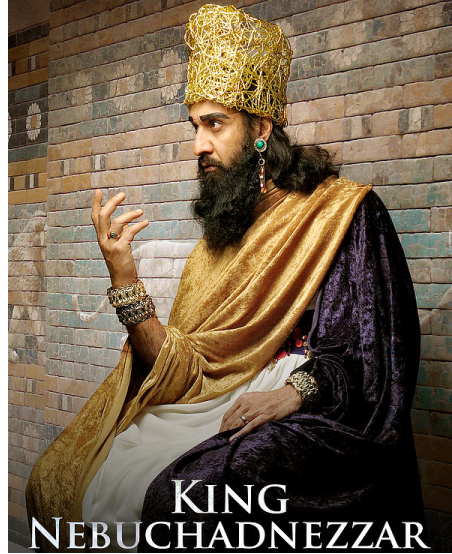
We have all confided in relatives and close friends when we are troubled. As athletes, we may have leaned on our brothers and sisters in iron as well, especially if the situation we are experiencing is sports related.

When King Nebuchadnezzar is troubled by a dream, he calls on his advisors to tell him both the content and interpretation his dream. As we learned yesterday, God made Daniel especially skilled in interpreting dreams and visions. And as we will learn tomorrow, this God-given ability saved the lives of countless court officials and established the four Hebrew men as important leaders.



Nebuchadnezzar employed a variety of spiritualists, diviners, occultists, and scholars to give him advice. These men claimed the ability to read stars, commune with spirits, conjure the dead, or cast spells to tell the future and uncover hidden knowledge.

The unusual part of the king's request is that he wants to be told the content of his dream – not merely what it meant. This serves as a test of his diviners and magicians. They ultimately admit that only a real god could know Nebuchadnezzar's dream, opening the door for Daniel to explain the power of the God of Israel.

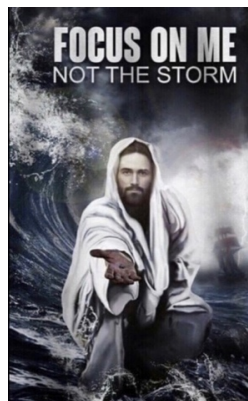


Angered by their response, Nebuchadnezzar issues an all-inclusive decree for slaughter, showing how his mood could swing from one extreme to the other. One moment he chose the four Hebrew youths to stand before him in his court, but later ordered their executions.

Scripture does not give a timeline, but it is likely that Nebuchadnezzar called his occultists, challenged them, and had them executed all within a matter of hours. It does not appear that Daniel and his three friends were aware of the king's request or his decree.

Unless God intervened, they would surely be killed ...

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**Wednesday, May 06
Daniel 2:17-23**

*Then Daniel returned to his house
and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael,
and Azariah.*

*He 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.*

During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision.

Then Daniel praised the God of heaven and said:

*“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are his.
He changes times and seasons;
he deposes kings and raises up others.
He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.
He reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with him.*

*I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors:
You have given me wisdom and power,
you have made known to me what we asked of you,
you have made known to us the dream of the king.”*



King Nebuchadnezzar challenged his magicians to prove their spiritual insight by telling him the contents of his disturbing dream. When they were unable to meet the impossible request, the enraged king ordered all of his wise men executed – even those uninvolved in the request.

Daniel met this threat with courage and asked for an audience with the king, promising to explain his dream. At the time the promise was made, Daniel had received no revelations about Nebuchadnezzar’s dream – he was acting entirely on faith that the Lord would provide a solution.

Daniel shared what little he knew with his three friends. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we, too, are called to mutually encourage, care, and pray for each other.

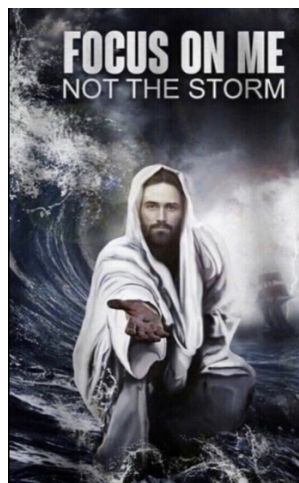
The Bible does not tell us exactly when this vision came to Daniel, but it came in response to his earnest prayer, and God provided the answer which only He could give. True to his character, Daniel responded to this revelation first by blessing the God of heaven and then revealing the dream’s content and meaning to Nebuchadnezzar.



Daniel's praise reads very much like a psalm, leading us to believe that he was well acquainted with the Book of Psalms. In his celebration, Daniel focuses primarily on God's perfect knowledge and control of all things.

Not a bad model to follow!

