



# Daniel Prayed to God (part #1)

DANIEL 2:1-30

# Introduction & Explanations



- ▶ This chapter is very similar to the life of Joseph— all of his **previous sufferings** have led to this one shining moment. In this chapter we shall see how Daniel shone for God before all these unbelievers.
- ▶ “Chaldeans” can also refer to their educated scholars
- ▶ Some have translated “firm” (v.5,8) as “forgotten” or “gone from me.” Although this word can render both ways, according to the context “firm” is probably better.
- ▶ “limb from limb” (v.5) Sadly it was actually a famous form of execution in the Near East in those days.

# Daniel's Faith in God

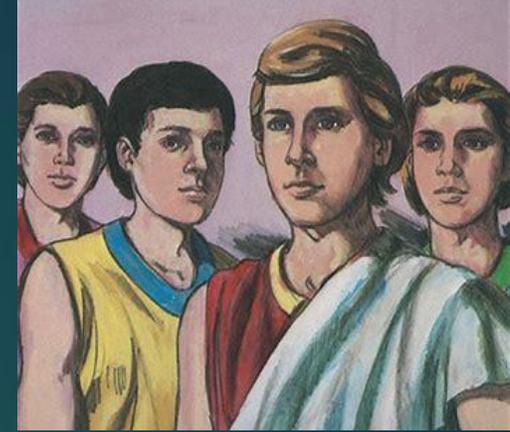
- ▶ Daniel **demonstrated his faith** in God as he spoke to the steward concerning meeting the king. (v.14-16)
- ▶ Many people say that they **believe in God**. But do they really? Did their actions speak for them?
- ▶ Daniel had **no idea** what or why this is happening. But he firmly believed that God would do something (note: he had no idea what exactly will happen next)
- ▶ However Daniel acted as though God had answered His prayer. Have you ever acted by faith like that? (ill: house)



- ▶ In this unbelieving world today (just like Daniel's time) we have many **opportunities** to exercise our faith in God—to boldly act as in God is **in charge**. Sadly we often shrink from such opportunities.
- ▶ Instead we may choose a **safer path** (i.e. compromise, run away, hide, pretend the problem is not there, etc.)
- ▶ Notice: Daniel acted **before** his prayer was answered (even before he was on his knees actually)
- ▶ This is not to suggest that we should act before we pray (see Dan. 6:10). Nevertheless, are you willing to act by faith in God, and not according to **your own understanding**? (Prov. 3:5-6)



# Daniel Prayed Together



- ▶ He prayed with his **companions** (v.17-19)
- ▶ Will God answer prayer if there is only **one person** praying? (1 John 5:14-15) Of course, so why pray **together**? (confused about Matt. 18:20)
- ▶ The Bible clearly has both the **examples** (Acts 12:5,12) & **requests** (Rom. 15:30; 2 Cor. 1:11) of praying together.
- ▶ Prayer is an exercise of faith, and we are called to stir up that faith and love with others (Heb. 10:24-25)
- ▶ (Rom. 15:5-6) Prayer also promotes **unity** (Eccl. 4:12)

# Daniel Gave Thanks to God

- ▶ Daniel did not only set an example of prayer in faith. He also set an example of **thanksgiving** (v. 20-23).
- ▶ Daniel thanked God for His **wisdom** and **might**—the two things that we lack but often do not seek God for.
- ▶ In facing the **impossible** (or almost impossible), we are reminded that we need God's wisdom and might.
- ▶ Do you thank God for His wisdom and might? You may find yourself **relying on God more** the next time around if you do.



# Conclusion

- ▶ Daniel trusted in God and acted according to his firm belief that **God will act**. Do you act according to faith?
- ▶ Daniel did not **compromise** or run away. But do we?
- ▶ Daniel prayed with His friends **together**. How often do you pray with others?
- ▶ Daniel **gave thanks** to God for His wisdom and might. He clearly relied on God even in thanksgiving. How often do you thank God for who He is?

