



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2026 – WEEK 3

WORTHY OF WORSHIP

Then Nebuchadnezzar said, “Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him. – Daniel 3:28 NLT

- **The prostrate potentate**

- When we last left Nebuchadnezzar...
 - ...he was on his face,
 - ...praising Daniel,
 - ...and promoting Daniel’s God

King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. – Daniel 2:46 NLT

The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.” – Daniel 2:47 NLT

- Nebuchadnezzar was deeply affected by...
 - ...the dream itself
 - ...Yahweh’s power to deliver it
 - ...Daniel’s ability to interpret it
 - ...and its implications for the future

- **From prostrate to prideful**

- Nearly 8 years have passed
 - Nebuchadnezzar is still “the head of gold”
 - But Babylon’s strength is waning
 - In 595 BC, a coup was attempted

- But Nebuchadnezzar quickly crushed it
- A statement of defiance
King Nebuchadnezzar made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its breadth six cubits. He set it up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. – Daniel 3:1 ESV
- This wasn't a monument to Nebuchadnezzar's ego or pride
- It was a rejection of God's will
- The coup reminded him of what God said...

"But after your kingdom comes to an end, another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to take your place. After that kingdom has fallen, yet a third kingdom, represented by bronze, will rise to rule the world. Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron. That kingdom will smash and crush all previous empires, just as iron smashes and crushes everything it strikes." – Daniel 2:39-40 NLT

- So Nebuchadnezzar built an idol
tselem (Aramaic) – a form, image, or idol
 - It was a 90' tall and 9' wide
 - He erected it on the plain of Dura
 - Then he held a dedication ceremony
- This should sound familiar

*At one time all the people of the world spoke the same language and used the same words. As the people migrated to the east, they found a plain **in the land of Babylonia** and settled there...Then they said, "Come, let's build a great city for ourselves with a tower that reaches into the sky. This will make us famous and keep us from being scattered all over the world." – Genesis 11:1-2, 4 NLT*

- But what was God's command?

*God blessed Noah and his sons and told them, "Be fruitful and multiply. **Fill the earth.**" – Genesis 9:1 NLT*

- They were defying God's will
- And so was Nebuchadnezzar

Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to gather the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces gathered for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And they stood before the image that

Nebuchadnezzar had set up. And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. – Daniel 2:3-7 ESV

- What were they worshipping?
 - No god's name ever comes up
 - But Nebuchadnezzar is mentioned 6X
 - This was a monument to his longevity
 - And a call to unwavering loyalty
- **A battle of wills**
 - Nebuchadnezzar referred to Yahweh as...
...*"God of gods and Lord of kings"*
 - He is sovereign over all
 - He has all authority
 - But the monument said otherwise

Therefore at that time, certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews.
– Daniel 3:8 ESV

*There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; **they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.***” – Daniel 3:12 ESV

- Consider the words that Joshua spoke to the people of Israel
“...choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.” – Joshua 24:15 NLT
- **The revelation of God**
 - This passage is not about...faithfulness
perseverance
trust
or boldness
 - It’s about **sovereignty & authority**

*“...if you do not worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace. And **who is the god** who will deliver you out of **my hands**?” – Daniel 3:15 ESV*

*“...**our God** whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of **your hand**, O king.” – Daniel 3:17 ESV*

*“**But if not**, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” – Daniel 3:18 ESV*

- This is not an expression of **uncertainty**
- It is an admission of **sovereignty**
 - God is always in control
 - His plan is always perfect
 - Everything he does is just and fair
 - He can do no wrong

“To whom will you compare me? Who is my equal? Some people pour out their silver and gold and hire a craftsman to make a god from it. Then they bow down and worship it! They carry it around on their shoulders, and when they set it down, it stays there. It can’t even move! And when someone prays to it, there is no answer. It can’t rescue anyone from trouble.” – Isaiah 46:5-7 NLT

*“Do not forget this! Keep it in mind! Remember this, you guilty ones. Remember the things I have done in the past. **Do not forget this! Keep it in mind! Remember this, you guilty ones. Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me.** Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish. I will call a swift bird of prey from the east — a leader from a distant land to come and do my bidding. **I have said what I would do, and I will do it.**” – Isaiah 46:8-11 NLT*

