



*Life in*

BABYLON



Life in  
BABYLON

How do we live in *Babylon*?



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- 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC empire in what is modern-day Iraq



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- 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC empire in what is modern-day Iraq
- Rome and it's empire in 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> centuries AD

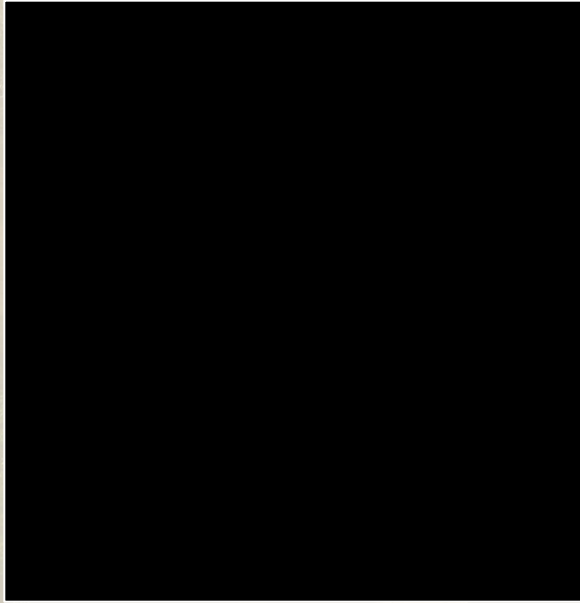


# How do we live in *Babylon*?

- 6<sup>th</sup> Century BC empire in what is modern-day Iraq
- Rome and its empire in 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> centuries AD
- Any world system when it rejects the beauty of God's design and His guiding hand, as well as His authority



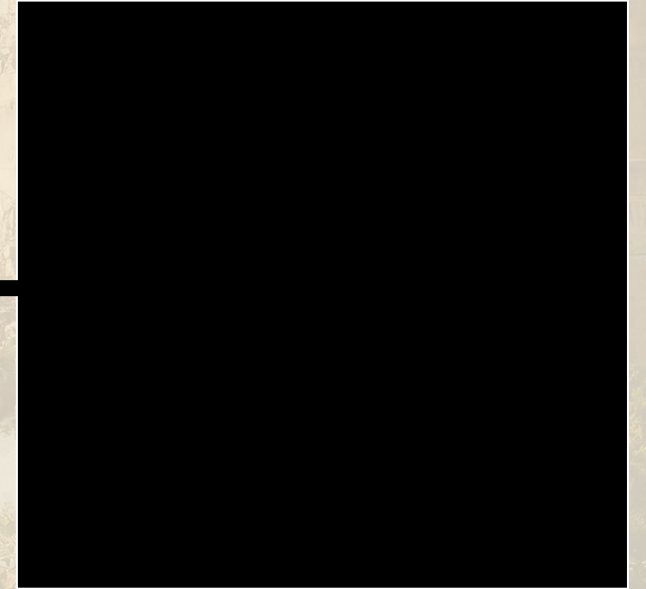
# How do we live in *Babylon*?





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*Buy  
into the  
culture*





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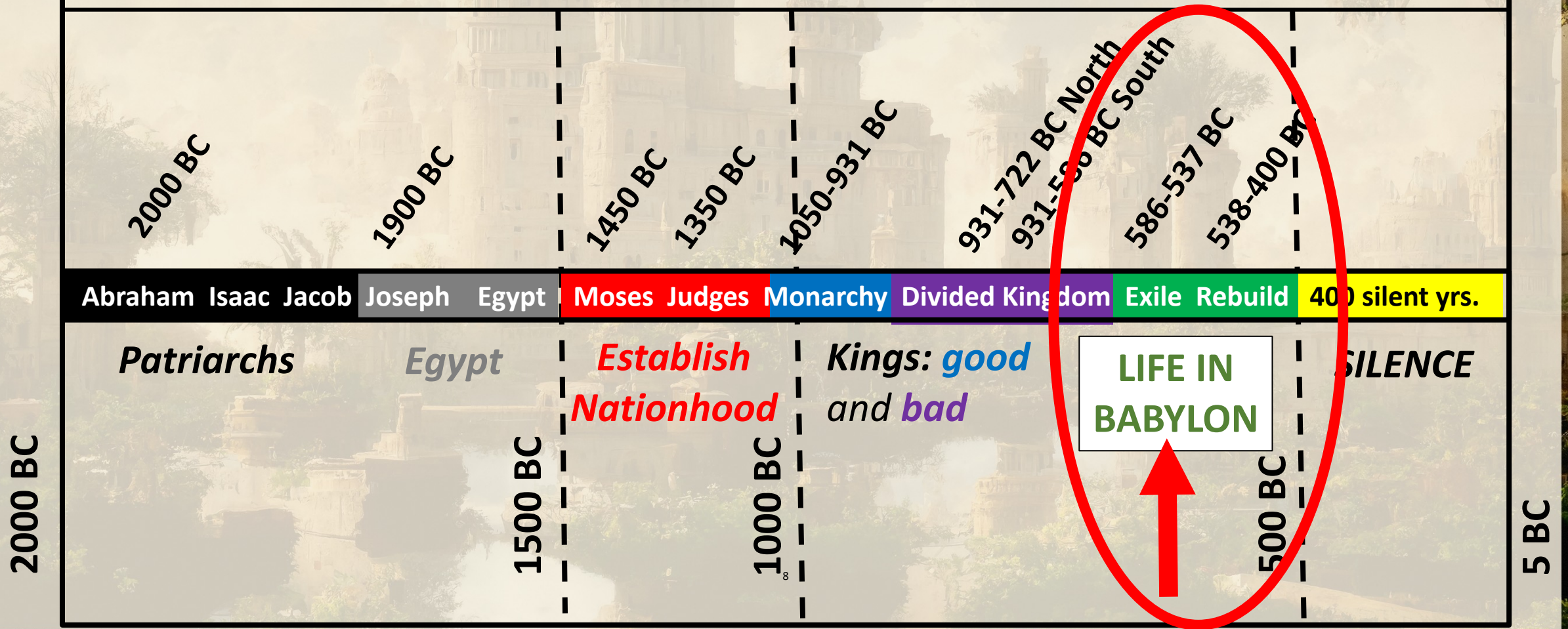
*Buy  
into the  
culture*

