

# RESOLVED



**STAND STRONG AND LOVE WELL**

## **Influencing Babylon (... rather than being defined by it)**

*Pastor Doug Heisel – March 11, 2018*

2 Corinthians 5:20 — We are therefore **Christ's ambassadors**, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.

Daniel 1:7 — The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

- Daniel: God is my judge. Beltshazzar: May Bel protect
- Hananiah: The Lord shows grace. Shadrach: Under the command of Aku.
- Mishael: Who is like Yahweh. Meshach: Who is like Aku.
- Azariah: Yahweh helps. Abednego: Servant of Nebo.

**The world will attempt to confuse your IDENTITY,  
to disrupt your God-given DESTINY.**

Daniel 1:8 — But **Daniel resolved** not to defile himself...

Daniel 1:17 — To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And **Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.**

Daniel 2:1 — In the second year of his reign, **Nebuchadnezzar had dreams**; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed.

Vs 4 Then the astrologers answered the king, "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it."

Vs 5 — The king replied to the astrologers, "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..."

Vs 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."

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

Vs 14 — When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with **wisdom and tact**. He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel.

### **How to influence Babylon rather than be defined or destroyed by it.**

#### **1. PRAY and EXPECT God to give you supernatural help.**

Vs 16 ... Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery...

Vs 19 — During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven...

James 1:5-7 — If you need wisdom, ask God, and he will gladly give it to you. He won't resent you asking. But when you ask him, be sure that you expect him to answer, for a doubtful mind is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is tossed by the wind. People like that should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

#### **2. Use what God has GIVEN you, to be a HELP to others.**

Vs 24 — Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."

#### **3. Let your EXCELLENCE become a PLATFORM to point people to the One True God.**

Vs 26 — The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?" Daniel replied, "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. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.

## Upcoming Teaching Schedule:

### Mar 18

- Alamo: Special Guest, Scott Hagan — 8am, and 5pm; streaming from Dublin at 9:30am & 11:15am.
- Dublin: Special Guest, Scott Hagan — 9:30am & 11:15am.

### Mar 25

- Alamo: Pastor Doug — All services.
- Dublin: Pastor Doug — 9:30am & 11:15am, streaming from Alamo.

### **EASTER SERVICES - March 31 & April 1**

- Dublin: Pastor Doug - All services: Saturday, 4pm; Sun: 9:30am & 11:15am.
- Alamo (Sun): Pastor Doug, live at 8am and 12:45pm; streaming live from Dublin at 9:30am & 11:15 am.

## Life Group Discussion & Questions

**BREAKING THE ICE:** What's a "title" you have (or held) that this group might not know about — perhaps a role you served in, when you were younger?

**DIGGING IN:** After being deported to Babylon, Daniel and his three Hebrew friends were given new Babylonian names. Back then, a name change carried with it more than names do today. We might say it involved a "label" that culture was wanting to put on these men — to make them more like Babylon than like the men of God they were called to be.

1. Have you ever had a negative label put on you (or one you put on yourself) that needed to be removed? Explain.
2. Review the meaning of Daniel's Hebrew name (and the same with his friends' names) along with the new Babylonian name(s). Then discuss the following statement: **The world will attempt to confuse your identity to disrupt your God-given destiny.** Have you experienced a version of that somewhere in your life? Explain.
3. Review the three main points, from these notes, regarding, **Influencing Babylon.** Where or how can you apply at least one of those statements, in some current circumstance in your life? Explain.

**BRINGING IT HOME:** The book of Daniel is about being engaged non-conformists — standing strong but loving well. We are not isolationists or conformists. As followers of Jesus we are Ambassadors for God. We are to call people to be reconciled to God, through Jesus Christ. That is part of our identity, and therefore part of our destiny. Continue to let that truth, impact how you view your current circumstances, and how you steward what God has placed into your hands.