

## Daniel

In the third year of the reign of Jehoi'akim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoi'akim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of  
5 his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. Then the king commanded Ash'penaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility, youths without blemish, handsome and skilful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to serve in the king's palace, and to teach them the  
10 letters and language of the Chalde'ans. The king assigned them a daily portion of the rich food which the king ate, and of the wine which he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king. Among these were Daniel, Hanani'ah, Mish'a-el, and Azari'ah of the tribe of Judah. And the chief of the eunuchs  
15 gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hanani'ah he called Shadrach, Mish'a-el he called Meshach, and Azari'ah he called Abed'nego. But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's rich food, or with the wine which he drank; therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself. And God gave Daniel favor and  
20 compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs; and the chief of the

eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear lest my lord the king, who appointed your food and your drink, should see that you were in poorer condition than the youths who are of your own age. So you would endanger my head with the king." Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had

5 appointed over Daniel, Hanani'ah, Mish'a-el, and Azari'ah; "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's rich food be observed by you, and according to what you see deal with your servants." So he hearkened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten

10 days. At the end of ten days it was seen that they were better in appearance and fatter in flesh than all the youths who ate the king's rich food. So the steward took away their rich food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables. As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all letters and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and

15 dreams. 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. And the king spoke with them, and among them all none was found like Daniel, Hanani'ah, Mish'a-el, and Azari'ah; therefore they stood before the king. And in every matter of wisdom and understanding

20 concerning which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better

than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. And Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus. In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. Then the king commanded that the

5 magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chalde'ans be summoned, to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream." Then the Chalde'ans said to the king, "O king, live for ever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." The king

10 answered the Chalde'ans, "The word from me is sure: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation." They answered a

15 second time, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation." The king answered, "I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is sure that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times

20 change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show

me its interpretation." The Chalde'ans answered the king, "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 Chalde'an. The thing that the king asks is difficult, and none can show it to the king except the

5 gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. So the decree went forth that the wise men were to be slain, and they sought Daniel and his companions, to slay them. Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Ar'i-och, the captain of the king's guard, who

10 had gone out to slay the wise men of Babylon; he said to Ar'i-och, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so severe?" Then Ar'i-och made the matter known to Daniel. And Daniel went in and besought the king to appoint him a time, that he might show to the king the interpretation. Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hanani'ah,

15 Mish'a-el, and Azari'ah, his companions, and told them to seek mercy of the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel said: "Blessed be the name of God for ever and

20 ever. to whom belong wisdom and might. 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; he reveals deep and mysterious things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. To thee, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for thou hast given me

5 wisdom and strength, and hast now made known to me what we asked of thee, for thou hast made known to us the king's matter." Therefore Daniel went in to Ar'i-och, 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

10 interpretation." Then Ar'i-och brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who can make known to the king the interpretation." The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshaz'zar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" Daniel answered the king, "No

15 wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery which the king has asked, 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. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would

20 be hereafter, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to

be. But as for me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living has this mystery been revealed to me, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind. "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This  
5 image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its breast and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it smote the image on its feet of iron and clay, and  
10 broke them in pieces; 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. "This was the dream; now we will tell  
15 the king its interpretation. You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the sons of men, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the air, making you rule over them all--you are the head of gold. After you shall arise another kingdom inferior  
20 to you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the

earth. And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things; and like iron which crushes, it shall break and crush all these. And as you saw the feet and toes partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom; but some of

5 the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the miry clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. As you saw the iron mixed with miry clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. And in the days of

10 those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever; just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver,

15 and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be hereafter. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure." Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and did homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. The king said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a

20 revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." 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. Daniel made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed'nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but

5 Daniel remained at the king's court. 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. Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent to assemble the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the

10 officials of the provinces to come to the dedication of the image which 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, were assembled for the dedication of the image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up; and they stood before the image that

15 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

20 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 which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Therefore at that time certain Chaldeans came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. They said

5 to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live for ever! You, O king, have made a decree, that every man who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, shall fall down and worship the golden image; and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be cast into a burning fiery furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have

10 appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no heed to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up." Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought. Then they brought these men before the king.