*Separatist /  
Isolationist:  
Hyper-  
religious*



# Life in BABYLON

## Chronology of Old Testament





# Life in BABYLON



Divided Kingdom  
and after 722 BC just  
the southern  
Kingdom of Judah

**Exile in Babylon 586 – 537 BC**

**Rebuild**

400  
silent  
years  
before  
the  
coming  
Christ

**LIFE IN BABYLON**



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607 BC **Daniel**

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# LIFE IN BABYLON



# Life in BABYLON

<b>Jeremiah</b> 607 BC <b>Daniel</b>	<b>Shadrach, Meshach &amp; Abednego</b>	<b>Ezra / Nehemiah</b> <b>Esther</b>	
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*Life in*  
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**How did they navigate  
living in Babylon?**



**How can we navigate living in a post-Christian culture that is going through profound and radical change?**



*Life in*  
BABYLON

## 4 things they rediscovered living in Babylon



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**1. Truth: God's word**



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1. **Truth: God's word**
2. **Mission: God's purpose**



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- 3. Redemption: God's heart**



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- 1. Truth: God's word**
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- 4. Family: God's design**



*Life in*  
BABYLON

**4 things they rediscovered living in Babylon**

**They rediscovered God!**



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**"Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened."**

***When you forget who God is, you forget who mankind is.***



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*You cannot disregard and defy creation  
without cost and consequence to the  
creature,...*

*...human beings were created in the image of  
God.*



*Life in*  
BABYLON

**Daniel: "God is my judge"**





*Life in*  
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**Daniel: “God is my judge”**  
(“I live for an ‘audience of one’”)





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# Integrity



# Integrity

- **the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness**

Synonyms: honesty, honor, honorableness, upstandingness, good character, principle(s), ethics, morals, righteousness, morality, nobility, high-mindedness, right-mindedness, noble-mindedness, virtue, decency, fairness, scrupulousness, sincerity, truthfulness, trustworthiness



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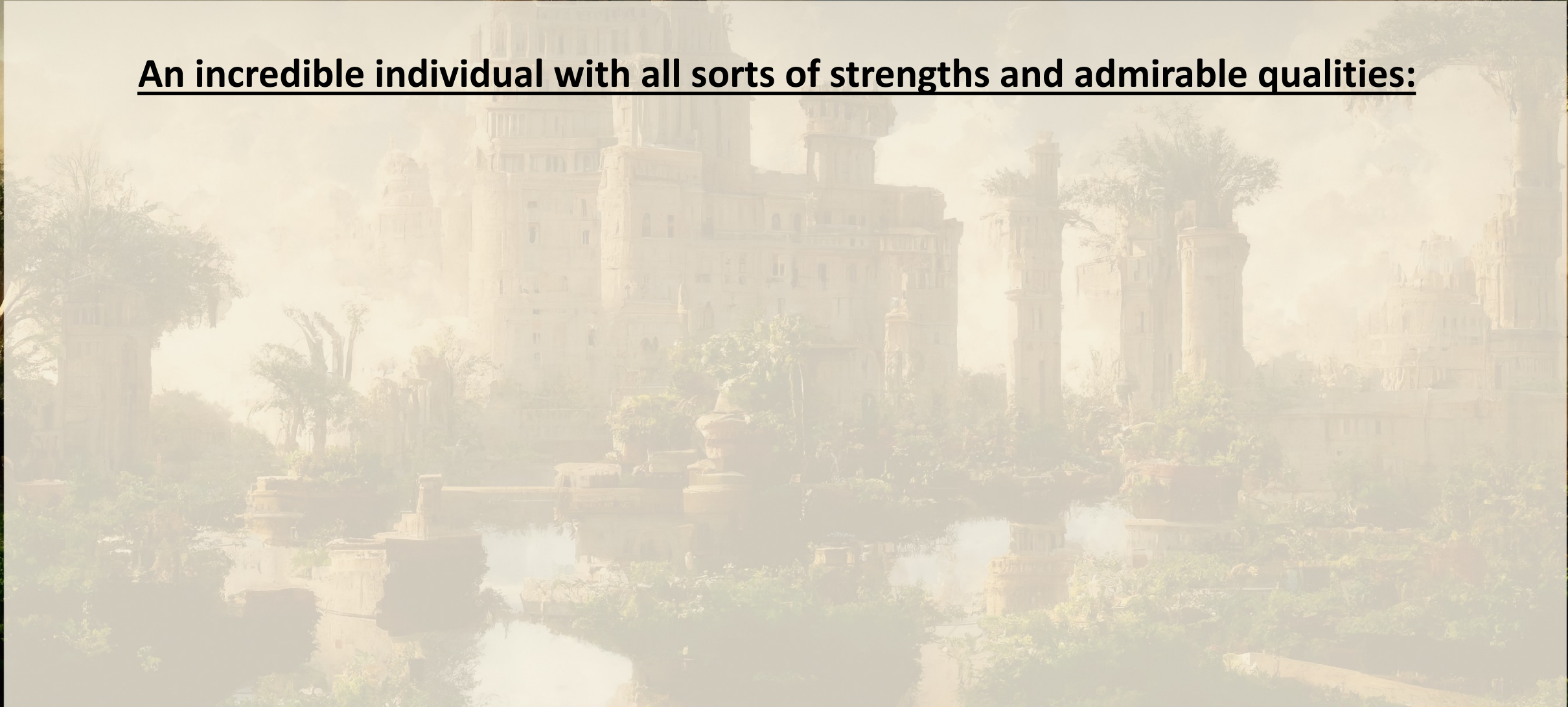
Latin: *integer*- **intact**...with both God and man



