

## **Adonai Honors the Faithful Man**

Last month I had shared the story of Tamar and how Adonai honored her and her pursuit as a faithful woman, ultimately honoring her as one of only four women mentioned in the line of Messiah Yeshua.

Adonai is one to honor those who are faithful to Him, male or female. You have heard Jeri's drash today and those that she shared about. I didn't want to dove tail nor expand upon that which she did an incredible job doing. So, I started combing the Scriptures for someone like Tamar, yet male.

The one that kept resonating with me is Daniel.

We are introduced to him as a boy when he is taken away to Bavel after Adonai's judgment upon the Southern Kingdom and thus the fall of Jerusalem.

### **Daniel Taken to Babylon**

**Dan 1:1** In the third year of the reign of Y'hoyakim king of Y'hudah, N'vukhadnetzar king of Bavel came to Yerushalayim and laid siege to it;

**Dan 1:2** and Adonai handed Y'hoyakim king of Y'hudah over to him, along with some of the articles from the house of God. He took them to the land of Shin`ar, to the house of his god and placed the articles in the storehouse of his god.

For what happened isn't something that will resolve itself overnight. For Adonai conveyed this through the Prophet Jeremiah,

**Jer 29:1** Following is the text of the letter Yirmeyahu the prophet sent from Yerushalayim to the leaders remaining in exile, as well as to the cohanim, the prophets and all the people N'vukhadnetzar had carried off captive from Yerushalayim to Bavel.

**Jer 29:2** This was after Y'khanyah the king, the queen mother, the officers, the leaders of Y'hudah and Yerushalayim, and the artisans and skilled workers had left Yerushalayim.

**Jer 29:3** The letter was entrusted to El`asah the son of Shafan and G'maryah the son of Hilkiyah; Tzidkiyah king of Y'hudah sent them to Bavel, to N'vukhadnetzar king of Bavel. The letter said:

**Jer 29:4** "Here is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says to all those in exile, whom I have caused to be carried off captive from Yerushalayim to Bavel:

**Jer 29:5** 'Build yourselves houses, and live in them. Plant gardens, and eat what they produce.

**Jer 29:6** Choose women to marry, and have sons and daughters. Choose wives

for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage to men, so that they can have sons and daughters—increase your numbers there, don't decrease.

**Jer 29:7** Seek the welfare of the city to which I have caused you to go in exile, and pray to Adonai on its behalf; for your welfare is bound up in its welfare.'

**Jer 29:8** For this is what Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of Isra'el, says: 'Don't let your prophets who are living among you and your diviners deceive you, and don't pay attention to the dreams you urge them to dream.

**Jer 29:9** For they are prophesying falsely in my name; I have not sent them,' says Adonai.

**Jer 29:10** "For here is what Adonai says: 'After Bavel's seventy years are over, I will remember you and fulfill my good promise to you by bringing you back to this place.

You will remain in Bavel until it is time for you to leave, not a moment sooner, not a moment later. Daniel was there at the beginning of the exile as a young boy.

**Dan 1:4** They were to be boys without physical defect, handsome in appearance, versed in all kinds of wisdom, quick to learn, discerning, and having the capacity to serve in the king's palace; and he was to teach them the language and literature of the Kasdim.

**Dan 1:5** The king assigned them a daily portion of his own food and the wine he drank, and they were to be cared for in this way for three years. At the end of this time they were to become the king's attendants.

**Dan 1:6** Among these, from the people of Y'hudah, were Dani'el, Hananyah, Misha'el and `Azaryah.

**Dan 1:7** The chief officer gave them other names—to Dani'el he gave the name Belt'shatzar; to Hananyah, Shadrakh; to Misha'el, Meishakh; and to `Azaryah, `Aved-N'go.

He was even given a different name, a worldly name. The Jewish people would reside in Bavel for 70 years, that is more than a generation.

Even as a young boy, Daniel was faithful and wise beyond his years. Consider the first account that has been revealed to us by Adonai...

**Dan 1:8** But Dani'el resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food or the wine he drank, so he asked the chief officer to be excused from defiling himself.

**Dan 1:9** God caused the chief officer to be kind and sympathetic toward Dani'el;

**Dan 1:10** however, the chief officer said to Dani'el, "I'm afraid of my lord the king. After all, he has given you an allowance of food and drink; so if he were to

see you boys looking worse than the others your age, you would be putting my own head in danger from the king."

**Dan 1:11** Then Dani'el said to the guard whom the chief officer had put in charge of Dani'el, Hananyah, Misha'el and `Azaryah,

**Dan 1:12** "Please! Try an experiment on your servants—for ten days have them give us only vegetables to eat and water to drink.