15 Nebuchadnezzar said to them, "Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the golden image which I have set up? Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, to fall down and worship the image which I have made, well and good; but if you do not

20 worship, you shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace; and who

is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?" Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abed'nego answered the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to  
answer you in this matter. If it 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  
5 hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not  
serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up." Then  
Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression of his face was changed  
against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed'nego. He ordered the furnace heated  
seven times more than it was wont to be heated. And he ordered certain  
10 mighty men of his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed'nego, and to  
cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their  
mantles, their tunics, their hats, and their other garments, and they were cast  
into the burning fiery furnace. Because the king's order was strict and the  
furnace very hot, the flame of the fire slew those men who took up  
15 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed'nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach,  
and Abed'nego, fell bound into the burning fiery furnace. Then King  
Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He said to his  
counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?" They answered  
the king, "True, O king." He answered, "But I see four men loose, walking  
20 in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the

fourth is like a son of the gods." Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the door of the burning fiery furnace and said, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, servants of the Most High God, come forth, and come here!" Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out from the fire. And the

5 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 mantles were not harmed, and no smell of fire had come upon them. Nebuchadnezzar said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his

10 angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set at nought the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. 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

15 in ruins; for there is no other god who is able to deliver in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar to all peoples, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you! It has seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has wrought toward

20 me. How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an

everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation. I,  
Nebuchadnezzar, was at ease in my house and prospering in my palace. I  
had a dream which made me afraid; as I lay in bed the fancies and the  
visions of my head alarmed me. Therefore I made a decree that all the wise  
5 men of Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known  
to me the interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the  
Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in; and I told them the dream, but they  
could not make known to me its interpretation. At last Daniel came in before  
me--he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in  
10 whom is the spirit of the holy gods--and I told him the dream, saying, "O  
Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the  
holy gods is in you and that no mystery is difficult for you, here is the  
dream which I saw; tell me its interpretation. The visions of my head as I  
lay in bed were these: I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth;  
15 and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong, and its top  
reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth. Its  
leaves were fair and its fruit abundant, and in it was food for all. The beasts  
of the field found shade under it, and the birds of the air dwelt in its  
branches, and all flesh was fed from it. "I saw in the visions of my head as  
20 I lay in bed, and behold, a watcher, a holy one, came down from heaven.

He cried aloud and said thus, 'Hew down the tree and cut off its branches, strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit; let the beasts flee from under it and the birds from its branches. But leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, amid the tender grass of the field.

5 Let him be wet with the dew of heaven; let his lot be with the beasts in the grass of the earth; let his mind be changed from a man's, and let a beast's mind be given to him; and let seven times pass over him. The sentence is by the decree of the watchers, the decision by the word of the holy ones, to the end that the living may know that the Most High rules the kingdom of  
10 men, and gives it to whom he will, and sets over it the lowliest of men.'

This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you." Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was

15 dismayed for a moment, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king said, "Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you."

Belteshazzar answered, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the

20 end of the whole earth; whose leaves were fair and its fruit abundant, and in

which was food for all; under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the air dwelt-- it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. And whereas the king saw a

5 watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, 'Hew down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field; and let him be wet with the dew of heaven; and let his lot be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him'; this is the interpretation, O king: It is a

10 decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field; you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men, and gives it to whom

15 he will. And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be sure for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. 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

20 tranquillity." All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. At the end of twelve

months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king 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?" While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O

5 King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, 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 times shall pass over you, until you have learned that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will." Immediately

10 the word was fulfilled upon 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. 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

15 praised and honored him who lives for ever; for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing; and he does according to his will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What doest thou?" At the

20 same time my reason returned to me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my

majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. 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

5 walk in pride he is able to abase. King Belshazzar made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in front of the thousand. Belshazzar, when he tasted the wine, commanded that the vessels of gold and of silver which Nebuchadnezzar his father had taken out of the temple in Jerusalem be brought, that the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines might

10 drink from them. Then they brought in the golden and silver vessels which had been taken out of the temple, the house of God in Jerusalem; and the king and his lords, his wives, and his concubines drank from them. They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone. Immediately the fingers of a man's hand appeared and wrote on the

15 plaster of the wall of the king's palace, opposite the lampstand; and the king saw the hand as it wrote. Then the king's color changed, and his thoughts alarmed him; his limbs gave way, and his knees knocked together. The king cried aloud to bring in the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers.

