

A Message to for the Fatherless

Daniel 1-4

Father's Day

Prepared by: Matthew S. Black

Sunday, June 15, 2014, 10:30am at Living Hope Church of Roselle, Illinois

“This little word, “Abba,” Father, deeply felt in the heart, surpasses all the eloquence of Demosthenes, Cicero, and the most eloquent speakers that ever lived. This matter is not expressed with words, but with groanings, and these groanings cannot be uttered with any words of eloquence, for no tongue can express them.”

MARTIN LUTHER

Announcements:

1. Welcome to Visitors
2. **Prayer Support:** See Marcel and Areta Reid at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need prayer or counsel.
3. **New Podcast: New Podcast:** Recently we began a podcasting ministry called “Growing and Changing in Christ.” Dion and Sofia Taylor as well as Jerry Soen are helping in the production of it. The podcast is posted each Monday around 4pm. Tomorrow’s question is “Are all saints predestined for holiness. You can email or text us with any questions you want us to answer “on the air.
4. **Annual Members’ Meeting:** Next Wednesday, June 18
5. **Church Work Day:** Sat. June 21
6. **Men’s Prayer Breakfast,** Sat. June 21, Bill Kroll teaching



pen your Bible to **Daniel 1** This morning I want to bring to you “A Message for the Fatherless.”

Fatherless Homes

According to this week’s Washington Times, almost one in two children today, live without their father in the home. According to the US Census, the statistics are staggering. 43% of children live without their father in their home. In 1960, just 11 percent of American children lived in homes without fathers.

One person said this: “Our kids are not asking for perfection, they are asking for our presence.”

- 90% of homeless and runaway children are from fatherless homes. [US D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census]
- 71% of pregnant teenagers lack a father in their home. [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services press release, Friday, March 26, 1999]

- 63% of youth suicides are from fatherless homes. [US D.H.H.S., Bureau of the Census]
- 85% of children who exhibit behavioral disorders come from fatherless homes. [Center for Disease Control]
- 71% of high school dropouts come from fatherless homes. [National Principals Association Report on the State of High Schools]
- Fatherless boys and girls are: twice as likely to drop out of high school; twice as likely to end up in jail; four times more likely to need help for emotional or behavioral problems. [US D.H.H.S. news release, March 26, 1999]

My Testimony

I was raised in a fatherless home. All of us have been disadvantaged in one way or another. And I want to give you hope that the scars from your childhood. The neglect, the abuse, the difficulties are not in vain. You do not have to be a victim. You can be a victor today.

Four Hebrew Fatherless Boys

I want to introduce to you today four Hebrew fatherless boys. Through them, I want us to see four foundations of faithfulness from the book of Daniel. The neat thing is that if anyone was disadvantaged it was Daniel and his three Hebrew friends: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. All of them were stolen away from their families. They were of royal blood, of a good education. But they were **captives** and **exiles**.

The book of Daniel opens on a quite despondent note. The city of Jerusalem has been besieged by the army of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, and it has fallen into his hands.

But the most striking observation about this situation is that the Scripture tells us it's not the strength of the monarch that has brought this about. This is by the hand of God.

Jerusalem Falls

Daniel 1:1–2, “In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. 2 And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God...” Down to the very vessels in the Temple, God was in absolute control.

In the year 586 BC, Jerusalem fell, the walls of the Holy City were demolished, and the Temple was destroyed. The ark of the old covenant for centuries the most sacred object, disappeared for all time and thousands of Jews joined their already exiled patriots in Babylonia.

Divine Chastisement

There was a divine chastisement occurring. Whoever God loves, He chastens. He disciplines every son and daughter. Israel was being disciplined by God. As a result four young men go fatherless. We read about them in the following verses.

Four Foundations of Faithfulness

In the book of Daniel we see four foundations of faithfulness in the lives of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and in ours. They did not see themselves as victims. They

did not use their cruel circumstances as an excuse. They did not call a time out or take their ball and go home. They served God faithfully in the most awful of circumstances. They had four foundations of faithfulness.