**Dan 1:13** Then see how we look, and compare us with how the boys who eat the king's food look; and deal with your servants according to what you see."

**Dan 1:14** He agreed to do what they had asked and gave them a ten-day test.

**Dan 1:15** At the end of ten days they looked better and more robust than all the boys who were eating the king's food.

His wisdom here reminds me of a young Solomon. Don't react or over react, just try this and see what happens. Or maybe even a young Yeshua...

**Luk 2:46** On the third day they found him—he was sitting in the Temple court among the rabbis, not only listening to them but questioning what they said;

**Luk 2:47** and everyone who heard him was astonished at his insight and his responses.

Full of wisdom at such a young age.

**Dan 1:16** So the guard took away their food and the wine they were supposed to drink, and gave them vegetables.

**Dan 1:17** To these four boys God had given knowledge and skill in every aspect of learning and wisdom; moreover, Dani'el could understand all kinds of visions and dreams.

So there was this experiment where the food of the king was compared to the diet Daniel had suggested. You might say kosher vs. non-kosher I have shared, if you truly want to keep kosher and without any doubt, become a vegetarian. Sounds like Daniel is on the same page.

Ultimately it wasn't the diet that led to what Adonai would provide them, knowledge, skills and wisdom, but obedience to Him. For He had instilled this within them long before they would come to this point in time and this challenge that was set before them.

**Dan 1:18** When the time the king had set for them to be presented came, the chief officer presented them to N'vukhadnetzar;

**Dan 1:19** and when the king spoke with them, none was found among all of

them to compare with Dani'el, Hananyah, Misha'el and `Azaryah. So they entered the king's service;

**Dan 1:20** and in all matters requiring wisdom and understanding, whenever the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and exorcists in his entire kingdom.

**Dan 1:21** So Dani'el remained there until the first year of King Koresh.

The results of Daniel's "experiment" were obvious and he was recognized. He became the King's consultant, advisor.

This would be the first experience we would witness from Daniel. Keeping in mind there would be some bumps along the way but His faith never wavered.

His faithfulness would continue and be rewarded as he would be summoned by the King to interpret dreams for him, yet he did not request Daniel first...

**Dan 2:1** In the second year of the reign of N'vukhadnetzar, N'vukhadnetzar became so troubled by a series of dreams he had that he couldn't sleep.

**Dan 2:2** So the king ordered the magicians, exorcists, sorcerers and astrologers summoned to interpret the king's dreams to him. They came and stood in his presence.

Two times the king sought interpretation for his dream

**Dan 2:11** The king is asking a difficult thing; nobody but the gods could tell this to your majesty, and they don't live with mere mortals."

**Dan 2:12** At this the king flew into a rage and ordered all the sages of Bavel put to death.

**Dan 2:13** When the decree was published that the sages were to be slain, they sought Dani'el and his companions in order to have them put to death.

**Dan 2:14** Then, choosing his words carefully, Dani'el consulted Aryokh, captain of the royal guard, who had already gone out to kill the sages of Bavel.

This could mean death for Daniel in that he was one of those who would be put to death. I see a calm Daniel returning home to his friends...

**Dan 2:17** Dani'el went home and made the matter known to Hananyah, Misha'el and `Azaryah, his companions;

**Dan 2:18** so that they could ask the God of heaven for mercy concerning this secret, and thus save Dani'el and his companions from dying along with the other sages of Bavel.

...and praying...

**Dan 2:19** Then the secret was revealed to Dani'el in a vision at night, and Dani'el blessed the God of heaven

**Dan 2:20** in these words: "Blessed be the name of God from eternity past to eternity future! For wisdom and power are his alone;

**Dan 2:21** he brings the changes of seasons and times; he installs and deposes kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those with discernment.

**Dan 2:22** He reveals deep and secret things; he knows what lies in the darkness; and light dwells with him.

**Dan 2:23** I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for giving me wisdom and power, and revealing to me what we wanted from you, for giving us the answer for the king."

Seeking Adonai as the one with all wisdom and knowledge and thus acknowledging Him for what he revealed. Daniel felt

If he didn't interpret the dream of the King it would have meant not only his death but the death of all the sages of Bavel. Yet I don't believe him wavering but am reminded here of David when he confronts the giant...

**1Sa 17:45** David answered the P'lishti, "You're coming at me with a sword, a spear and a javelin. But I'm coming at you in the name of Adonai-Tzva'ot, the God of the armies of Isra'el, whom you have challenged.

Daniel too, approached the king with confidence that could only come from Adonai, whom revealed these truths to him that he would share with the king.

