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**Series:** This is War!

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## DANIEL'S TESTIMONY

Hello and welcome back. This is the third sermon of the "This is War!" series. I have preached two sermons; this is my third.

I'm going to give you the testimony of a real man. This was a man who loved God. This story is not about whether he was a man or woman. What is most important was his attitude and goals. The application of this story is for anyone who loves the Lord. Amen.

Now, God's people in Judah were not obeying God. They rebelled against Him. They worshipped false idols. God asked them, time and again, to come back to Him. They were stubborn and remained in their sinful ways. So, God permitted their enemies to overtake them. This is interesting... God allowed the enemies to overtake the people in Judah. You will find this story in the book of Daniel in the Bible. Check it out in Daniel.

It's very clear here. King Nebuchadnezzar was king of Babylon. He captured the land of Judah. The people of Judah became slaves of King Nebuchadnezzar. The king asked his servants to find wise people among the slaves. He wanted to train them to become wise people of his kingdom. So, one of his servants found Daniel and his three friends. They had a lot of potential so they were trained.

Now, it gets interesting. The king decided to interview some of the people who had been trained for three years. He wanted to see how good they were and see how much they had improved. The king interviewed Daniel and his three friends. He even exclaimed, "Wow... they are ten times more wise than the others!" He thought they were better than all of his own wise servants. Some of them could tell the future and figure out stars in the sky. These people were among the wise servants of the king. Daniel and his three friends were wiser than the servants!

Why? Daniel and his three friends depended on God. Even though they served under a strange king in a strange land, they kept their relationship with God. That was the key.

Now, Daniel had the gift of interpreting dreams. If you had a dream and didn't know what it meant, Daniel could help you. He would ask God to help him interpret your dream and tell you what God wanted you to know. Daniel's gift of interpreting dreams is shown again and again throughout the book of Daniel. One time, the king had a bad dream. He was restless

and couldn't sleep. His wise servants were called upon and asked to interpret his bad dream. He even asked them to tell him what happened in his dream, because he couldn't remember it.

The wise servants were hesitant to respond. They said, "O, king, you'll live forever. Tell us your dream, then we can interpret it."

The king answered, "I can't remember it. Tell me what I dreamed last night."

How do you think the wise servants felt? Were they supposed to "get into his head" and know what he dreamt? They were used to having people tell them their dreams, then interpreting and explaining what the dream meant. The king thought they were worthless people because they could not tell the king his dream. He figured they might have been making up interpretations of dreams. He figured they were imposters. The king became really upset. He wanted to kill all of the wise servants. He didn't feel it was worth his time to keep them.

So, the soldiers started gathering all of the wise servants. They were ready to capture Daniel. He asked them to wait and give him time to pray so that he could interpret the king's dream.

Daniel went to his three friends and asked them to pray with him. They prayed together. They sought after God. They asked God to help Daniel interpret the king's dream.

Guess what? The good Lord gave Daniel an interpretation of the dream. Daniel walked to the king, told the king his dream, and explained to him an interpretation of the dream.

Daniel was the only one who accomplished this. Daniel was the only one among many wise men, even though the wise men had many years of training. Daniel was simply a young boy from another country. They wondered what kind of God he served.

Daniel served the same God we serve. It was the same God that created the heavens and earth. That God helped him. Wow!

This wasn't the only time this happened. It happened again and again. The king had other dreams. He called upon wise people to interpret the dreams. They couldn't. So, people would point the king to Daniel. They told the king that Daniel could interpret his dreams. The king would call Daniel. Daniel would interpret the dream and he was always right. The king would honor Daniel, bless him, and give him rewards.

Now, Daniel appreciated the rewards and blessings. However, he experienced warfare. You see...Satan tried to stop Daniel because his prayers were always answered. What's more...people heard about Daniel. They heard about Daniel's God, too. Remember, other countries worshipped false idols. They worshipped false gods. But, when the king was upset and mad and when Daniel gave him an answer for his dreams, the king was impressed by

Daniel's God. The king knew that Daniel's God was a real God. He called upon everyone to respect Daniel's God.

You know what that meant? The devil was starting to lose people. The devil loves to confuse people.

Can you imagine that happening today? It does. People need to see the truth. They will see the truth through your life and my life. They will see it through the way we act and talk. Let them see Jesus as Lord of your life. Then, they will want the same Jesus you have in their own lives.

Daniel was human. He was not perfect. He was human just like you and me. He had needs just like us. Sometimes there were dreams that Daniel did not understand. At first, he wouldn't understand what the dreams meant. Did he give up? No. He asked the Lord to show him what the dream meant. He continued praying and seeking the Lord. Even when he received no immediate answer, he continued praying. Still, he sometimes did not receive an answer. So, he started praying and fasting.

Daniel had a job, too. Of course, he had great responsibilities as one of the servants who helped the king rule the country. He would work all day. When his work was finished, he would pray and seek God. Then, he would go back to work and fulfill his responsibilities. After work, he would pray and seek God again.

Interesting...the Bible says in Daniel, somewhere in chapters 10-14 that Daniel prayed and fasted for 21 days. Why? Because he wanted to understand a dream that God had given him. It was so important to him to understand what the dream meant. He felt like he must understand. So, he prayed, prayed, and prayed.

Then, on the 21st day, an angel appeared to Daniel. The angel told Daniel that the Lord had already heard his prayer on first day he prayed. But, the angel had a battle with the King of Persia, that is Satan. The angel was ready to give Daniel an answer on the first day, but was hindered by a battle with Satan. The angel called upon the archangel Michael to help him get past the battle and give Daniel an answer to his prayer. Finally, Daniel got an answer to his prayer. He was now able to interpret and understand the dream.

Suppose Daniel gave up after one day of praying...assumed that God was too busy to answer his prayer? Assumed that God was "sleeping" and didn't bother to answer his prayer? Assumed that God doesn't listen? Assumed that it wasn't worth it to continue praying?

Daniel knew God. He knew God had an answer. Daniel kept a zealous attitude. He remained steadfast and firm in praying. Even when he did not receive an answer, he kept praying. That's the kind of attitude you and I need to have. Daniel was a man of prayer. He was also a man who wanted his prayers answered.

Do you need an answer for a situation you're experiencing right now? Of course, I believe

you do. God did not intend for you to solve problems on your own. That's not God. God wants to work with you. He wants to help you with your situation, no matter what you're going through. But, you and I must depend on God.

King Nebuchadnezzar and his people couldn't depend on their false god. Their false god did not work. Their false god did not give them answers. So, what did they do? They went to Daniel's God. Daniel's God gave them answers. As a result, they honored, blessed, and rewarded Daniel.

This story of Daniel demonstrates spiritual warfare. Daniel continued praying even when others tried to discourage him. They even made a law prohibiting people from praying to God. They wanted people to pray to the king. What did Daniel do? He still prayed three times a day to God.

Satan tried hard to stop Daniel. Daniel was thrown into a lion's den, yet he remained alive.

What does this show us? God is all-powerful. We serve a powerful God.

Daniel is someone you and I should strive to be like. We should pray until we get an answer. Continue praying...that is what you and I need to do. Amen.

Anytime you feel negative or discouraged, just remember Daniel. Look at that story in the book of Daniel. Let that story inspire you again. Remember that Daniel prayed. He fasted. God has your answer. But, you must remain faithful in prayer until the answer arrives.

Hallelujah! God is good. We'll continue with my fourth sermon next time. See you soon. God bless you.



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