

Message Three

The Victory of the Overcomers Seen with Daniel and His Companions

Scripture Reading: Dan. 1—6

I. The principle of the Lord's recovery is seen with "Daniel and his companions" (Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah), as overcomers who were absolutely one with God in their victory over Satan's devices—Dan. 2:13, 17; cf. Rev. 17:14; Matt. 22:14:

Dan. 2:13—And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his companions so that they might be slain.

Dan. 2:17—Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,

cf. Rev. 17:14—These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, *will also overcome them*.

cf. Matt. 22:14—For many are called but few are chosen.

- A. In his devilish tempting of Daniel and his companions, Nebuchadnezzar changed their names, which indicated that they belonged to God, to names that made them one with idols—Dan. 1:6-7.

Dan. 1:6-7—Now among these from the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. ⁷And the leader of the eunuchs gave them names: he gave Daniel *the name* Belteshazzar; Hananiah, *the name* Shadrach; Mishael, *the name* Meshach; and Azariah, *the name* Abed-nego.

- B. The name Daniel, meaning "God is my Judge," was changed to Belteshazzar, meaning "the prince of Bel," or "the favorite of Bel"—Isa. 46:1.

Isa. 46:1—Bel has bowed down; Nebo stoops; Their idols are on beasts and cattle; The things which you carry are a burden, A load for a weary *beast*.

- C. The name Hananiah, meaning "Jah has graciously given," or "favored of Jah," was changed to Shadrach, meaning "enlightened by the sun god."

- D. The name Mishael, meaning "Who is what God is?" was changed to Meshach, meaning "Who can be like the goddess Shach?"

- E. The name Azariah, meaning "Jah has helped," was changed to Abed-nego, meaning "the faithful servant of the fire god Nego."

II. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the demonic diet—Dan. 1:

- A. Nebuchadnezzar's devilish temptation was first to seduce the four brilliant young descendants of God's defeated elect, Daniel and his three companions, to be defiled by partaking of his unclean food, food offered to idols.

- B. For Daniel and his companions to eat that food would have been to take in the defilement, to take in the idols, and thus to become one with Satan—cf. 1 Cor. 10:19-21.

cf. 1 Cor. 10:19-21—What then am I saying? That what is sacrificed to an idol is anything? Or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, but that the things which the Gentiles

sacrifice, they sacrifice to demons and not to God; and I do not want you to become those who have fellowship with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the Lord's cup and the demons' cup; you cannot partake of the Lord's table and of the demons' table.

- C. When Daniel and his companions refused to eat Nebuchadnezzar's unclean food and chose instead to eat vegetables (Dan. 1:8-16), in principle they rejected the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (cf. Gen. 3:1-6) and took the tree of life, which caused them to be one with God (cf. 2:9, 16-17).

Dan. 1:8-16—But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king's choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. ⁹And God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the leader of the eunuchs; ¹⁰And the leader of the eunuchs said to Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who has appointed your food and drink; for why should he see your faces being more morose than *those of* the children who are of your own age? Then you would bring guilt upon my head before the king. ¹¹Then Daniel said to the steward whom the leader of the eunuchs had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, ¹²Please test your servants for ten days, and let vegetables be given to us to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then let our countenances be watched in your presence, as well as the countenances of the children who eat the king's choice provision; and do with your servants according to what you see. ¹⁴So he listened to them in this matter and tested them for ten days. ¹⁵And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared better, and they were more fully fleshed than all the children who ate the king's choice provision. ¹⁶Therefore the steward withheld their *portion of* the choice provision and the wine that they were to drink and gave them vegetables.

cf. Gen. 3:1-6—Now the serpent was more crafty than any *other* animal of the field that Jehovah God had made. And he said to the woman, Did God really say, You shall not eat of any tree of the garden? ²And the woman said to the serpent, Of the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, You shall not eat of it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die. ⁴And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die! ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will become like God, knowing good and evil. ⁶And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and *that* the tree was to be desired to make *oneself* wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave *some* to her husband with her, and he ate.

cf. Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

cf. Gen. 2:16-17—And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

- D. The Lord's recovery is the recovery of the eating of Jesus for the building up of the church—vv. 9, 16-17; Rev. 2:7, 17; 3:20.

Gen. 2:9—And out of the ground Jehovah God caused to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, as well as the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen. 2:16-17—And Jehovah God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden you may eat freely, ¹⁷But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, of it you shall not eat; for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

Rev. 2:7—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.

Rev. 2:17—He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, to him I will give of the hidden manna, and to him I will give a white stone, and upon the stone a new name written, which no one knows except him who receives *it*.

Rev. 3:20—Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will come in to him and dine with him and he with Me.

