



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2026 – WEEK 2

PROVIDENTIALLY PLACED AND PREPARED

...but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. – Daniel 2:28 ESV

- **Divinely anointed and appointed**
 - God has strategically placed Daniel
 - And miraculously equipped him
 - He is in the **right place** at the **right time**
 - And he will be there for a **long time**

*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. **And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.** – Daniel 1:20-21 NLT*

- He saw many of his prophecies fulfilled
- Including the fall of the Babylonians
- Daniel is writing to a Jewish audience
 - They knew the prophecies
 - But not their meaning or timeline

“This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the Lord, making the land an everlasting waste.” – Jeremiah 25:11-12 ESV

“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have

for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” – Jeremiah 29:10-11 ESV

Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer...who says of Cyrus, ‘He is my shepherd, and he shall fulfill all my purpose’; saying of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be built,’ and of the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’” – Isaiah 44:24, 28 ESV

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him...that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.” – Isaiah 45:1, 3 ESV

*“I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and **there is no other, besides me there is no God**; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that **there is none besides me**; I am the Lord, and **there is no other**.” – Isaiah 45:4-6 ESV*

- **Instruments in the Redeemer’s hands**

- We’re all cast members in God’s play
- Including Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar
- He uses ordinary people
- Like Joseph and Daniel
 - Both were innocent
 - Mistreated unjustly
 - Sent into exile
 - Divinely promoted
 - And used by God

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.” – Genesis 50:19 NLT

“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.” – Daniel 2:27-28 NLT

- **A nightmare scenario**

In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. – Daniel 2:1 ESV

- It is 3 years later (603 BC)
- Daniel and his friends have graduated
- They’re now official “wisemen”
- And it’s all part of God’s **perfect timing**
- The king has had a disturbing dream
 - But he can’t recall its content
 - And he wants to know its meaning

*...the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to **tell him what he had dreamed**. – Daniel 2:2 NLT*

*“I have had a dream that troubles me and **I want to know what it means**.” – Daniel 2:3 NLT*

- His wisemen panic
 - o He is asking the impossible
 - o They're wise, but they're not divine

*"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. 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.**" – Daniel 2:10-11 NLT*

- **No one but God in heaven**

- God has stumped...
 - ...the most powerful man in the world
 - ...and the wisest men in Babylon
- He has disturbed...
 - ...the king of all kings
 - ...and the men who advise him
- This isn't just a dream
 - o It's a divine decree from God
 - o It's a prophetic message
 - ...and a foreshadowing of the future
 - o And Nebuchadnezzar is petrified

"This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble."
– Daniel 2:5 NLT

- **When God's will doesn't make sense** – Daniel 2:12-13

- Daniel and his friends just **graduated**
- Now they're about to be **executed**
 - o But it's part of God's plan
- They're plight isn't an **oversight**
 - o It's a **providential opportunity**
- Daniel doesn't panic, he prays
 - o And God answers

Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. – Daniel 2:19 ESV

- o Then Daniel praises God
 - "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.
He changes times and seasons;
he removes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;
he reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,*

*and the light dwells with him.
To you, O God of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise,
for you have given me wisdom and might,
and have now made known to me what we asked of you,
for you have made known to us the king's matter.” – Daniel 2:20-23 ESV*

- **A (blurry) vision of things to come**

- Daniel tells the king what he saw
...and he reveals what it means
- But he's short on the details
...because this is the first of many visions
- Nebuchadnezzar proves to be a myopic majesty
 - He was self-obsessed
 - And fixated on his future

*“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...**” – Daniel 2:28 NLT*

“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.” – Daniel 2:29 NLT

- But God doesn't divulge everything
 - The prophecy lacks specificity
 - And its exact meaning is unclear
 - To Nebuchadnezzar and to Daniel

“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever.” – Deuteronomy 29:29 ESV

- **A dream come true – Daniel 2:44-45**

- Nebuchadnezzar like what he was hearing
*“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.**” – Daniel 2:37-38 NLT*
- “You are that head of gold” is all Nebuchadnezzar heard
 - He stopped at “head of gold”
“dominion and power”
“might and glory”
and “you rule over all”
 - He missed the “other kingdoms” part

- **The liability of living in “the now”**
 - God was revealing the future
...but Nebuchadnezzar wasn’t interested
 - He was living his best life now
...and the dream only confirmed it
 - He asks no questions
 - He requests no clarification
 - But he **promotes** Daniel
 - And **praises** Daniel’s God