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**Thursday, May 07
Daniel 2:24-28**

*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.”*

*Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said,
“I have found a man among the exiles from Judah
who can tell the king what his dream means.”*

*The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar),
“Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”*

*Daniel replied,
“No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner
can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about,
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 ...*

When we miss a lift for technical reasons, we can respectfully ask the judges what our infraction was to ensure we do not make the same mistake on our next attempt. Simply stated, we want an explanation for why our lift was not passed. We may agree or disagree with the call, but it isn't by any means a "life or death" situation.

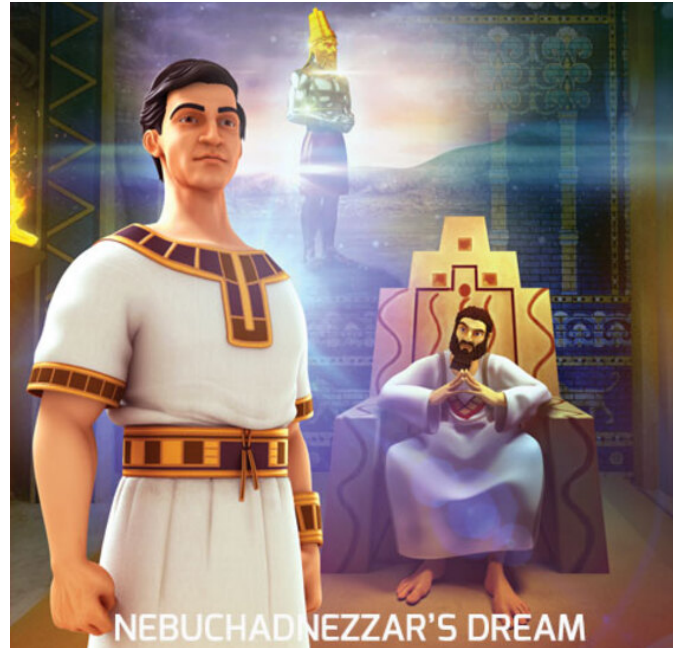


Daniel has shown firm trust in the Lord, and he calmly asks for an explanation from the man charged with killing him. Then, he promises that he can answer the king's challenge about his dream.

Arioch hurries to take Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar, leading us to believe that his captor believed Daniel and hoped the king would reward him. Further evidence is provided when Arioch announces Daniel linking himself to the success he expects Daniel to experience before the king.

Even today, the wisest unbelievers cannot understand and apply supernatural truth. Intellect and learning can only go so far in uncovering spiritual truth. We must submit to God and seek Him to understand certain things. Interestingly, the king refers to Daniel using his Hebrew name and not his imposed Babylonian name, Belteshazzar.

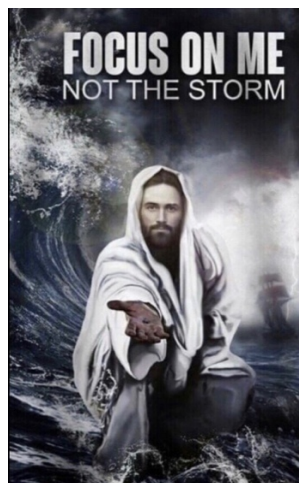
When asked by the king if he can reveal and interpret his dream, Daniel echoes the sorcerers' excuse: that no man could do what the king demanded. However, Daniel continues by making an important point when he claims that human wisdom or spirituality grounded in false gods is useless, but that his God, the God of heaven, can reveal such mysteries.



In this way, Daniel's appearance before the king is a powerful testimony for the God of Israel. When Daniel credits "a God in heaven" he distinguishes the true Lord from the false deities of Babylon and the lies of the sorcerers.

Although he was a captive in Babylon, Daniel recognized that he belonged to God and was privileged to make Him known to the king.

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**Friday, May 08
Daniel 2:29-35**

***“As Your Majesty was lying there,
your mind turned to things to come,
and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen.***

***As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me,
not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive,
but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you
may understand what went through your mind.***

***“Your Majesty looked,
and there before you stood a large statue –
an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance.***

***The head of the statue was made of pure gold,
its chest and arms of silver,
its belly and thighs of bronze,
its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.***

***While you were watching, a rock was cut out,
but not by human hands.
It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them.***

***Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold
were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor
in the summer.***

The wind swept them away without leaving a trace.

***But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain
and filled the whole earth.***

We all dream – we daydream when we're bored and we dream while lying in bed. Whether it's dreams of hope and glory, finding the love of our life, or spectacular achievements on the competitive platform, dreams can be both encouraging and inspiring. On the other hand, we can also have scary dreams and/or dreams we do not understand.



As Daniel begins to reveal and interpret the King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, he first makes sure to tell the king that this knowledge comes from God and God alone. God allowed Daniel, not Nebuchadnezzar or his advisors, to see both the vision and the meaning. This aligns with the idea that God, not human intellect, reveals the most important pieces of wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:4).