- E. We can eat Jesus by eating His words and by being careful to contact and be with those who call on Him out of a pure heart—Jer. 15:16; 2 Tim. 2:22; 1 Cor. 15:33; Prov. 13:20.

Jer. 15:16—Your words were found and I ate them, And Your word became to me The gladness and joy of my heart, For I am called by Your name, O Jehovah, God of hosts.

2 Tim. 2:22—But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

1 Cor. 15:33—Do not be deceived: Evil companionships corrupt good morals.

Prov. 13:20—He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be troubled.

III. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the devilish blinding that prevents people from seeing the great human image and the crushing stone as the divine history within human history—Dan. 2:

- A. The corporate Christ as the stone and the mountain, the Bridegroom with His bride, the corporate man of God with the breath of God, will crush and slay Antichrist and his armies by the breath, the sword, of His mouth—vv. 34-35, 44-45; 2 Thes. 2:8; Rev. 19:11-21; Gen. 11:4-9; cf. Isa. 33:22.

Dan. 2:34-35—You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Dan. 2:44-45—And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever. ⁴⁵Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.

2 Thes. 2:8—And then the lawless one will be revealed (whom the Lord Jesus will slay by the breath of His mouth and bring to nothing by the manifestation of His coming),

Rev. 19:11-21—And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹²And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, *and* He has a name written which no one knows but Himself. ¹³And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God. ¹⁴And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white *and* clean. ¹⁵And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. ¹⁶And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God, ¹⁸That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great. ¹⁹And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army. ²⁰And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone. ²¹And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.

Gen. 11:4-9—And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the surface of the whole earth. ⁵And Jehovah came down to see the city and the tower which the children of men had built. ⁶And Jehovah said, Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language; and this is *only* the beginning of what they will do; and now nothing which they purpose to do will be kept from them. ⁷Come, let Us go down and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. ⁸So Jehovah scattered them from there over the surface of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹Therefore its name was called Babel, because there Jehovah confounded the language of all the earth, and from there Jehovah scattered them over the surface of the earth.

cf. Isa. 33:22—For Jehovah is our Judge, / Jehovah is our Lawmaker, / Jehovah is our King; He will save us.

- B. Christ, as the living and precious stone, foundation stone, cornerstone, and topstone of God's building, infuses us with Himself as the preciousness to transform us into living and precious stones for His building—1 Pet. 2:4-8; Isa. 28:16; Zech. 3:9; 4:7, 9-10.

1 Pet. 2:4-8—Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen *and* precious, ⁵You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For it is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen *and* precious; and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame." ⁷To you therefore who believe is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, "The stone which the

builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,” ⁸And, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; who stumble at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

Isa. 28:16—Therefore thus says The Lord Jehovah: Indeed I lay a stone in Zion as a foundation, A tested stone, A precious cornerstone *as a* foundation firmly established; He who believes will not hasten away.

Zech. 3:9—For here is the stone that I have set before Joshua—upon one stone are seven eyes. I will engrave its engraving, declares Jehovah of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

Zech. 4:7—Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel *you will become* a plain, and he will bring forth the topstone with shouts of Grace, grace to it!

Zech. 4:9-10—The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will finish *it*; and you will know that Jehovah of hosts has sent Me to you. ¹⁰For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice when they see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel; they are the eyes of Jehovah running to and fro on the whole earth.

IV. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the seduction of idol worship—Dan. 3; cf. Matt. 4:9-10:

cf. Matt. 4:9-10—And he said to Him, All these will I give You if You will fall down and worship me. ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, Go away, Satan! For it is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only shall you serve.”

A. Whatever is not the true God in our regenerated spirit is an idol replacing God; whatever is not in the spirit or of the spirit is an idol—1 John 5:21.

1 John 5:21—Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

B. The enemy of the Body is the self that replaces God with its self-interest, self-exaltation, self-glory, self-beauty, and self-strength; in and for the Body we deny the self and do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord—Matt. 16:24; 2 Cor. 4:5.

Matt. 16:24—Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me.

2 Cor. 4:5—For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus’ sake.

C. Daniel’s companions had a true spirit of martyrdom; they stood for the Lord as the unique God and against idol worship at the cost of their lives, being thrown at the command of Nebuchadnezzar into a blazing furnace—Dan. 3:19-23.

Dan. 3:19-23—Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with fury and the countenance of his face was changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. He responded and commanded that the furnace be made seven times hotter than it was usually heated. ²⁰And he commanded certain mighty men who were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and throw *them* into the blazing furnace of fire. ²¹Then these men were bound in their shirts, tunics, and mantles, and *other* clothing, and thrown into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire. ²²For this reason, because the king’s word was so

harsh and the furnace had been heated to an extreme, the flame of the fire slew those men who carried up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. ²³And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell into the midst of the blazing furnace of fire bound up.