The king said to the wise men of Babylon, "Whoever reads this writing, and

20 shows me its interpretation, shall be clothed with purple, and have a chain of



gold about his neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom." Then all the king's wise men came in, but they could not read the writing or make known to the king the interpretation. Then King Belshaz'zar was greatly alarmed, and his color changed; and his lords were perplexed. The queen,

5 because of the words of the king and his lords, came into the banqueting hall; and the queen said, "O king, live for ever! Let not your thoughts alarm you or your color change. There is in your kingdom a man in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, were found in him, and King

10 Nebuchadnezzar, your father, made him chief of the magicians, enchanters, Chalde'ans, and astrologers, because an excellent spirit, knowledge, and understanding to interpret dreams, explain riddles, and solve problems were found in this Daniel, whom the king named Belteshaz'zar. Now let Daniel be called, and he will show the interpretation." Then Daniel was brought in

15 before the king. The king said to Daniel, "You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. I have heard of you that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and

20 make known to me its interpretation; but they could not show the

interpretation of the matter. But I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems. Now if you can read the writing and make known to me its interpretation, you shall be clothed with purple, and have a chain of gold about your neck, and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom. Then

5 Daniel answered before the king, "Let your gifts be for yourself, and give your rewards to another; nevertheless I will read the writing to the king and make known to him the interpretation. O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty; and because of the greatness that he gave him, all peoples, nations, and

10 languages trembled and feared before him; whom he would he slew, and whom he would he kept alive; whom he would he raised up, and whom he would he put down. But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him; he was driven from among men, and his

15 mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild asses; he was fed grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until he knew that the Most High God rules the kingdom of men, and sets over it whom he will. And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, but you have lifted up

20 yourself against the Lord of heaven; and the vessels of his house have been

brought in before you, and you and your lords, your wives, and your concubines have drunk wine from them; and you have praised the gods of silver and gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see or hear or know, but the God in whose hand is your breath, and whose are all your

5 ways, you have not honored. "Then from his presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN. This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; TEKEL, you have been weighed in the balances and found

10 wanting; PERES, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians." Then Belshaz'zar commanded, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put about his neck, and proclamation was made concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. That very night Belshaz'zar the Chalde'an king was slain. And Darius the Mede

15 received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old. It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom a hundred and twenty satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; and over them three presidents, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other presidents and

20 satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king planned to set

him over the whole kingdom. Then the presidents and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom; but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in him. Then these men said, "We

5 shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God." Then these presidents and satraps came by agreement to the king and said to him, "O King Darius, live for ever! All the presidents of the kingdom, the prefects and the satraps, the counselors and the governors are agreed that the king should establish an

10 ordinance and enforce an interdict, that whoever makes petition to any god or man for thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions. Now, O king, establish the interdict and sign the document, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and the Persians, which cannot be revoked." Therefore King Darius signed the document and

15 interdict. When Daniel knew that the document had been signed, he went to his house where he had windows in his upper chamber open toward Jerusalem; and he got down upon his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously. Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and supplication before

20 his God. Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the

interdict, "O king! Did you not sign an interdict, that any man who makes petition to any god or man within thirty days except to you, O king, shall be cast into the den of lions?" The king answered, "The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked."

5 Then they answered before the king, "That Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no heed to you, O king, or the interdict you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day." Then the king, when he heard these words, was much distressed, and set his mind to deliver Daniel; and he labored till the sun went down to rescue him. Then these men came by

10 agreement to the king, and said to the king, "Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no interdict or ordinance which the king establishes can be changed." Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!" And a stone was brought

15 and laid upon the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet and with the signet of his lords, that nothing might be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king went to his palace, and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him. Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. When

20 he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of

anguish and said to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?"

Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live for ever! My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not hurt me, because I was found

5 blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no wrong."