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**Daniel: “God is my judge”**  
(“I live for an ‘audience of one’”)

**An incredible individual with all sorts of strengths and admirable qualities:**





# Daniel: “God is my judge” (“I live for an ‘audience of one’”)

## An incredible individual with all sorts of strengths and admirable qualities:

<sup>1</sup> In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. <sup>2</sup> And the Lord gave Jehoiakim 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 his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god. <sup>3</sup> 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, <sup>4</sup> **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. <sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> Among these were **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah** of the tribe of Judah.



# Daniel: “God is my judge”

(“I live for an ‘audience of one’”)

**An incredible individual with all sorts of strengths and admirable qualities:**

## **Ezekiel 14**

12 And the word of the Lord came to me:

13 “Son of man, when a land sins against me by acting faithlessly, and I stretch out my hand against it and break its supply of bread and send famine upon it, and cut off from it man and beast,

14 even if these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they would deliver but their own lives by their righteousness, declares the Lord God.



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# Instances of Integrity





# Instances of Integrity

## Daniel 1:8-21 Food from the King's pantry

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs, <sup>10</sup> and the chief of the eunuchs said to Daniel, "I fear my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink; for why should he see that you were in worse condition than the youths who are of your own age? So you would endanger my head with the king." <sup>11</sup> Then Daniel said to the steward whom the chief of the eunuchs had assigned over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, <sup>12</sup> "Test your servants for ten days; let us be given vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup> Then let our appearance and the appearance of the youths who eat the king's food be observed by you, and deal with your servants according to what you see."



<sup>14</sup> So he listened to them in this matter, and tested them for ten days. <sup>15</sup> 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 food. <sup>16</sup> So the steward took away their food and the wine they were to drink, and gave them vegetables.

<sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> And Daniel was there until the first year of King Cyrus.



# Instances of Integrity

## Daniel 2 Interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

<sup>10</sup> The Chaldeans 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.<sup>11</sup> 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."

<sup>12</sup> Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. <sup>13</sup> So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. <sup>14</sup> Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. <sup>15</sup> He declared<sup>[b]</sup> to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?"



