

— Daniel 1.1-7 —
Words to Teens 1
Greatness

*Dn 1¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.
² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand ...
³ Then the king instructed Ashpenaz, the master of his eunuchs, to bring some of the children of Israel and some of the king's descendants and some of the nobles, ⁴ young men in whom there was no blemish, but good-looking, gifted in all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans ... ⁶ Now from among those of the sons of Judah were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. ⁷ To them the chief of the eunuchs gave names: he gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abed-Nego.*

► I want to spend the next several messages speaking directly to you, _____, and the first thing I want to talk to you about is _____. Remember Daniel and his three friends, whom God used to show us how to be _____ of His Kingdom. They were _____ when they were carried off to Babylon. The reason why we are so drawn to them and their story is that we sense _____ in them. The same is true of _____ and of _____ of Wessex, who is called “the Great.”

2Kings 22³ [I]n the eighteenth year of King Josiah ... ¹¹ ... when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, ... he tore his clothes ..., saying, ... “[T]he wrath of the Lord ... is aroused ..., because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book”

► We are also drawn to people who are very different from the aforementioned – people such as _____, _____, & _____; and _____ & _____. Yet we are drawn for the same reason: We sense _____ in them. I bring these up because I want to inspire greatness in _____.

Ruth 1¹⁶ But Ruth said: “Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And

wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The Lord do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.”

► Seeking greatness is _____ and _____ as long as it is biblical greatness biblically sought.

Heb 12¹ [L]et us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher [perfecter] of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Dan 7¹³ “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man ... came to the Ancient of Days ... ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him.”

Jn 5⁴⁴ “How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?”

Mt 6² “[H]ypocrites ... [seek] to have glory from men ... ⁵ ... [T]hey love ... to be seen by men.”

Lk 2⁵² Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Jn 5¹⁸ Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him

Jn 4³² [Jesus] said to them, I have food to eat of which you do not know” ... ³⁴ “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work.”

Hb 5⁵ Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: ... ⁶ ... “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”

► Biblical greatness is the presence of God's _____
in a person's life. Glory comes from a Heb. word that means
_____.

*Psalm 72 ¹⁹ And blessed be His glorious [weighty] name forever!
And let the whole earth be filled with His glory.*

*Exo 20 ⁷ "You shall not take [carry, bear] the name of the LORD
your God in vain [lightly]."*

2Cor 4 ¹⁷ [O]ur light affliction, which is but for a moment, is
working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory

*Dn 2 ³⁴ "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands,
which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke
them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver,
and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from
the summer threshing floors; 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."*

*Ps 1 ⁴ The ungodly ... are like the chaff which the wind drives
away.*

► In the days of the ancient empires, the shaping force of
paganism took the form of totalitarian government combined
with individualistic escapism. The same is true _____.
When there is no truth, absolute arbitrary truth will fill the void.

► Daniel and his friends withstood the immense pressure to
_____. They were shaped by God, His Word,
and His Kingdom. They took on the glory and weightiness of
God, and it was evident in their _____. That's what
made them _____.

2Cor 4 ¹⁷ [O]ur light affliction, which is but for a moment, is
working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory

► The issue for Daniel and his friends was, what was going to
_____ them — the glory and weightiness of God's
name which they bore, or the new names assigned to them by
Nebuchadnezzar?

- Daniel = God is my judge/protector
Belteshazzar = Bel (the chief Bab. god) is my protector
- Hananiah = Yahveh is gracious
Shadrach = Command of Aku (the moon god)
- Mishael = Who is what God is?
Meshach = Who is what Aku (the moon god) is?
- Azariah = Yahveh has helped
Abed-nego = Servant of Nego (i.e., Nebo, son of Bel)