Then the king was exceedingly glad, and commanded that Daniel be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no kind of hurt was found upon him, because he had trusted in his God. And the king commanded, and those men who had accused Daniel were brought and cast

10 into the den of lions--they, their children, and their wives; and before they reached the bottom of the den the lions overpowered them and broke all their bones in pieces. Then King Darius wrote to all the peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: "Peace be multiplied to you. I make a decree, that in all my royal dominion men tremble and fear before

15 the God of Daniel, for he is the living God, enduring for ever; his kingdom shall never be destroyed, and his dominion shall be to the end. He delivers and rescues, he works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, he who has saved Daniel from the power of the lions." So this Daniel prospered during the reign of Darius and the reign of Cyrus the Persian. In the first

20 year of Belshaz'zar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his

head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream, and told the sum  
of the matter. Daniel said, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the  
four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. And four great beasts  
came up out of the sea, different from one another. The first was like a lion  
5 and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it  
was lifted up from the ground and made to stand upon two feet like a man;  
and the mind of a man was given to it. And behold, another beast, a second  
one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side; it had three ribs in its mouth  
between its teeth; and it was told, 'Arise, devour much flesh.' After this I  
10 looked, and lo, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its  
back; and the beast had four heads; and dominion was given to it. After this  
I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrible and dreadful  
and exceedingly strong; and it had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in  
pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet. It was different from all the  
15 beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. I considered the horns, and  
behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which  
three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots; and behold, in this  
horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.  
As I looked, thrones were placed and one that was ancient of days took his  
20 seat; his raiment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure

wool; his throne was fiery flames, its wheels were burning fire. A stream of  
fire issued and came forth from before him; a thousand thousands served  
him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in  
judgment, and the books were opened. I looked then because of the sound of  
5 the great words which the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast  
was slain, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. As  
for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives  
were prolonged for a season and a time. I saw in the night visions, and  
behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he  
10 came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was  
given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and  
languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which  
shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. "As  
for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious and the visions of my head  
15 alarmed me. I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the  
truth concerning all this. So he told me, and made known to me the  
interpretation of the things. "These four great beasts are four kings who shall  
arise out of the earth. But the saints of the Most High shall receive the  
kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, for ever and ever." "Then I  
20 desired to know the truth concerning the fourth beast, which was different



from all the rest, exceedingly terrible, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze; and which devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet; and concerning the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn which came up and before which three of them fell, the horn

5 which had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and which seemed greater than its fellows. As I looked, this horn made war with the saints, and prevailed over them, until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints received the kingdom. "Thus he said: 'As for the fourth beast, there shall be

10 a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. He shall speak words against the Most High, and

15 shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, two times, and half a time. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the

20 whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High;

their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.' "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed; but I kept the matter in my mind." In the third year of the reign of King Belshaz'zar a vision

5 appeared to me, Daniel, after that which appeared to me at the first. And I saw in the vision; and when I saw, I was in Susa the capital, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in the vision, and I was at the river U'lai. I raised my eyes and saw, and behold, a ram standing on the bank of the river. It had two horns; and both horns were high, but one was higher than

10 the other, and the higher one came up last. I saw the ram charging westward and northward and southward; no beast could stand before him, and there was no one who could rescue from his power; he did as he pleased and magnified himself. As I was considering, behold, a he-goat came from the west across the face of the whole earth, without touching the ground; and the

15 goat had a conspicuous horn between his eyes. He came to the ram with the two horns, which I had seen standing on the bank of the river, and he ran at him in his mighty wrath. I saw him come close to the ram, and he was enraged against him and struck the ram and broke his two horns; and the ram had no power to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground

20 and trampled upon him; and there was no one who could rescue the ram

from his power. Then the he-goat magnified himself exceedingly; but when he was strong, the great horn was broken, and instead of it there came up four conspicuous horns toward the four winds of heaven. Out of one of them came forth a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south,

5 toward the east, and toward the glorious land. It grew great, even to the host of heaven; and some of the host of the stars it cast down to the ground, and trampled upon them. It magnified itself, even up to the Prince of the host; and the continual burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. And the host was given over to it together