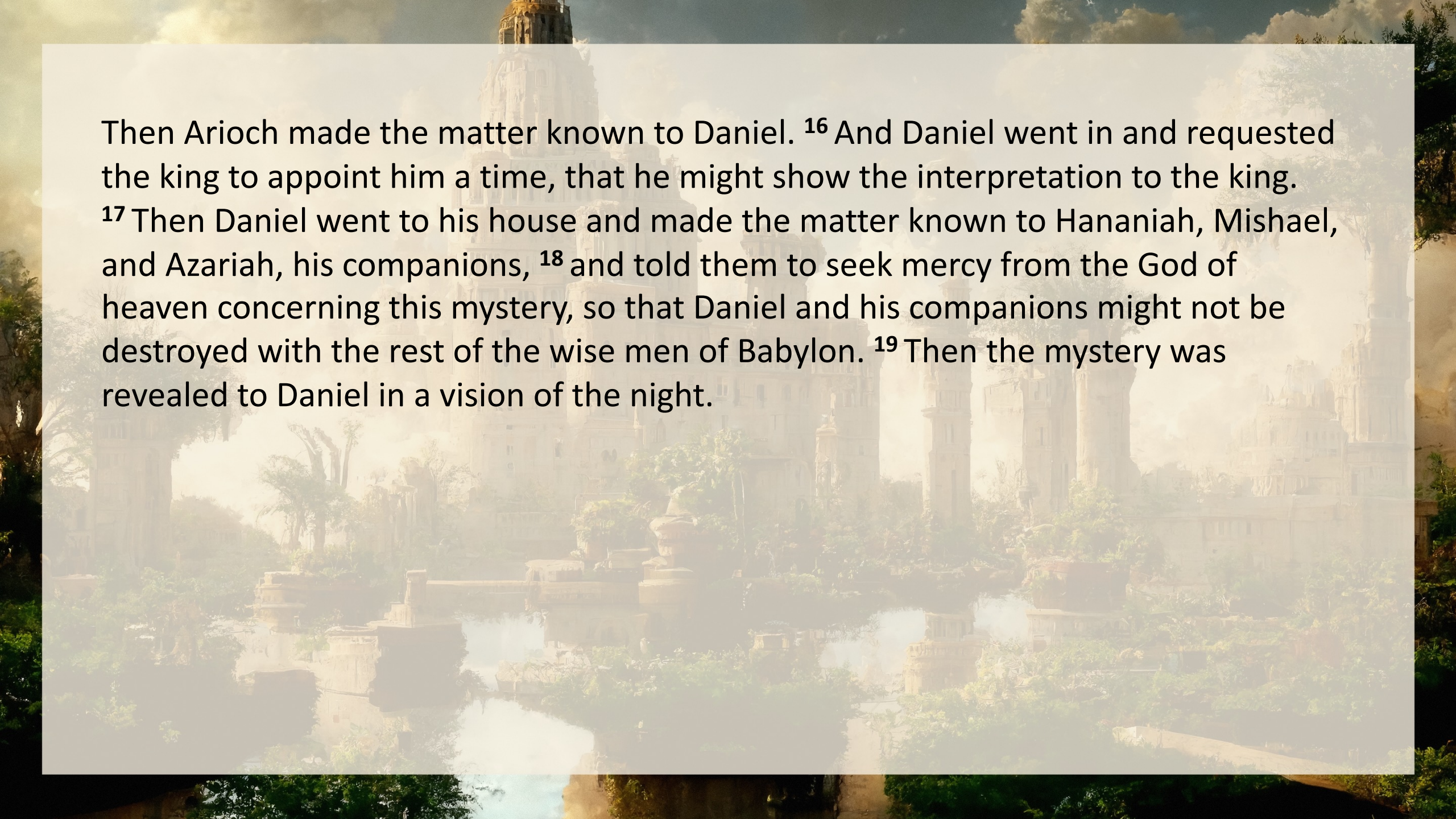
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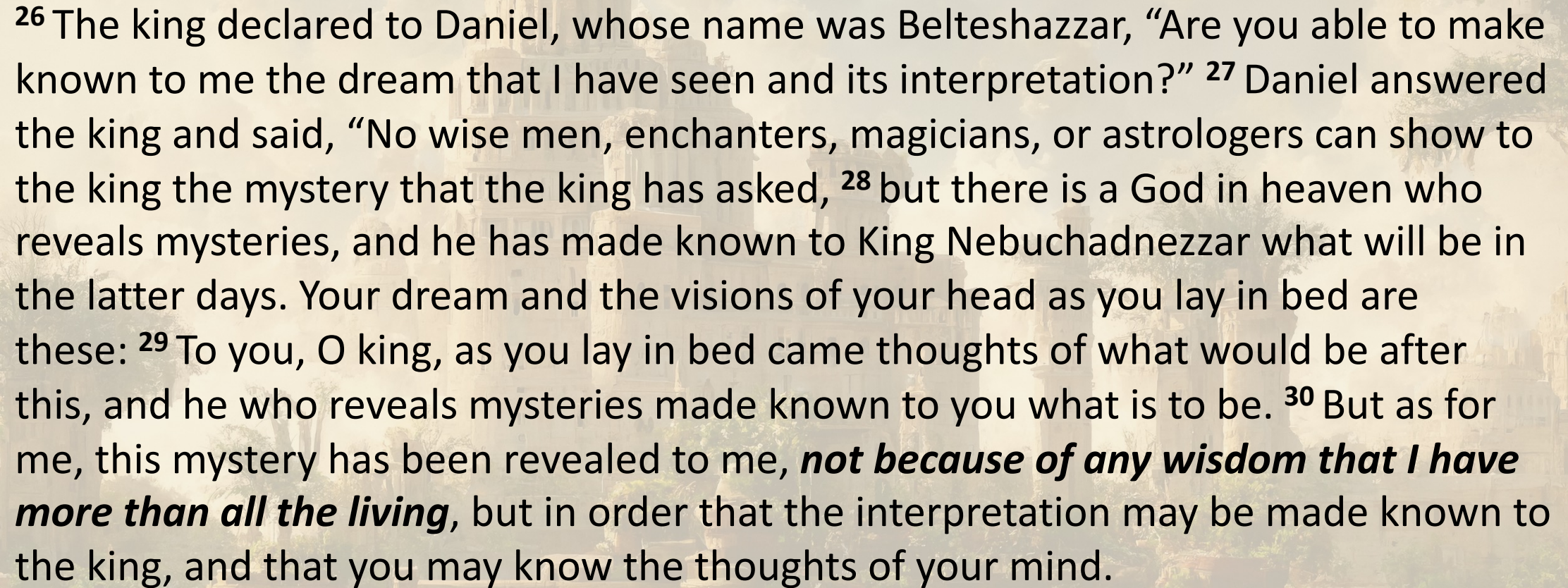
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The background image depicts a vibrant, ancient city, likely Babylon, with a prominent river in the foreground. The city is characterized by tall, ornate buildings and a large, domed temple structure in the distance. The scene is set against a bright, hazy sky, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is one of historical grandeur and mystery.