- Focus
- Service
- Faith in Trials
- Victory

I. Faithfulness requires **focus** (Dan. 1).

Introducing Daniel and Three Friends

Daniel 1:3-4, “Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the **royal family** and of the **nobility**, 4 **youths** without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and **competent** to stand in the king’s palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.”

It looks so civil, so dignified. But what was occurring here is slavery in a sense. Jerusalem had fallen, and the king wanted the best and brightest for His kingdom. Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were “of the royal family” in Israel and “of the nobility.” They were the very best and brightest in Israel.

But now they were fatherless!

Daniel’s Brainwashing

In order to understand Daniel we must realize that the Babylon to which Daniel and his three friends were taken was a secular, worldly place. Their initial experiences there were intended to blot out of their minds the remembrance of the true God and their homeland.

The chief characteristic of Babylon in Nebuchadnezzar’s time was what we would call its radical secular humanism. I say this because of a statement Nebuchadnezzar makes later on in Daniel, in the fourth chapter: “Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty?” (Dan. 4:30).

Nebuchadnezzar had built Babylon, and he had undoubtedly done it for his own glory. But in forgetting God, who had given him the opportunity to create such magnificence, Nebuchadnezzar was actually taking God’s glory to himself. Like all secular humanists, he was saying that all that exists is *of* man, *by* man, and *for* man’s glory. That is a true expression of the earthly city.

So Daniel and his three Hebrew friends underwent a brainwashing. They were given high positions as cupbearers. They were educated in the Babylonian ways. We read of it in Daniel 1:5-7, “The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. 6 Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah. 7 And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.”

Daniel's Faithfulness

What was the result of the brainwashing? Daniel 1:8, "But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. 9 And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs."

Daniel's Focus

Daniel and his three friends were willing to lose their lives in order to please God. They were not focusing on their disadvantages and the cruel tragedies that had befallen them.

The most important verse in the first chapter of Daniel is **verse 8**, which says, "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine."

What is your reaction to that? Remember that Daniel was a young man at this time. We know from the later development of the story that he lived for a very long time beyond this—through the rule of four emperors. He was probably in his nineties when he died. So at this point he was probably between fifteen and seventeen. It was at this young age that he was taken away from his own country and culture, plunged into the strange but exciting life of the great world capital, and lured to loyalty by the best of all possible educations and by provision of the very food served to Nebuchadnezzar. Yet Daniel refused to partake of this food. As I say, what is your reaction to that? Do you find it a very little thing?

Small Things

Well, it was a small thing. Yet that is just the point. For it is in the small matters that great victories are won. This is where decisions to live a holy life are made—not in the big things (though they come if the little things are neglected), but in the details of life.

You know what Jesus said: "One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much" (**Luke 16:10**). Being wholly given over to God now is the essential and best possible preparation for future service.

God's Blessing

Perhaps you are thinking, if I lived a holy life and focused on pleasing the Lord, I would fail in life. You might be thinking: "If I did the right thing in my job, I'd lose it." Or, "None of my friends would speak to me." Or, "I'd never get ahead." Or, "I just can't be holy; I've tried it and I fail." Or, "I would lose my family." That may be the case. You may lose much in this life but you will will gain the blessing of God.

Consider God's blessing on those who focus on the Lord. **Daniel 1:17-20**, "As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. 18 At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar. 19 And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. 20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom..."

Daniel and his three Hebrew friends **focused** on the Lord. This led to them being used of the Lord – **serving** the Lord.

II. Faithfulness requires service (Dan. 2).

At the end of Daniel 1 we are told that God gave Daniel three things. Because of his decision not to defile himself with the food and culture of the Babylonians, God granted Daniel *wisdom* beyond the wisdom of the Babylonians, *influence* beyond that of any in the kingdom, and *health* that resulted in long life. However, when we move from the end of the first to the beginning of the second chapter, we find that each of these is at once either disregarded or threatened.

Aramaic (chapters 2-7)

It is worth a digression here to observe that beginning with this verse (2:4) the Book of Daniel changes from being written in Hebrew, which has been the case up to this point, to Aramaic, which continues to the end of chapter 7. For the most part the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek.

After the Jews returned from Babylon, the common language of the people was Aramaic, which they learned during the seventy years of exile, and the use of two languages by Daniel is therefore a strong argument for the genuineness of the book.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

You know the story of Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, and he wanted the wise men to tell it to him and interpret it.