- God is always revealing His sovereignty
 - Through His **creation**

...his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. – Romans 1:20 ESV

- Through His **judgments**

“...your places of worship will be torn down, and all the religious objects you have made will be destroyed. The place will be littered with corpses, and you will know that I alone am the LORD.” – Ezekiel 6:6-7 NLT

- Through His **mercies**

“I will make their land famous for its crops, so my people will never again suffer from famines or the insults of foreign nations. In this way, they will know that I, the LORD their God, am with them.” – Ezekiel 34:29-30 NLT

- Through our **suffering**

My suffering was good for me, for it taught me to pay attention to your decrees. Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver. – Psalm 119:71 NLT

- **The impotent potentate**

- Nebuchadnezzar thought he was in control
 - He boldly “made”
 - “set up”
 - “sent”
 - “commanded”
 - “decreed”
 - “ordered”
 - and “condemned”

And he ordered some of the mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their cloaks, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were thrown into the burning fiery furnace. – Daniel 3:20-21 ESV

And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” – Daniel 3:23-25 ESV

- Nebuchadnezzar is left stunned
 - His authority was **meaningless**
 - His rage was **pointless**
 - His arrogance was **preposterous**

The kings of the earth prepare for battle; the rulers plot together against the Lord and against his anointed one. “Let us break their chains,” they cry, “and free ourselves from slavery to God.” But the one who rules in heaven laughs. The Lord scoffs at them. Then in anger he rebukes them, terrifying them with his fierce fury. – Psalm 2:2-5 NLT

The wicked plot against the godly; they snarl at them in defiance. But the Lord just laughs, for he sees their day of judgment coming. – Psalm 27:12-13 NLT

Lord, you laugh at them. You scoff at all the hostile nations. You are my strength; I wait for you to rescue me... – Psalm 57:8-9 NLT

- **A foreshadowing of things to come**

Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace; he declared, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come here!” Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. – Daniel 3:26 ESV

- God’s children were **delivered**
- God’s sovereignty was **displayed**
- and His glory was **declared**...
...by a prideful, pagan king

*“Praise to the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego! He sent his angel to rescue his servants who trusted in him....Therefore, I make this decree: If any people, whatever their race or nation or language, speak a word against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, they will be torn limb from limb, and their houses will be turned into heaps of rubble. **There is no other god who can rescue like this!**” – Daniel 3:28-29 NLT*

- **Discussion Questions:**

How should God’s sovereignty help us face the fires of adversity? Why does knowing He’s in control matter?

What are some ways the enemy gets us to doubt that God is in control?

Read Psalm 78:4 and discuss the ways we tell the next generation of God’s glory and sovereignty?



BAND of BROTHERS

FALL SERIES 2026 – WEEK 4 HOMEWORK

WEEK 4 – DREAMS, VISIONS, AND NIGHTMARES

At this point, a steady flow of dreams and visions dominates the narrative, each divinely ordained and providentially timed by God. He is making a point and using Daniel as His mouthpiece to ensure that the message is clearly understood. It is important to notice that each of the visions have been the work of God and contain a message that has both immediate and future implications for the king, his nation, and the people of God.

Daniel is serving in the court of the king who rules over a global superpower, but God is always in complete control. Nebuchadnezzar is a pawn in Yahweh's hands, and, despite his overactive ego, he is no match for the Almighty.

- Sometime this week, read pages 49-64 of Ken's Devotional™ on the Book of Daniel.
- Begin by reading Daniel 4:1-3. How would you describe Nebuchadnezzar's impression of Daniel's God? What does he say that speaks to God's sovereignty?
- Read Daniel 4:4-7. How does Nebuchadnezzar describe his current state in verse 4?

What similarities do you find between this story and the one in chapter 2?

What differences do you see?

Based on what Nebuchadnezzar saw, how do you think he interpreted it?

- Read Daniel 4:13-18. What does he see in this part of the dream that begins to give it a darker, more sinister tone?
- Read Daniel 4:19-27. Why do you think Daniel was alarmed to share the dream's meaning with the king?

According to verses 24-26, what was God saying is going to happen to Nebuchadnezzar and why?

What does the king need to do to prevent this horrible fate?

- Read Daniel 4:28-33. Describe what happened to the king.

What do these verses reveal about God's sovereignty?

- Read Daniel 4:34-37. What do you think the king meant when he said, "I lived my eyes to heaven...?"

What happened when he did?

How would you describe his testimony about God?

What did God do for Nebuchadnezzar?

What does this chapter teach you about the sovereignty of God?