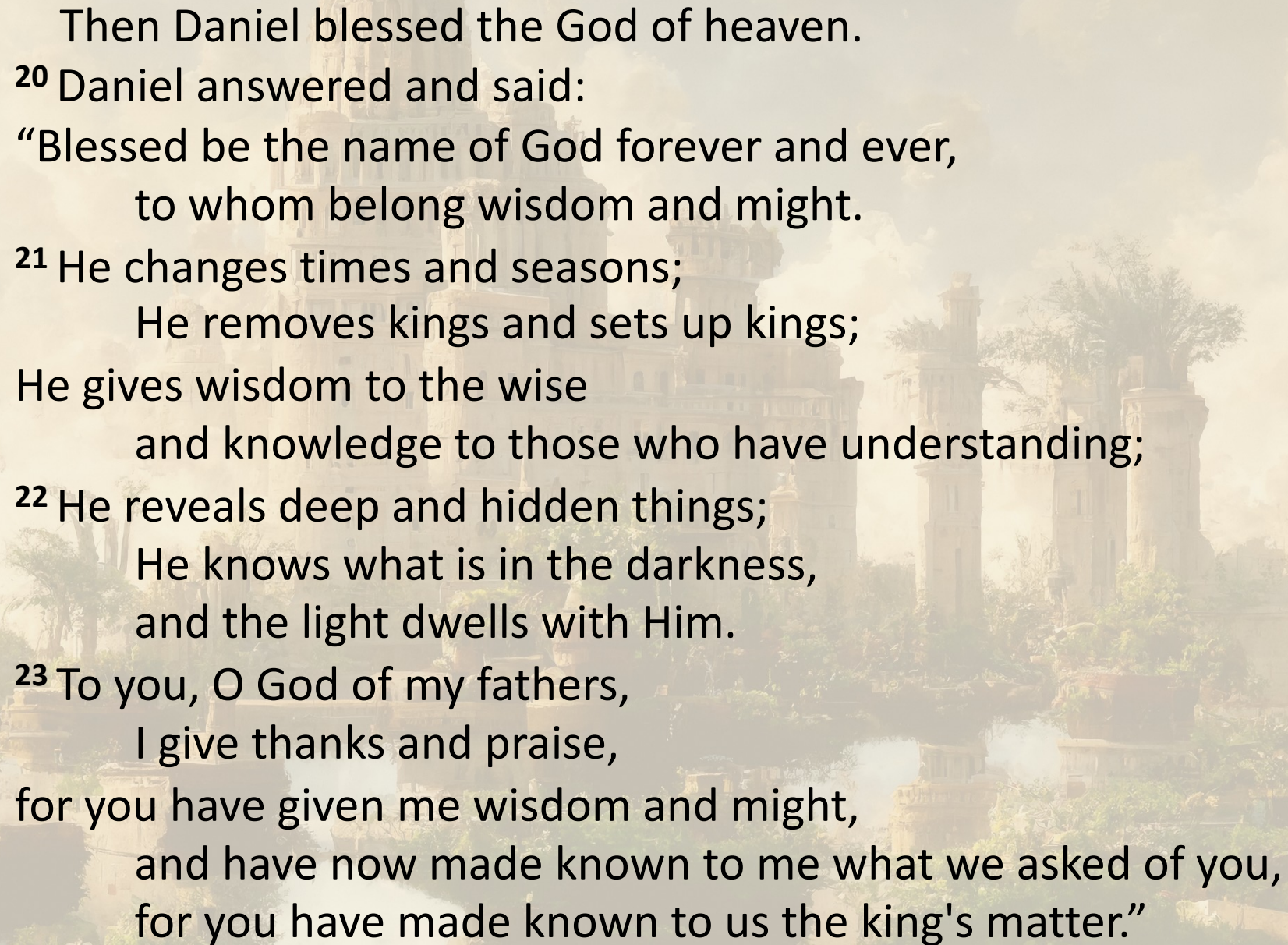
Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. <sup>16</sup> And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king. <sup>17</sup> Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night.





<sup>26</sup> The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?” <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> 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: <sup>29</sup> To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. <sup>30</sup> But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, ***not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living***, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.





Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.  
<sup>20</sup> Daniel answered and said:  
“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
to whom belong wisdom and might.  
<sup>21</sup> 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;  
<sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and hidden things;  
He knows what is in the darkness,  
and the light dwells with Him.  
<sup>23</sup> 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.”



# Instances of Integrity

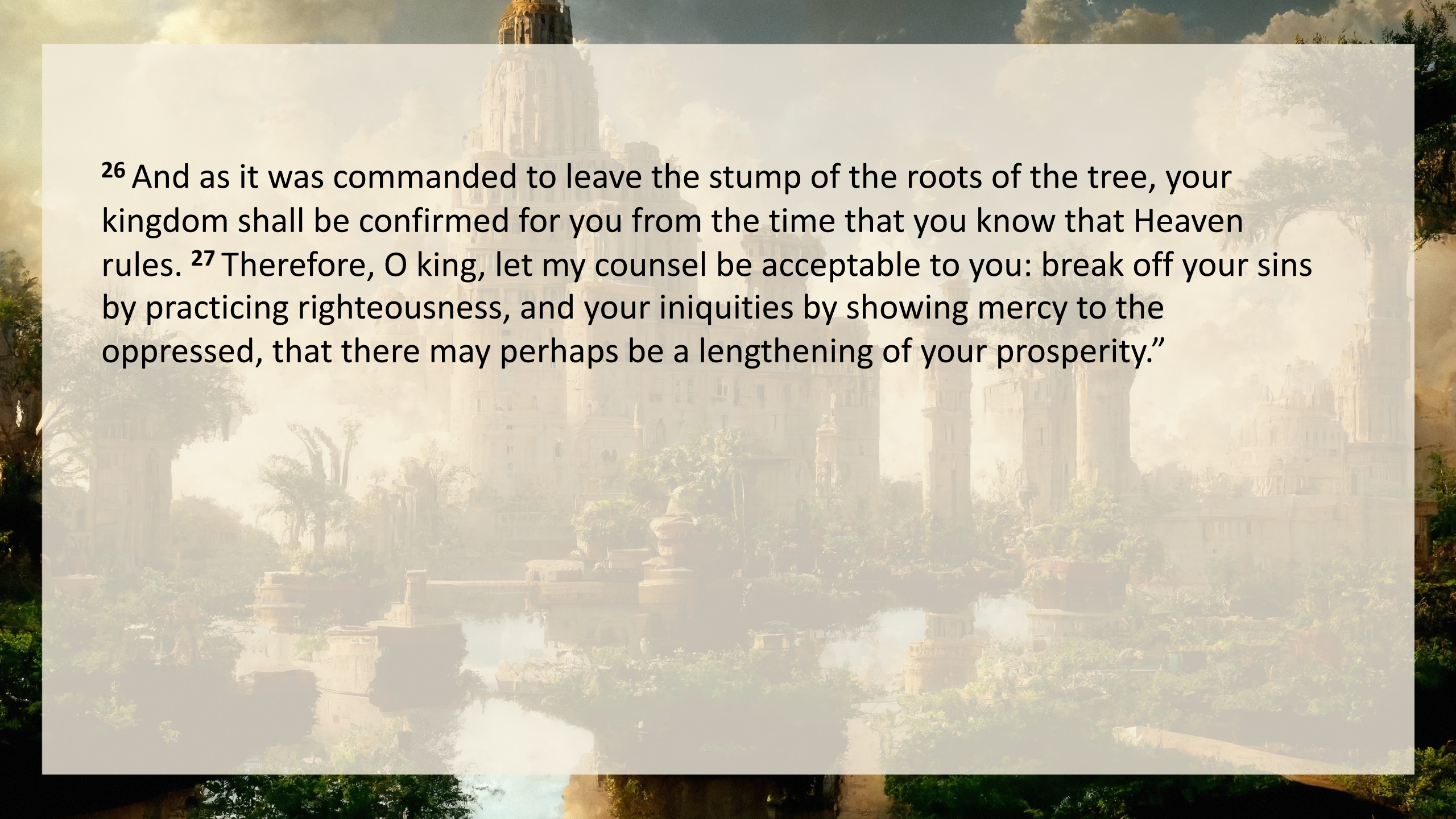
## Daniel 4 Interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