10 with the continual burnt offering through transgression; and truth was cast down to the ground, and the horn acted and prospered. Then I heard a holy one speaking; and another holy one said to the one that spoke, "For how long is the vision concerning the continual burnt offering, the transgression that makes desolate, and the giving over of the sanctuary and host to be

15 trampled under foot?" And he said to him, "For two thousand and three hundred evenings and mornings; then the sanctuary shall be restored to its rightful state." When I, Daniel, had seen the vision, I sought to understand it; and behold, there stood before me one having the appearance of a man. And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the U'lai, and it called, "Gabriel,

20 make this man understand the vision." So he came near where I stood; and

when he came, I was frightened and fell upon my face. But he said to me,  
"Understand, O son of man, that the vision is for the time of the end." As  
he was speaking to me, I fell into a deep sleep with my face to the ground;  
but he touched me and set me on my feet. He said, "Behold, I will make  
5 known to you what shall be at the latter end of the indignation; for it  
pertains to the appointed time of the end. As for the ram which you saw  
with the two horns, these are the kings of Media and Persia. And the he-  
goat is the king of Greece; and the great horn between his eyes is the first  
king. As for the horn that was broken, in place of which four others arose,  
10 four kingdoms shall arise from his nation, but not with his power. And at  
the latter end of their rule, when the transgressors have reached their full  
measure, a king of bold countenance, one who understands riddles, shall  
arise. His power shall be great, and he shall cause fearful destruction, and  
shall succeed in what he does, and destroy mighty men and the people of  
15 the saints. By his cunning he shall make deceit prosper under his hand, and  
in his own mind he shall magnify himself. Without warning he shall destroy  
many; and he shall even rise up against the Prince of princes; but, by no  
human hand, he shall be broken. The vision of the evenings and the  
mornings which has been told is true; but seal up the vision, for it pertains  
20 to many days hence." And I, Daniel, was overcome and lay sick for some

days; then I rose and went about the king's business; but I was appalled by the vision and did not understand it. In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasu-e'rus, by birth a Mede, who became king over the realm of the Chalde'ans-- in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books

5 the number of years which, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years. Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and supplications with fasting and sackcloth and ashes. I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and

10 terrible God, who keepest covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from thy commandments and ordinances; we have not listened to thy servants the prophets, who spoke in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. To

15 thee, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us confusion of face, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those that are near and those that are far away, in all the lands to which thou hast driven them, because of the treachery which they have committed against thee. To us, O Lord, belongs confusion of face, to our kings, to our

20 princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee. To the Lord

our God belong mercy and forgiveness; because we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by following his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. All Israel has transgressed thy law and turned aside, refusing to obey thy voice. And the

5 curse and oath which are written in the law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we have sinned against him. He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us and against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us a great calamity; for under the whole heaven there has not been done the like of what has been done against Jerusalem.

10 As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us, yet we have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and giving heed to thy truth. Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon us; for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works which he has done, and we have not obeyed his voice. And

15 now, O Lord our God, who didst bring thy people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast made thee a name, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly. O Lord, according to all thy righteous acts, let thy anger and thy wrath turn away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy hill; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy

20 people have become a byword among all who are round about us. Now

therefore, O our God, hearken to the prayer of thy servant and to his  
supplications, and for thy own sake, O Lord, cause thy face to shine upon  
thy sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline thy ear and hear; open  
thy eyes and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy  
5 name; for we do not present our supplications before thee on the ground of  
our righteousness, but on the ground of thy great mercy. O LORD, hear; O  
LORD, forgive; O LORD, give heed and act; delay not, for thy own sake, O  
my God, because thy city and thy people are called by thy name." While I  
was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people  
10 Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy  
hill of my God; while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I  
had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of  
the evening sacrifice. He came and he said to me, "O Daniel, I have now  
come out to give you wisdom and understanding. At the beginning of your  
15 supplications a word went forth, and I have come to tell it to you, for you  
are greatly beloved; therefore consider the word and understand the vision.  
"Seventy weeks of years are decreed concerning your people and your holy  
city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for  
iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet,  
20 and to anoint a most holy place. Know therefore and understand that from