**Dan 2:24** So Dani'el went to see Aryokh, whom the king had charged with destroying the sages of Bavel, and said to him, "Don't destroy the sages of Bavel! Bring me before the king, and I will give the king the interpretation."

**Dan 2:25** Quickly Aryokh brought Dani'el before the king and told him, "I have found one of the exiles of Y'hudah who will reveal the interpretation to his majesty."

**Dan 2:26** The king said to Dani'el (who had been renamed Belt'shatzar), "Can you tell me what I dreamt and what it means?"

**Dan 2:27** Dani'el answered the king, "No sage, exorcist, magician or astrologer can tell his majesty the secret he has asked about.

**Dan 2:28** But there is a God in heaven who unlocks mysteries, and he has revealed to King N'vukhadnetzar what will happen in the acharit-hayamim. Here are your dream and the visions you had in your head when you were in bed.

Daniel interprets the dream and is thus recognized and promoted...

(You can read about the dreams and interpretation in Daniel 2:29 - 45)

**Dan 2:46** Then King N'vukhadnetzar fell on his face and worshipped Dani'el; he ordered that a grain offering and incense be offered to him.

**Dan 2:47** To Dani'el the king said, "Your God is indeed the God of gods, the Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets, since you have been able to reveal this secret."

**Dan 2:48** The king promoted Dani'el to a high rank, gave him many rich gifts and made him governor of the entire province of Bavel and head of all the sages of Bavel.

**Dan 2:49** At Dani'el's request, the king put Shadrakh, Meishakh and `Aved-N'go in charge of the affairs of the province of Bavel, while Dani'el remained in attendance on the king.

Daniel would continue to grow in wisdom throughout his years and would also serve the son who would become king, after his father...

**Dan 5:11** There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, he was found to have light, discernment and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. King N'vukhadnetzar your father—the king, your father—made him chief of the magicians, exorcists, astrologers and diviners;

**Dan 5:12** because he was found to have an extraordinary spirit, knowledge, discernment, and the ability to interpret dreams, unlock mysteries and solve knotty problems. He is called Dani'el, but the king gave him the name Belt'shatzar. Now have Dani'el summoned, and he will tell you what this means."

I could go on and on about Daniel, yet I hope you get my point. He was a man of faith and his faith was continually rewarded with greater responsibility. He would be confronted by adversaries opposing him yet he would continue.

**2Ti 4:1** I solemnly charge you before God and the Messiah Yeshua, who will judge the living and the dead when he appears and establishes his Kingdom:

**2Ti 4:2** proclaim the Word! Be on hand with it whether the time seems right or not. Convict, censure and exhort with unfailing patience and with teaching.

**2Ti 4:3** For the time is coming when people will not have patience for sound teaching, but will cater to their passions and gather around themselves teachers who say whatever their ears itch to hear.

2Ti 4:4 Yes, they will stop listening to the truth, but will turn aside to follow myths.

2Ti 4:5 But you, remain steady in every situation, endure suffering, do the work that a proclaimer of the Good News should, and do everything your service to God requires.

2Ti 4:6 For as for me, I am already being poured out on the altar; yes, the time for my departure has arrived.

2Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

2Ti 4:8 All that awaits me now is the crown of righteousness which the Lord, "the Righteous Judge," will award to me on that Day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for him to appear.

What can I say in relation to Sha'ul's words to Timothy...Daniel proclaimed the Word of Adonai by living the Word in his life, even in captivity.

Take a page out of Daniel's book, literally.

Remember the song from before...

I WANT TO BE LIKE DANIEL.

Did he not do this...

**Pro 3:1** My son, don't forget my teaching, keep my commands in your heart;

Pro 3:2 for they will add to you many days, years of life and peace.

Pro 3:3 Do not let grace and truth leave you—bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

Pro 3:4 Then you will win favor and esteem in the sight of God and of people.

Pro 3:5 Trust in Adonai with all your heart; do not rely on your own understanding.

Pro 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge him; then he will level your paths.

And as such this...

**Rom 12:1** I exhort you, therefore, brothers, in view of God's mercies, to offer

yourselves as a sacrifice, living and set apart for God. This will please him; it is the logical "Temple worship" for you.

**Rom 12:2** In other words, do not let yourselves be conformed to the standards of the `olam hazeh. Instead, keep letting yourselves be transformed by the renewing of your minds; so that you will know what God wants and will agree that what he wants is good, satisfying and able to succeed.

Daniel did not conform to Bavel or its ways but remained true to Adonai and as such experienced the very things Sha'ul writes about when one comes to Messiah and is guided by the Great Shepherd. Daniel was guided by the great shepherd as well.

I believe he ran the race, endured all that he was confronted by and finished as Sha'ul conveyed to Timothy.