



The HUMAN of the Bible Reflection for the month of October is DANIEL.

I could sum up this story by simply stating - DANIEL PRAYED! As true as this is and as much as this truth will dominate throughout my writing, it does not complete Daniel's testimony.

Daniel along with others was caught up in what he knew to be as life-changing. His beloved nation of Israel had succumbed to capture under King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon.

II Chronicles 36:5-6

5 Jehoiakim was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned for eleven years in Jerusalem. He did evil in the sight of the Lord his God.

6 King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon attacked him, bound him with bronze chains, and carried him away to Babylon

Scripture states that those who obeyed the Prophet Jeremiah and his warning not to resist were taken alive. We are still in the first chapter of Daniel where Daniel and three of his friends were chosen by King Nebuchadnezzar to "stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans". They needed to be "children in whom was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science." (Daniel 1:4)

In my research, I found that Daniel and his friends could have been approximately of the age of twelve years old to even twenty at this time based on Jewish tradition of when a boy becomes a man. (Reference Luke 2:41-52).

The king appointed daily provision of the king's meat (Daniel 1:8). However, Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the king's appointed servings of meat and wine. Daniel made a request to those assigned to him that he be able to eat vegetables and water for ten days. Those assigned to him were concerned to go against the king and, also, risking these four not looking as healthy and strong as the others. BUT GOD had given Daniel favor with them.

Daniel's request in Daniel 1:12-14 states -

12 "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink.

13 Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see."

14 So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

What do you think happened after the ten days? The Bible says in verses fifteen and sixteen that after the ten days, they looked healthier and better nourished than those who ate the royal food and they were given vegetables and water from that moment on.

God gave Daniel and his three friends knowledge and understanding and this was for all kinds of literature and learning. Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds (Daniel 1:17).

King Nebuchadnezzar changed the names of Daniel and his three friends. To Daniel - he gave the name, Belteshazzar. At the end of the time set for their preparation before the king to bring them into service, the chief officials presented Daniel and his three friends to King Nebuchadnezzar.

We see in Daniel 1:19 that the king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel and his three friends. So they entered the king's service.

Daniel 1:20-21 -

20 In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

21 And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

As we continue reading the book of Daniel we see that King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream. He calls everyone he can around him and wants to know the meaning of the dream.

Daniel 2:10-13 explains the response to the king's request -

10 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.

11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans."

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

13 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.

Daniel approached the official. He wisely and tactfully asked him why the king had issued such a harsh decree. When the situation was explained to him, he went before the king. He asked the king for time – that he might interpret the dream. Daniel and his three friends prayed to the God in Heaven for mercy. They petitioned to God that He would protect them from being executed along with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Verse nineteen of chapter two in Daniel shows us that "during the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision." Daniel's response to God's revelation was to pray and offer praise to Almighty God -

20 "Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his.

21 He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.

He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

22 He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

23 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."

Daniel went to the official with the instructions to execute the wise men of Babylon and spoke up on their behalf not to execute them. He requested to be taken to the king so he could interpret the dream for him. The official, Arioch, did just as Daniel asked. He brought him before King Nebuchadnezzar 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 if he was able to interpret his dream. Daniel 2:27-28 gives his response -

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.

After giving all glory, honor and praise to the God of Heaven, Daniel interpreted the king’s dream.

Daniel continued to receive dreams, visions, and interpretations. The dreams continued to be fulfilled. He does this for King Nebuchadnezzar, as well as, for kings to follow.

One such king was King Darius. In Daniel chapter six we read that King Darius chose Daniel and two others as administrators to supervise and protect the high officers newly appointed by King Darius. Daniel proved himself more capable than the others and King Darius planned to place him over the entire empire because of his great ability.

The other administrators and high officials began searching for something with the way Daniel handled the government responsibilities that was to his fault. However, they could not.

Daniel proved to be trustworthy and faithful. These people determined “We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”  
(Daniel 6:5)

The administrators and high officials came together. They devised a plan for King Darius to establish a royal statute. Once signed by King Darius - it cannot be changed. As shown in verse seven, this firm decree stated that “whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save thee, O, king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.”

These leaders for King Darius who were so valuable and important in their roles, intensely and fiercely encouraged him to establish and sign this decree. Thus, King Darius did just so - he signed the writing and the decree.

Daniel learned of the writing being signed. Daniel did what he had previously done - DANIEL PRAYED. He went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God (verse 10).

These men who initiated the signed writing and decree went and found Daniel praying to Almighty God - asking for help. They immediately went to King Darius and confirmed that he would uphold the writing

and decree by throwing someone into the den of lions if they were found to be praying to anyone other than him. King Darius confirmed the decree would stand.

Their response - Daniel 6:13:

13 Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day.”

The king was greatly distressed when he heard this. He did all he could to rescue Daniel. They came as a group to him and reminded him of the law that no decree signed by the king could be changed. So he gave the order to have Daniel thrown into the lions’ den.

...The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”  
(Daniel 6:16)

The stone was placed over the door of the den and the king sealed it; Daniel’s situation could not be changed. The king returned to his palace. He didn’t have anything to eat and he could not sleep. Morning came, the king went straight to the lions’ den.

Daniel 6:19-24 shows us what happened next -

19 At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den.

20 When he came near the den, 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?”

21 Daniel answered, “May the king live!

22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

24 At the king’s command, the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions’ den, along with their wives and children. And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones.

King Darius sent a message in all languages throughout the world -

25 “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.”

This miracle-working, prayer-answering God of ours impacted King Darius so greatly that he sent a worldwide message in every language declaring prosperity, as well as, decreeing a fear and reverence to the God of Daniel who endures forever, rescues and saves, performs signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. King Darius gave a universal witness saying, “LOOK WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE” for what he observed God do on behalf of Daniel and his prayers! I cannot image a greater confirmation or compliment of a person’s walk with God.

Daniel went on to prosper under the reigns of Darius and Cyrus. Additionally, he had more dreams, visions, and interpretations after this. He is said to be “greatly beloved” in a vision believed to be Jesus, Himself, in Daniel 10:11.

What a powerful testimony of this HUMAN of the Bible - Daniel. How much - just in this writing - is there that we can reflect on? I encourage you during this month of October to read along with me the Book of Daniel.

Daniel 10:11

“And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee...”

May you, dear friend, humbly realize you are greatly beloved by our GREAT GOD and understand the words He speaks to you ...as we meet together at HUMAN Living Ministry! I’ll be here♥