An enormous tree that 'reached to heaven'... 'a watcher'...'a holy one' came down from heaven and commanded that the tree be chopped down to the stump amidst the grass...predicting Nebuchadnezzar's humiliation and downfall for a period of 7 years.

<sup>18</sup> This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me 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."

<sup>19</sup> Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, "Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you." Belteshazzar answered and said, "My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies!



The background image depicts a majestic, ancient city with a prominent domed temple in the center. The architecture is highly detailed, featuring intricate carvings and multiple levels of structures. A wide river flows through the city, reflecting the surrounding buildings and lush greenery. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset, with soft clouds in the sky. A semi-transparent white rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

<sup>26</sup> And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. <sup>27</sup> 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.”



<sup>34</sup> 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;

<sup>35</sup> 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?”

<sup>36</sup> At the 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. <sup>37</sup> 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.

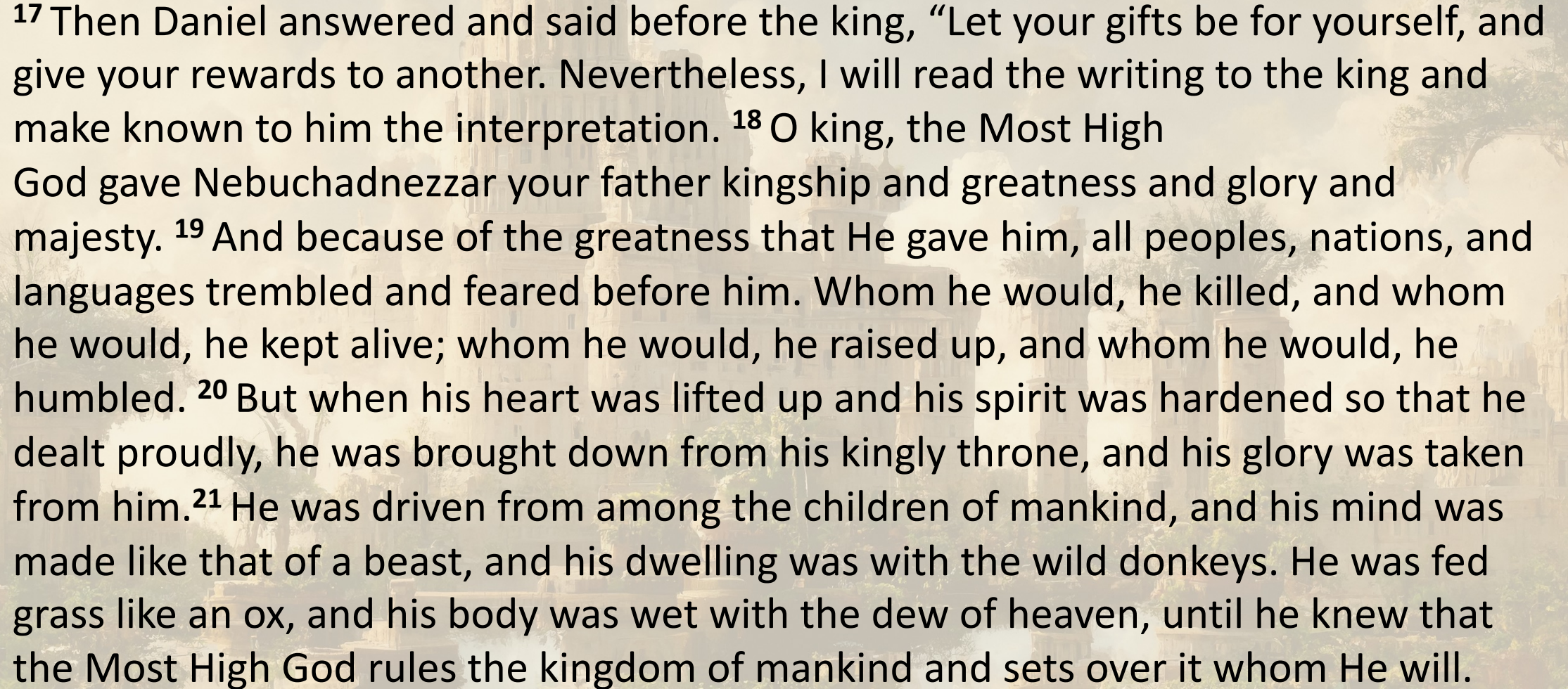


# Instances of Integrity

## Daniel 5 God's handwriting on the wall under Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's son Belshazzar

<sup>13</sup> Then Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, "You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. <sup>14</sup> I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you. <sup>15</sup> Now the wise men, the enchanters, have been brought in before me to read this writing and make known to me its interpretation, but they could not show the interpretation of the matter. <sup>16</sup> 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 around your neck and shall be the third ruler in the kingdom."



