

Title: Don't Dis The Main Man - Daniel 5 13-31

Read:

¹³⁻¹⁶ So Daniel was called in. The king asked him, "Are you the Daniel who was one of the Jewish exiles my father brought here from Judah? I've heard about you—that you're full of the Holy Spirit, that you've got a brilliant mind, that you are incredibly wise. The wise men and enchanters were brought in here to read this writing on the wall and interpret it for me. They couldn't figure it out—not a word, not a syllable. But I've heard that you interpret dreams and solve mysteries. So—if you can read the writing and interpret it for me, you'll be rich and famous—a purple robe, the great gold chain around your neck—and third-in-command in the kingdom." ¹⁷ Daniel answered the king, "You can keep your gifts, or give them to someone else. But I will read the writing for the king and tell him what it means." ¹⁸⁻²¹ "Listen, O king! The High God gave your father Nebuchadnezzar a great kingdom and a glorious reputation. Because God made him so famous, people from everywhere, whatever their race, color, and creed, were totally intimidated by him. He killed or spared people on whim. He promoted or humiliated people capriciously. He developed a big head and a hard spirit. Then God knocked him off his high horse and stripped him of his fame. He was thrown out of human company, lost his mind, and lived like a wild animal. He ate grass like an ox and was soaked by heaven's dew until he learned his lesson: that the High God rules human kingdoms and puts anyone he wants in charge." ²²⁻²³ "You are his son and have known all this, yet you're as arrogant as he ever was. Look at you, setting yourself up in competition against the Master of heaven! You had the sacred chalices from his Temple brought into your drunken party so that you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines, could drink from them. You used the sacred chalices to toast your gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone—blind, deaf, and imbecile gods. But you treat with contempt the living God who holds your entire life from birth to death in his hand." ²⁴⁻²⁶ "God sent the hand that wrote on the wall, and this is what is written: mene, teqel, and peres. This is what the words mean: "Mene: God has numbered the days of your rule and they don't add up." ²⁷ "Teqel: You have been weighed on the scales and you don't weigh much." ²⁸ "Peres: Your kingdom has been divided up and handed over to the Medes and Persians." ²⁹ Belshazzar did what he had promised. He robed Daniel in purple, draped the great gold chain around his neck, and promoted him to third-in-charge in the kingdom. ³⁰⁻³¹ That same night the Babylonian king Belshazzar was murdered. Darius the Mede was sixty-two years old when he succeeded him as king.

Think:

We do like to think of God as our mate and that's cool. We even sing about "My Jesus, My Saviour" and that's cool too. Because God is an all loving Father, his love is what he wants to give us. God does want to be our mate; God does want to be our friend. But is there more to our relationship with God, then just being his pal? If your best mate had a laugh with you but the nicked your iPod, you would be a bit surprised. You might even think that didn't even give you any respect. Or if one of you mates gave you a high five, but later you heard that they were walking around town telling people you were rubbish, you might think that they were not showing you any respect. You might get wound up and angry and give them a hard time next time you met them. Why? All because friendship is about more than just being friendly. And a relationship with the God who made the universe is about more than just singing or saying the words. My relationship, your relationship with the God who took the time to make you has to include respect. And just like the King, we should not be surprised that even though God wants to shower us with his love, he may have to show his anger if we don't respect him and all that he is and does. So I say to you, don't dis the main man.

Pray:

Father please forgive me for the times I have shown you disrespect. Lord you are awesome help me live life in a way that brings you Joy. Amen.

Action:

Hey guys we would love for you to pray for the Aftershock team. Would you take a moment just to pray for us now? Bye.