Daniel 2:10-11, “The Chaldeans [wise men] answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who can meet the king’s demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. 11 The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

So Daniel learned that he and his three Hebrew friends as well as all the wise men and astrologers would be put to death.

Daniel 2:12-13, “Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. 13 So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”

God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

So we read about Daniel's service to the king. Daniel 2:17-24, “Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. 20 Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

21 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;

22 he reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with him.
23 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."

24 Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation."

Of course Daniel interprets the dream. **Daniel 2:27-28**, "Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 28 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 Interprets the Dream (Dan. 2:31-45)

Daniel told the king that the dream revealed the future kingdoms of the world: from Babylon to Persia to Greece, all the way to the Roman Empire. Just imagine how shocked everyone was when Daniel revealed the dream.

The Stone that the Builders Rejected

We come, then, to the climax of the king's dream: the rock that struck the feet of the statue, destroyed it, and then grew to be a mountain that filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:35, "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."

Understanding this is both easy and hard. The easy part is the identification of the rock with Jesus Christ. To begin with, mention of the rock unveils a rich lode of biblical imagery. The first and most important reference is **Psalms 118:22**: "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

Solomon's Temple

This refers to something that happened in the building of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem. The stones for the temple were quarried far from the temple site, according to detailed plans supplied by the temple architects, and they were transported to the site and assembled without the noise of stone-cutting tools. Early in the construction a stone was sent that did not seem to fit. Since the builders did not know what to do with it, they laid it aside and forgot it. Later when they came to place a large capstone on their now nearly completed structure and sent to the quarry for it, they were told that it was not there, that it had already been sent up. They searched for it, found the stone that had been laid aside earlier, and installed it. It fit perfectly. Thus, "the stone the builders rejected [became] the capstone."

Jesus applied this and the following verse to himself, saying,

“Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes”? Matthew 21:42-43

Daniel Served the Lord!

Daniel was willing to serve the Lord. He wasn't going to sit on the sidelines. He was used of God! Get involved.

Ephesians 4:11–13, “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...” He goes on to say...

Ephesians 4:15-16, “we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love...”

Are you serving the Lord? Are you here in the services so you can be a blessing to your family in Christ? Are you available? Are you dependable? We often make excuses, and we miss out on God's blessing.

The Danger of Idleness

You don't want to be idle. When we are idle we do the devil's work. Think about David. He was always at his best when he was battling against the enemy. When he became idle he fell into sin.

Idleness is like water that is stagnant. Unless water is moving, it grows sour and bitter. That's how all of us are. Unless we are serving the Lord with diligence and gladness, we get depressed; we get lackadaisical; we get lazy; we get carnal. Serve the Lord. What a picture of Christ.

Daniel Is Promoted

So Daniel and his three friends are given great power in Babylon. **Daniel 2:46-49**, “Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king answered and said to Daniel, “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.” 48 Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.”

Focus on the Lord. Serve the Lord. Persevere in your faith for the Lord. That's our next point.

III. Faithfulness requires faith in trials (Dan. 3).

Daniel 3 tells us of the three Hebrew boys who were put into the fiery furnace because they would not bow to Nebuchadnezzar's golden idol.

The Golden Idol

Nebuchadnezzar built a great golden statue, which he set up on the plain of Dura. It was made of gold, and it was ninety feet high and nine feet wide. This was a gigantic statue that must have required enormous amounts of gold. Even if the statue was only covered with gold, it still would have taken a great amount.

Daniel 3:1, “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. 2 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.”

You know the story. Verse 6, “And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace.” 7 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.”

The Hebrews’ Stand

Verse 12 tells us of the three that had their faith tested. Daniel 3:12, “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.”

13 Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. So they brought these men before the king. 14 Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image that I have set up?”

The King’s Rage

Verse 15 – the king’s conclusion wasn’t so great...Daniel 3:15, “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?”

The Youth’s Faith

Dan. 3:16-23, “Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. 17 If this be so, 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. 18 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.”