Daniel begins by describing what no one other than Nebuchadnezzar and the Lord God could know: the contents of the king's dream. The dream began with a huge, powerful, extremely bright image. The image was a gigantic statue in the form of a human. It was so large and brilliant, and so close to Nebuchadnezzar, that it terrified him. Daniel's description of Nebuchadnezzar's dream must have convinced him that Daniel truly knew what Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed; he did not interrupt Daniel throughout his description of the image.



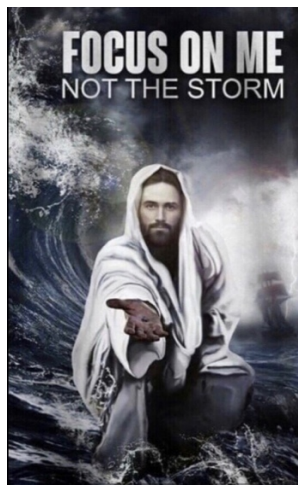
Daniel further describes the head, torso, midsection, legs, and feet by noting the materials from which they were made. From head to feet, the substances are listed as gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay, suggesting a pattern and a subtle message. The materials lessen in value and beauty from top to bottom and they grow in strength until the transition from iron to clay, when the statue suddenly becomes brittle.



Next, the king dreamt of a stone which impacts the statue on its feet, shattering the base of the statue. Without a doubt, this powerful stone has a divine origin, implied by the fact that a human being did not create it. The entire statue collapses and breaks into many pieces.

As Daniel will begin to explain in tomorrow's devotion, the various parts of the statue represent successive world-dominating kingdoms in history, starting with Babylon. The stone represents Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

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**Saturday, May 09
Daniel 2:36-43**



***“This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.
Your Majesty, you are the king of kings.*”**

***The God of heaven has given you
dominion and power and might and glory;
in your hands He has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field
and the birds in the sky.
Wherever they live, He has made you ruler over them all.
You are that head of gold.***

***“After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours.
Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze,
will rule over the whole earth.***

***Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom,
strong as iron - for iron breaks and smashes everything - and as iron
breaks things to pieces,
so it will crush and break all the others.***



***Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and
partly of iron,
so this will be a divided kingdom;
yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it,
even as you saw iron mixed with clay.***

***As the toes were partly iron and partly clay,
so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle.***

***And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay,
so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united,
any more than iron mixes with clay.***

As we discussed yesterday, Daniel was given insight by God about King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and described it to him. In today's verses, Daniel begins to explain the meaning of the king's dream.

Nebuchadnezzar was a powerful king, with a kingdom unrivaled by any other. His empire towered over others the way a king controls his own subjects. Daniel credits the Lord God's provision for Nebuchadnezzar's status as the world's greatest king. All of this would come about because of God's plan and according to His purpose.

As Daniel explained, the statue's golden head represented the king himself. The head stands for the Babylonian empire, over which Nebuchadnezzar reigned.

Daniel will continue the interpretation of the king's dream by predicting a succession of other kingdoms, also formed as parts of the statue. These are described by a series of metals that lessen in value. The kingdoms are also increasingly "divided," until the toes are depicted as a fragile mix of metal and pottery.



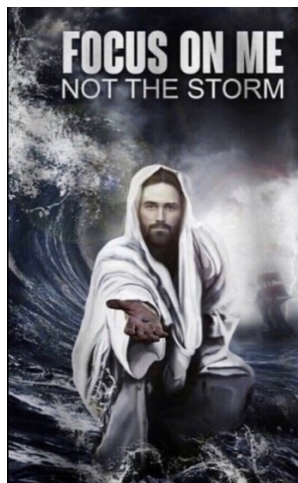
In hindsight, we can see which nations fit the description given by Daniel. The second kingdom fits the Medo-Persian Empire. This was "inferior" to Babylon in terms of being less of an absolute monarchy. The two arms express the joined-but-separate nature of the Median and Persian cultures who never fully cohered as one. The third nation, Greece, endowed still less supreme authority in its ruler. Alexander the Great united Greece, but after his death, it was split by his generals.

The fourth kingdom is represented by the statue's legs (iron) and feet (clay) and would become the power of the Roman Empire. Rome would always struggle with internal strife, which would eventually create open hostility, inner weakness, and the eventual shattering of the empire.

Thus, each part of the statue seen in Nebuchadnezzar's dream symbolized a nation; this predicted the future of the middle east. At the statue's "base," which is composed of iron mingled with clay, symbolizes the then-future Roman Empire, which would have an ironlike strength of military power, while also being divided and brittle on the inside.

The jumble of iron and clay, which can never unite, hints at the forced intermingling of cultures and peoples brought about by Rome's military conquests. Interestingly, Daniel describes the iron and clay as mixing together in marriage. If two different personalities with different values and attitudes are as resistant to unity as are clay and iron, the relationship is likely to fail. Rome's marriage of iron and clay was doomed from the start and eventually ended.

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