the going forth of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of  
an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two  
weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.  
And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off, and shall  
5 have nothing; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the  
city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there  
shall be war; desolations are decreed. And he shall make a strong covenant  
with many for one week; and for half of the week he shall cause sacrifice  
and offering to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one  
10 who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator." In  
the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a word was revealed to Daniel, who  
was named Belteshaz'zar. And the word was true, and it was a great conflict.  
And he understood the word and had understanding of the vision. In those  
days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no delicacies, no meat  
15 or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three  
weeks. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the  
bank of the great river, that is, the Tigris, I lifted up my eyes and looked,  
and behold, a man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with gold of  
Uphaz. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his  
20 eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished



bronze, and the sound of his words like the noise of a multitude. And I,  
Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the  
vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide  
themselves. So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength  
5 was left in me; my radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained  
no strength. Then I heard the sound of his words; and when I heard the  
sound of his words, I fell on my face in a deep sleep with my face to the  
ground. And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands  
and knees. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly beloved, give heed to  
10 the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent  
to you." While he was speaking this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then  
he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your  
mind to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have  
been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the  
15 kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; but Michael, one of the  
chief princes, came to help me, so I left him there with the prince of the  
kingdom of Persia and came to make you understand what is to befall your  
people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come." When he  
had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the  
20 ground and was dumb. And behold, one in the likeness of the sons of men

touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, "O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. How can my lord's servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me." Again one

5 having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. And he said, "O man greatly beloved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage." And when he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, "Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me." Then he said, "Do you know why I have come to you? But now I will return to fight against the prince

10 of Persia; and when I am through with him, lo, the prince of Greece will come. But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is none who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince. And as for me, in the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to confirm and strengthen him. "And now I will show you the truth. Behold, three more

15 kings shall arise in Persia; and a fourth shall be far richer than all of them; and when he has become strong through his riches, he shall stir up all against the kingdom of Greece. Then a mighty king shall arise, who shall rule with great dominion and do according to his will. And when he has arisen, his kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of

20 heaven, but not to his posterity, nor according to the dominion with which

he ruled; for his kingdom shall be plucked up and go to others besides these. "Then the king of the south shall be strong, but one of his princes shall be stronger than he and his dominion shall be a great dominion. After some years they shall make an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the south shall come to the king of the north to make peace; but she shall not retain the strength of her arm, and he and his offspring shall not endure; but she shall be given up, and her attendants, her child, and he who got possession of her. "In those times a branch from her roots shall arise in his place; he shall come against the army and enter the fortress of the king of the north, and he shall deal with them and shall prevail. He shall also carry off to Egypt their gods with their molten images and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and for some years he shall refrain from attacking the king of the north. Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of the south but shall return into his own land. "His sons shall wage war and assemble a multitude of great forces, which shall come on and overflow and pass through, and again shall carry the war as far as his fortress. Then the king of the south, moved with anger, shall come out and fight with the king of the north; and he shall raise a great multitude, but it shall be given into his hand. And when the multitude is taken, his heart shall be exalted, and he shall cast down tens of thousands, but he shall not

prevail. For the king of the north shall again raise a multitude, greater than the former; and after some years he shall come on with a great army and abundant supplies. "In those times many shall rise against the king of the south; and the men of violence among your own people shall lift themselves

5 up in order to fulfil the vision; but they shall fail. Then the king of the north shall come and throw up siegeworks, and take a well-fortified city. And the forces of the south shall not stand, or even his picked troops, for there shall be no strength to stand. But he who comes against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him; and he shall

10 stand in the glorious land, and all of it shall be in his power. He shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall bring terms of peace and perform them. He shall give him the daughter of women to destroy the kingdom; but it shall not stand or be to his advantage. Afterward he shall turn his face to the coastlands, and shall take many of

15 them; but a commander shall put an end to his insolence; indeed he shall turn his insolence back upon him. Then he shall turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land; but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found. "Then shall arise in his place one who shall send an exactor of tribute through the glory of the kingdom; but within a few days he shall be