- D. When Nebuchadnezzar looked into the furnace, he saw four men walking in the midst of the fire (vv. 24-25); the fourth one was the excellent Christ as the Son of Man, who had come to be with His three suffering, persecuted overcomers and to make the fire a pleasant place in which to walk about.

Dan. 3:24-25—Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished and stood up in haste; he responded and said to his counselors, Did we not throw three men into the midst of the fire bound up? They answered and said to the king, Certainly, O king. ²⁵He answered and said, Look, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not harmed. And the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.

- E. The three overcomers did not need to ask God to deliver them from the furnace (cf. v. 17); Christ as the Son of Man—the One who is qualified and capable of sympathizing with God's people in everything (Heb. 4:15-16)—came to be their Companion and take care of them in their suffering, by His presence making their place of suffering a pleasant situation.

cf. Dan. 3:17—If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the blazing furnace of fire, and He will deliver *us* out of your hand, O king.

Heb. 4:15-16—For we do not have a High Priest who cannot be touched with the feeling of our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all respects like *us*, yet without sin.

¹⁶Let us therefore come forward with boldness to the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace for timely help.

V. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the covering that hinders people from seeing the ruling of the heavens by the God of the heavens— Dan. 4:

- A. As those who have been chosen by God to be His people for Christ's preeminence, we are under God's heavenly rule for the purpose of making Christ preeminent—vv. 18, 23-26, 30-32; Rom. 8:28-29; Col. 1:18b; 2 Cor. 10:13, 18; Jer. 9:23-24.

Dan. 4:18—This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell *me* the interpretation, inasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make the interpretation known to me; but you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you.

Dan. 4:23-26—And in that the king saw a watcher, indeed, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, Cut down the tree and destroy it; yet leave its stump of roots in the earth, but with an iron and bronze band *around it*, in the tender grass of the field; and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him; ²⁴This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: ²⁵You shall be driven out from among mankind, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; and you shall be made to eat grass as bulls *do* and shall be wet with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills.

²⁶And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule.

Dan. 4:30-32—The king responded and said, Is this not Babylon the great, which I have built up as a royal house by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty? ³¹While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice came down from heaven: To you it is spoken, King Nebuchadnezzar: The kingdom has passed on from you; ³²And from among mankind you shall be driven out, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; you shall be made to eat grass as bulls *do*; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills.

Rom. 8:28-29—And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. ²⁹Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Col. 1:18—And He is the Head of the Body, the church; He is the beginning, the Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;

2 Cor. 10:13—But we will not boast beyond *our* measure but according to the measure of the rule which the God of measure has apportioned to us, to reach even as far as you.

2 Cor. 10:18—For *it is* not the one who commends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord commends.

Jer. 9:23-24—Thus says Jehovah, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, And let not the mighty man glory in his might; Let not the rich man glory in his riches. ²⁴But let him who glories glory in this, That he has insight and knows Me, That I am Jehovah who exercises lovingkindness, Justice, and righteousness on earth; For in these things I delight, declares Jehovah.

B. "He is able to abase those who walk in pride"—Dan. 4:37b.

VI. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the ignorance concerning the result of the debauchery before God and the insult to His holiness—ch. 5:

A. Belshazzar's taking the vessels that were for God's worship in His holy temple at Jerusalem and using them in worshipping idols was an insult to God's holiness (v. 4); he should have learned the lesson from Nebuchadnezzar's experience (4:18-37); however, he did not learn the lesson and suffered as a result (5:18, 20, 24-31).

Dan. 5:4—They drank wine and praised the gods of gold and of silver, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone.

Dan. 4:18-37—This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen. Now you, Belteshazzar, tell *me* the interpretation, inasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make the interpretation known to me; but you are able, for a spirit of the holy gods is in you. ¹⁹Then Daniel, whose name is Belteshazzar, was appalled for a while as his thoughts alarmed him. The king responded and said, Belteshazzar, do not let the dream or its interpretation alarm you. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you, and its interpretation for your enemies! ²⁰The tree that you saw,