The background of the image shows a cityscape with a prominent large dome, likely a cathedral or a significant religious building, situated on a hill. A river flows through the city, reflecting the sky and the buildings. The scene is captured in a soft, slightly hazy light, possibly during the golden hour of late afternoon or early morning. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

<sup>17</sup> Then Daniel answered and said 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. <sup>18</sup> O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father kingship and greatness and glory and majesty. <sup>19</sup> And because of the greatness that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whom he would, he killed, and whom he would, he kept alive; whom he would, he raised up, and whom he would, he humbled. <sup>20</sup> But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit was hardened so that he dealt proudly, he was brought down from his kingly throne, and his glory was taken from him. <sup>21</sup> He was driven from among the children of mankind, and his mind was made like that of a beast, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. 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 mankind and sets over it whom He will.



<sup>22</sup> And you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this, <sup>23</sup> but you have lifted up 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 ways, you have not honored.

<sup>24</sup> “Then from His presence the hand was sent, and this writing was inscribed. <sup>25</sup> And this is the writing that was inscribed: Mene, Mene, Tekel, and Parsin. <sup>26</sup> This is the interpretation of the matter: Mene, God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end; <sup>27</sup> Tekel, you have been weighed in the balances and found wanting; <sup>28</sup> Peres, your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.”

<sup>29</sup> Then Belshazzar gave the command, and Daniel was clothed with purple, a chain of gold was put around his neck, and a proclamation was made about him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom.



<sup>30</sup> That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed. <sup>31</sup> And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old.