20 broken, neither in anger nor in battle. In his place shall arise a contemptible

person to whom royal majesty has not been given; he shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. Armies shall be utterly swept away before him and broken, and the prince of the covenant also. And from the time that an alliance is made with him he shall act deceitfully; and he

5 shall become strong with a small people. Without warning he shall come into the richest parts of the province; and he shall do what neither his fathers nor his fathers' fathers have done, scattering among them plunder, spoil, and goods. He shall devise plans against strongholds, but only for a time. And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south with a

10 great army; and the king of the south shall wage war with an exceedingly great and mighty army; but he shall not stand, for plots shall be devised against him. Even those who eat his rich food shall be his undoing; his army shall be swept away, and many shall fall down slain. And as for the two kings, their minds shall be bent on mischief; they shall speak lies at the

15 same table, but to no avail; for the end is yet to be at the time appointed. And he shall return to his land with great substance, but his heart shall be set against the holy covenant. And he shall work his will, and return to his own land. "At the time appointed he shall return and come into the south; but it shall not be this time as it was before. For ships of Kittim shall come

20 against him, and he shall be afraid and withdraw, and shall turn back and be

enraged and take action against the holy covenant. He shall turn back and give heed to those who forsake the holy covenant. Forces from him shall appear and profane the temple and fortress, and shall take away the continual burnt offering. And they shall set up the abomination that makes desolate. He

5 shall seduce with flattery those who violate the covenant; but the people who know their God shall stand firm and take action. And those among the people who are wise shall make many understand, though they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plunder, for some days. When they fall, they shall receive a little help. And many shall join themselves to them with

10 flattery; and some of those who are wise shall fall, to refine and to cleanse them and to make them white, until the time of the end, for it is yet for the time appointed. "And the king shall do according to his will; he shall exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak astonishing things against the God of gods. He shall prosper till the indignation is

15 accomplished; for what is determined shall be done. He shall give no heed to the gods of his fathers, or to the one beloved by women; he shall not give heed to any other god, for he shall magnify himself above all. He shall honor the god of fortresses instead of these; a god whom his fathers did not know he shall honor with gold and silver, with precious stones and costly

20 gifts. He shall deal with the strongest fortresses by the help of a foreign

god; those who acknowledge him he shall magnify with honor. He shall  
make them rulers over many and shall divide the land for a price. "At the  
time of the end the king of the south shall attack him; but the king of the  
north shall rush upon him like a whirlwind, with chariots and horsemen, and  
5 with many ships; and he shall come into countries and shall overflow and  
pass through. He shall come into the glorious land. And tens of thousands  
shall fall, but these shall be delivered out of his hand: Edom and Moab and  
the main part of the Ammonites. He shall stretch out his hand against the  
countries, and the land of Egypt shall not escape. He shall become ruler of  
10 the treasures of gold and of silver, and all the precious things of Egypt; and  
the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall follow in his train. But tidings from the  
east and the north shall alarm him, and he shall go forth with great fury to  
exterminate and utterly destroy many. And he shall pitch his palatial tents  
between the sea and the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his  
15 end, with none to help him. "At that time shall arise Michael, the great  
prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble,  
such as never has been since there was a nation till that time; but at that  
time your people shall be delivered, every one whose name shall be found  
written in the book. And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth  
20 shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting

contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever. But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."

- 5 Then I Daniel looked, and behold, two others stood, one on this bank of the stream and one on that bank of the stream. And I said to the man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, "How long shall it be till the end of these wonders?" The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the stream, raised his right hand and his left hand toward heaven;
- 10 and I heard him swear by him who lives for ever that it would be for a time, two times, and half a time; and that when the shattering of the power of the holy people comes to an end all these things would be accomplished. I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, "O my lord, what shall be the issue of these things?" He said, "Go your way, Daniel, for the words are
- 15 shut up and sealed until the time of the end. Many shall purify themselves, and make themselves white, and be refined; but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but those who are wise shall understand. And from the time that the continual burnt offering is taken away, and the abomination that makes desolate is set up, there shall be a
- 20 thousand two hundred and ninety days. Blessed is he who waits and comes



to the thousand three hundred and thirty-five days. But go your way till the end; and you shall rest, and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days." \*

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