which grew great and became strong, and whose height reached to heaven and the sight of it to all the earth, ²¹And whose foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, *and* under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and in whose branches the birds of the sky lodged— ²²It is you, O king, who have grown great and become strong, for your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the end of the earth. ²³And in that the king saw a watcher, indeed, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, Cut down the tree and destroy it; yet leave its stump of roots in the earth, but with an iron and bronze band *around it*, in the tender grass of the field; and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field until seven periods of time pass over him; ²⁴This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king: ²⁵You shall be driven out from among mankind, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; and you shall be made to eat grass as bulls *do* and shall be wet with the dew of heaven; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills. ²⁶And in that it was commanded that the stump of roots of the tree be left, your kingdom will be assured to you after you have come to know that the heavens do rule. ²⁷Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: Break off your sins by doing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; perhaps there may be a prolonging of your prosperity. ²⁸All this came upon Nebuchadnezzar the king. ²⁹At the end of twelve months he was walking upon *the roof of* the royal palace of Babylon. ³⁰The king responded and said, Is this not Babylon the great, which I have built up as a royal house by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty? ³¹While the word was still in the king's mouth, a voice came down from heaven: To you it is spoken, King Nebuchadnezzar: The kingdom has passed on from you; ³²And from among mankind you shall be driven out, and with the beasts of the field shall your dwelling place be; you shall be made to eat grass as bulls *do*; and seven periods of time will pass over you, until you come to know that the Most High is the Ruler over the kingdom of men and gives it to whomever He wills. ³³In that very hour the word concerning Nebuchadnezzar was fulfilled; and from among mankind he was driven out, and he began to eat grass as bulls *do*, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, until his hair had grown like eagles' *feathers* and his nails like birds' *claws*. ³⁴And at the end of *those* days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me; and I blessed the Most High, and I praised and honored the ever-living One; For His dominion is an eternal dominion, And His kingdom is from generation to generation; ³⁵And all the inhabitants of earth are considered as nothing, But He does according to His will in the army of heaven And *among* the inhabitants of the earth; And there is no one who can resist His hand Or say to Him, What are You doing? ³⁶At that time my reason returned to me; and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and my splendor returned to me; and my counselors and my lords sought me out, and I was established in my kingdom, and surpassing greatness was added to me. ³⁷Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and honor the King of the heavens, because all His works are truth and His ways justice, and because He is able to abase those who walk in pride.

Dan. 5:18—Regarding you, O king, God the Most High gave to Nebuchadnezzar your forefather kingship, greatness, glory, and majesty;

Dan. 5:20—But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so arrogant that he conducted himself in pride, he was deposed from his royal throne, and *his* glory was taken away from him.

Dan. 5:24-31—Then *that* part of the hand was sent from before Him, and this writing was inscribed. ²⁵And this is the writing that was inscribed: MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. ²⁶This is the interpretation of the matter: MENE—God has numbered your kingdom and brought it to an end; ²⁷TEKEL—You have been weighed in the scales and found to be lacking. ²⁸PERES—Your kingdom has been divided and given to the Medes and Persians. ²⁹Then Belshazzar commanded; and they clothed Daniel in purple and *put* a chain of gold around his neck, and they made the proclamation concerning him that he should rule as the third *ruler* in the kingdom. ³⁰In that very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. ³¹And Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two.

- B. “An excellent spirit and knowledge and insight, and the interpretation of dreams, the declaring of riddles, and the resolving of problems [lit., knots] were found in this Daniel”—v. 12a.
- C. “You..., Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, though you knew all this; but you have exalted yourself against the Lord of the heavens; and they have brought the vessels of His house 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 of gold, of bronze, iron, wood, and stone, which do not see nor hear nor know. But the God in whose hand is your breath and to whom all your ways belong, you have not honored”—vv. 22-23, cf. v. 20.

cf. Dan. 5:20—But when his heart was lifted up and his spirit became so arrogant that he conducted himself in pride, he was deposed from his royal throne, and *his* glory was taken away from him.

VII. Daniel and his companions were victorious over the subtlety that prohibited the faithfulness of the overcomers in the worship of God—ch. 6:

- A. The center of Daniel 6 is man’s prayer for the carrying out of God’s economy; Daniel depended on prayer to do what man could not do and to understand what man could not understand; there is no other way to bring God’s economy into fullness and into fulfillment except by prayer; this is the inner secret of this chapter.
- B. Daniel prayed three times daily with his windows open toward Jerusalem; through his gracious prayer God brought Israel back to their fathers’ land (v. 10; cf. 1 Kings 19:12, 18); God will listen to our prayer when our prayer is toward Christ (typified by the Holy Land), toward the kingdom of God (typified by the holy city), and toward the house of God (typified by the holy temple) as the goal in God’s eternal economy—8:48-49.

Dan. 6:10—Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had *always* done so previously.

cf. 1 Kings 19:12—And after the earthquake, a fire—Jehovah was not in the fire. And after the fire, a gentle, quiet voice.

cf. 1 Kings 19:18—Yet I have left *Myself* seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed unto Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.

1 Kings 8:48-49—And *if* they return to You with all their heart and with all their soul in the land of their enemies, who have carried them captive, and they pray to You toward their land that You have given to their fathers, the city that You have chosen, and the house that I have built for Your name; ⁴⁹Then hear their prayer and their supplication in the heavens Your dwelling place and maintain their cause,