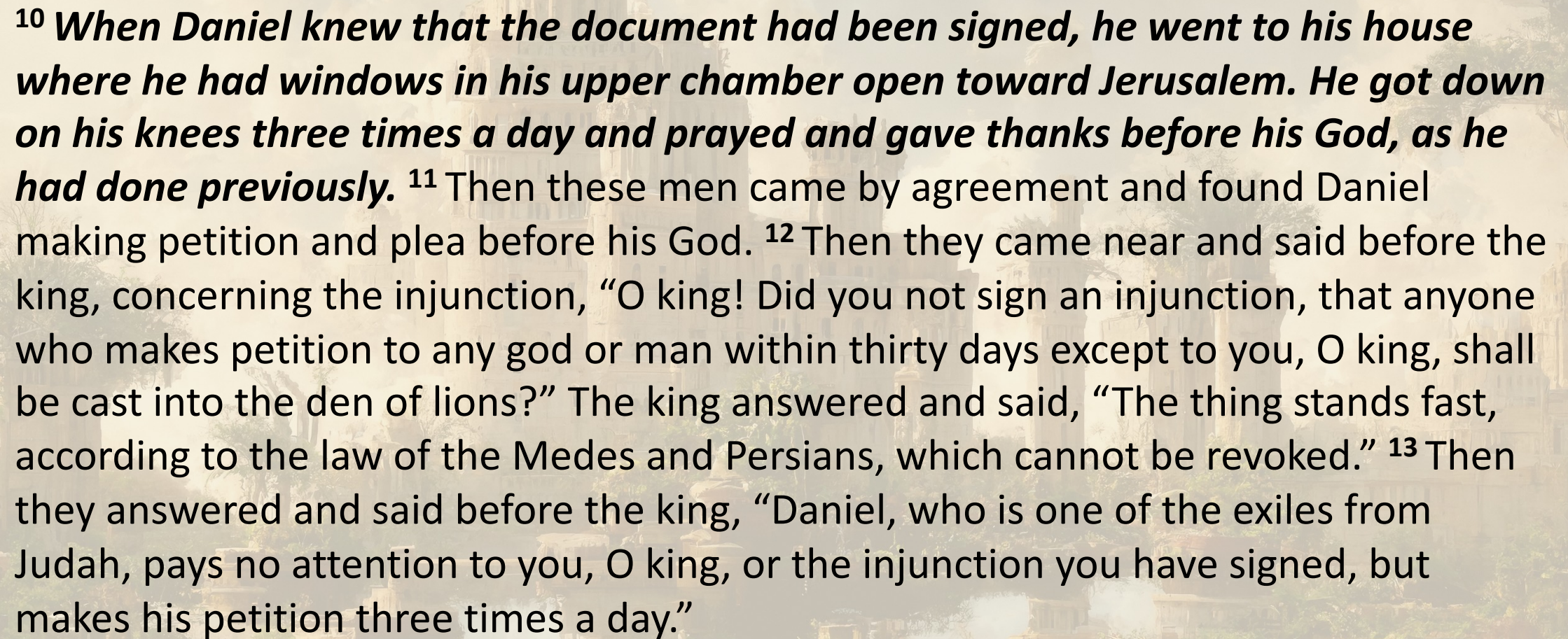


# Instances of Integrity

## Daniel 6 The Lion's Den

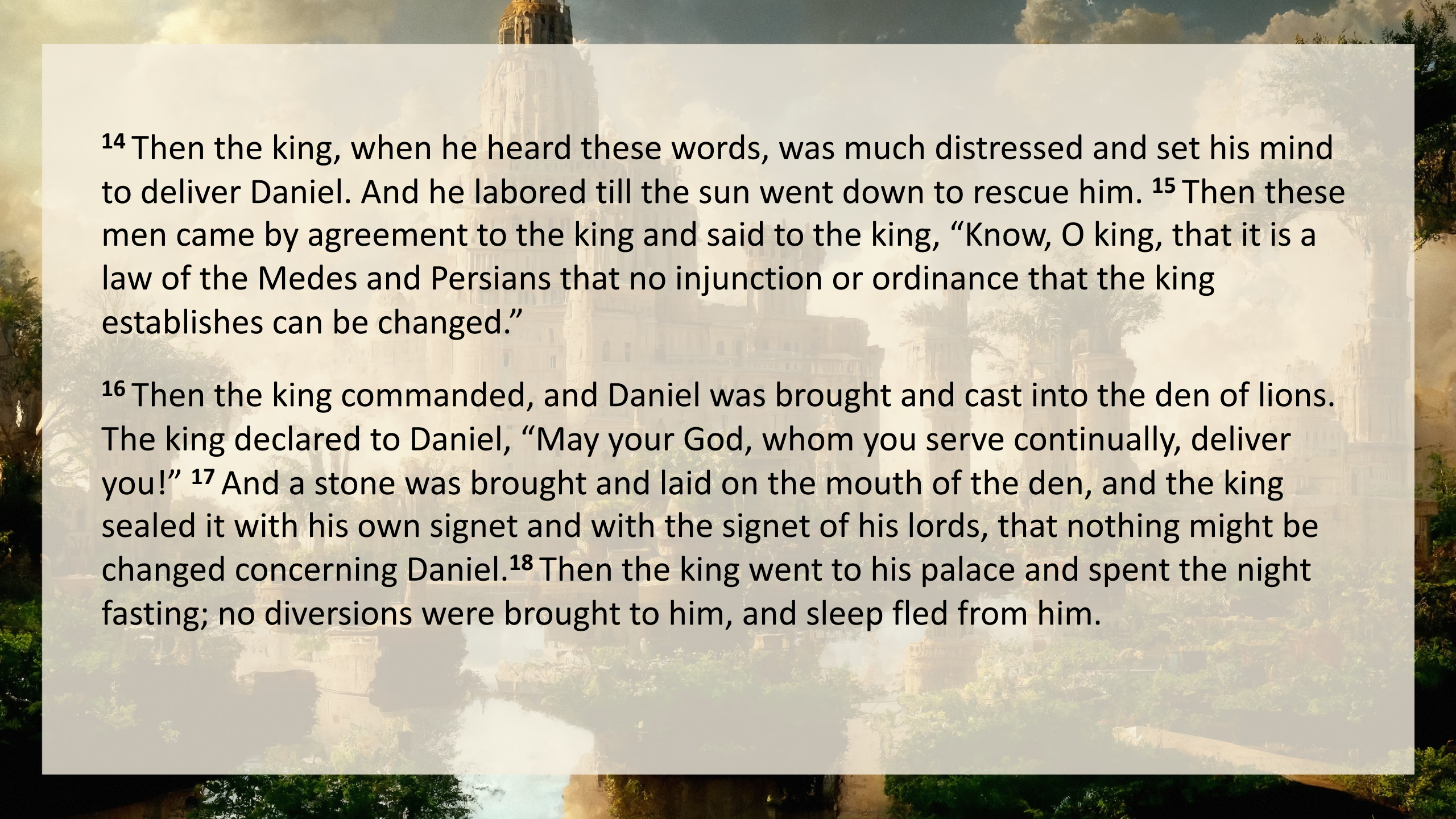
<sup>1</sup> It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom 120 satraps, to be throughout the whole kingdom; <sup>2</sup> and over them three high officials, of whom Daniel was one, to whom these satraps should give account, so that the king might suffer no loss. <sup>3</sup> Then this Daniel became distinguished above all the other high officials and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him. And the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. <sup>4</sup> Then the high officials 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.*** <sup>5</sup> Then these men said, "We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God."





**<sup>10</sup> 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. He got down on his knees three times a day and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as he had done previously.** <sup>11</sup> Then these men came by agreement and found Daniel making petition and plea before his God. <sup>12</sup> Then they came near and said before the king, concerning the injunction, “O king! Did you not sign an injunction, that anyone 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 and said, “The thing stands fast, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be revoked.” <sup>13</sup> Then they answered and said before the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or the injunction you have signed, but makes his petition three times a day.”





<sup>14</sup> 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. <sup>15</sup> Then these men came by agreement to the king and said to the king, “Know, O king, that it is a law of the Medes and Persians that no injunction or ordinance that the king establishes can be changed.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!” <sup>17</sup> And a stone was brought and laid on 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. <sup>18</sup> Then the king went to his palace and spent the night fasting; no diversions were brought to him, and sleep fled from him.



*Life in*  
BABYLON

**How did Daniel navigate  
living in Babylon?**



*Life in*  
BABYLON

**How did Daniel navigate  
living in Babylon?**

**Integrity**





*Life in*  
BABYLON

**How can we navigate living in a post-Christian culture that is going through profound and radical change?**



**How can we navigate living in a post-Christian culture that is going through profound and radical change?**

**Integrity**





# Core Values of Quest



The background is a faded, atmospheric image of a grand, ancient city. In the foreground, a river flows through a lush, green landscape. The city features numerous stone structures, including a prominent temple with a tall, ornate spire. The overall scene is misty and ethereal, with a soft, golden light filtering through the haze.

# Core Values of Quest

## Love





# Core Values of Quest

Love

Relevance





# Core Values of Quest

Love

Relevance

Patience



# Core Values of Quest

Love

**Integrity**

Relevance

Patience





*Life in*

BABYLON