19 Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury, and the expression of his face was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. He ordered the furnace heated seven times more than it was usually heated. 20 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. 21 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. 22 Because the king’s order was urgent and the furnace overheated, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. 23 And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace.”

The Boys Faith

I can imagine the Hebrew boys crying out to God. Sometimes in trials you don't know what to say. Sometimes all you can do is groan.

Paul says in Galatians 4:16, "because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!""

"This little word, "Abba," Father, deeply felt in the heart, surpasses all the eloquence of Demosthenes, Cicero, and the most eloquent speakers that ever lived.

This matter is not expressed with words, but with groanings, and these groanings cannot be uttered with any words of eloquence, for no tongue can express them."

MARTIN LUTHER

24 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." 25 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."

26 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. 27 And the satraps, the prefects, the governors, and the king's counselors gathered together and saw that the fire had not had any power over the bodies of those men. The hair of their heads was not singed, their cloaks were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them.

The King's Rage Turns to Praise

Daniel 3:28-30, "Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 29 Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." 30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon."

There were three things that gave Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego the strength to stand firm in this great test of their commitment.

1. *They knew that God was sovereign.* Nothing is clearer in their response to King Nebuchadnezzar than this: "The God we serve *is able* to save us," and if he chooses to do so, "*he will* rescue us from your hand, O king."

2. *They knew the Scriptures.* This is the reason they refused to bow down: God had forbidden it. But knowing the Scriptures is also important for the reason that moral issues seldom come to us in black-and-white terms. The world makes moral issues as ambiguous as possible. But if we are to do the right thing in such circumstances, we must know the Word of God, because only the Word of God will cut through such ambiguity. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego triumphed

because their minds were filled with Scripture and because they kept coming back to Scripture as the only fully trustworthy and inerrant authority in all matters.

3. *They were willing to die for their convictions.* I am sure you can see why this is important. It is important because it is possible to believe in a sovereign God and know from Scripture what that sovereign God requires and yet fail to do the right thing because you are unwilling to pay the price of obedience.

Many fail because they will not pay the price of a loss of popularity or loneliness or ridicule or persecution or economic hardship. Only those who are willing to pay such prices make a difference.

Called to Take up the Cross

Are we called to take up our Serta Bed or our Lazy boy? No we are called to take up the Cross and follow Jesus.

IV. Faithfulness leads to victory (Dan. 4)

God is Bigger than King Nebuchadnezzar

Dan. 4:1-3, “King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! 2 It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has done for me.

3 How great are his signs,
how mighty his wonders!
His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

Sounds good right? But the king is not yet humbled. He gets a second dream that tells him he’s going to be chopped down like a tree. This leads to a period of time where he becomes like an animal, or an ox.

One Sin God will Not Tolerate

There is a sin that God does not tolerate. I am sure you understand that in the ultimate sense there is no sin God will tolerate. All sin will be judged. Many sins are judged in this life; all sins will be judged in the life to come. Thus in using this title I am speaking in a different sense, and what I want to point out is that although God does temporarily tolerate some sins in this world, yet there is one sin that God does not seem to countenance. That sin is pride. “God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.”

Listen to Daniel’s interpretation: Daniel 4:27-33, “Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” 31 While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you,

32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.”
33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles’ feathers, and his nails were like birds’ claws...”

Nebuchadnezzar Restored

Daniel 4:34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever.

for his dominion is an everlasting dominion,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;
35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does according to his will among the host of heaven
and among the inhabitants of the earth;
and none can stay his hand
or say to him, “What have you done?”

Daniel Served the Lord!

Daniel 4:37, “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.”

God raises up kings and he is able to put them down. God is bigger than your job. He’s bigger than your problems. He’s bigger than your finances or your health.

Daniel did not serve the king; He served the Lord! He had victory because God is able to overcome the world for us!

How about you? Can you honestly say you are having victory in your life?

How does a person walk in victory?

Galatians 5:16–17 , “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.”

Don’t allow anything to overtake your joy. If God can humble a king, he can humble you.

Conclusion

Happy Father’s Day. Yet this day isn’t happy for everyone. Many of you grew up fatherless. Don’t use that as an excuse. You have everything you need to serve the Lord. Daniel and his three Hebrew friends served the Lord in faithfulness. So can you.