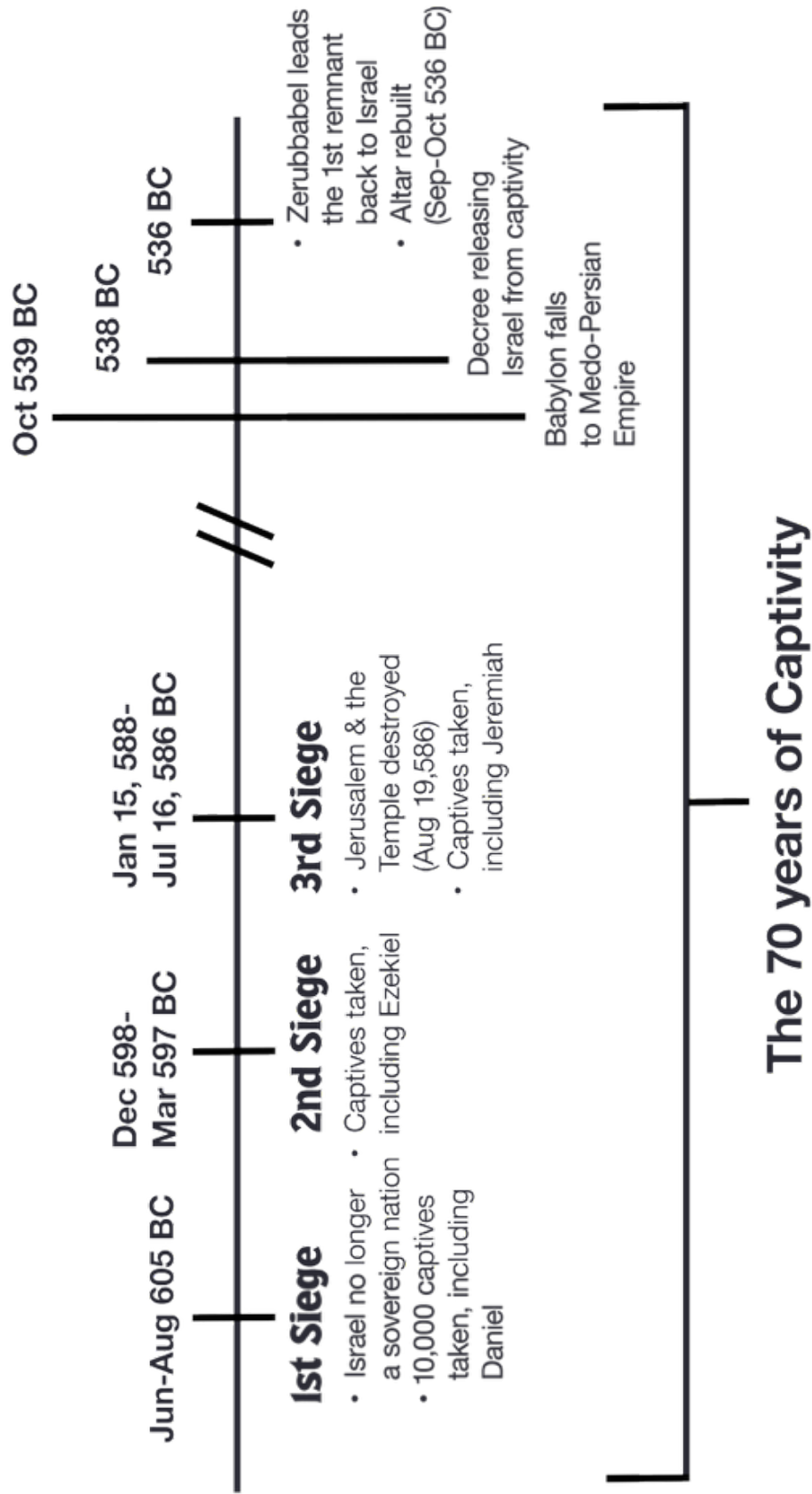
“Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.” – Daniel 2:47 ESV

- **Discussion Questions:**

Did Nebuchadnezzar become a “true believer” in God or did he just like what he thought he heard God say?

How does verse 1 of Chapter 3 prove that the king failed to understand the vision?

How can failing to know and understand God’s full plan for the future cause us to focus too much on the present?





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FALL SERIES 2026 – WEEK 3 HOMEWORK

WEEK 3 – WORTHY OF WORSHIP

Chapter 3 tells the familiar story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego being thrown into the fiery furnace because they refused to worship the golden statue Nebuchadnezzar had erected. While their faithfulness and courage are worthy of attention, this lesson will focus primarily on the statue itself and what its construction reveals about Nebuchadnezzar's heart.

- Sometime this week, read pages 35-48 of Ken's Devotional™ on the Book of Daniel.
- Begin by reading Daniel 3:1. Then compare Nebuchadnezzar's statue with the statue he saw in his dream. Although the text does not say he built an exact replica, what does the statue reveal about his pride?
- Read Daniel 3:1-7. How do these verses further expose Nebuchadnezzar's pride? For added context, review Daniel 2:36-38 and consider what Daniel had told the king about the meaning of his dream.

- Read Daniel 3:8-12. Summarize what happens in these verses. What may have motivated the king's wise men to report Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego? Look back at Daniel 2:48-49 for possible insight.
- Read Daniel 3:13-15. How does Nebuchadnezzar respond when Daniel's friends refuse to obey his royal command?
- Look closely at Daniel 3:16-18. How do Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respond to the king's threat?

What does their response reveal about their view of God?

Do you share their confidence in God? If not, what makes that difficult?

- Read Daniel 3:19-27. Even if this story is familiar, look at it with fresh eyes. What does it reveal about God's sovereignty, presence, and power?

Return to Daniel 3:17-18. These three young men were willing to trust God, yet they were also prepared to die. What does this suggest about their belief in life after death and their hope of eternal life?

- Read Daniel 3:28-30. How does this pagan king respond to the faithfulness of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and to the power of their God?

How did God use this pagan king to punish those who opposed His people?