

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

The Dream

Today we are in part 2 of our 7 part study of the Book of Daniel, and our series is entitled “**BOLD AS LIONS,**” we have titled this series as such because we believe that God’s people need to be imbued with the boldness that only God can give as we go about our daily lives.

Last week Pastor Nate set up this series by diving into chapter 1 where we see Daniel our unlikely hero THRIVE UNDER PRESSURE. Last week we talked about 3 Keys to Thriving Under Pressure, and also how to become a thermostat (*which dictates the temperature around us*) rather than a thermometer (*which simply responds to whatever we are given*).



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

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And this morning we are going to look at Chapter 2, where we are going to see Daniel placed under even more PRESSURE.

And what I hope we learn this morning from looking at this snapshot of Daniel's life is what ***Biblical Boldness*** looks like.

Because you see Church every single Christian here this morning will need to display boldness for Christ in order for God to be able to use you fully.

How God will use our boldness will be unique, but make no mistake, you will need to be bold to follow Jesus.

# BOL




# ONS

Alright, (speaking of boldness) here is a picture of me walking down the aisle when I was about 6 years old.

No, Kaely and I weren't married at 6 😊. I was in the wedding of my mother's best friend Naomi, but I just knew that I THE RING BEARER was the real star of the show. After all, I got to ride in the limousine, all eyes were on me as I walked in the room, everyone told me how good my tuxedo looked. On this day, I walked down the aisle BOLDLY.

You know one of the unique things about me as a child was I was pretty self assured, and I didn't have any problem stating my opinion.

My family noticed these trends in my behavior, (that I often acted older than I actually was) and I earned the nickname Pop (like Grand-pop). My mother still calls me Pop to this day.



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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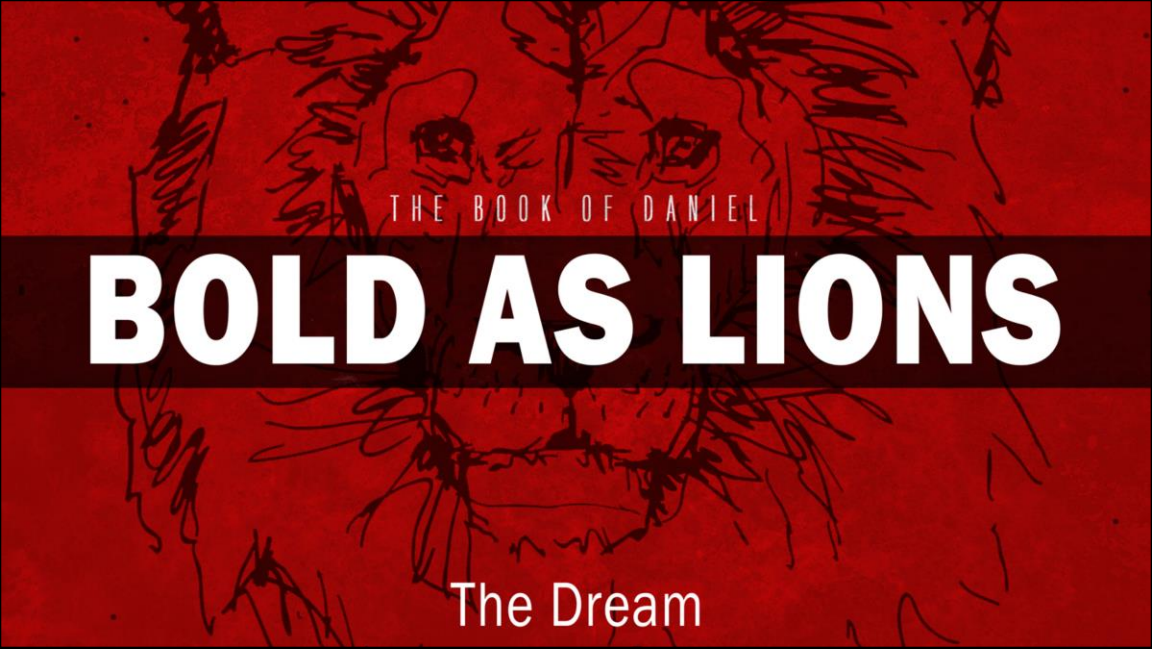
## The Dream

As I grew older and began to pursue the life of a Disciple of Jesus Christ, I noticed that my natural boldness was a powerful tool to be used for the Lord.

But I also went through a process of learning that my natural bent toward boldness needed to be paired with biblical wisdom and understanding.

You see because I am naturally bold I tended to trust in myself, and rely on ME. But over the better part of a decade God showed me that true boldness for a Christian is never derived internally. Rather biblical boldness is found as we place our trust in Him, not JUST for salvation, TRUSTING IN HIM for every step of life.





THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

The Dream

You see Church BOLDNESS IS ALWAYS THE PRODUCT OF A STRONG SENSE OF TRUST.

We have the BOLDNESS to fly the friendly skies at 30,000 ft because we TRUST our pilots training.

We have the BOLDNESS to ask our boss for that raise because we TRUST we can get a better job if they say no.

We have the BOLDNESS to stand up for the ones we love because we TRUST that we couldn't live with ourselves if we didn't.

In Daniel chapter 2 we are going to see Daniel exhibit a strong sense of TRUST that causes him to be bold, but NOT BOLD IN HIMSELF, BOLD IN THE LORD.



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

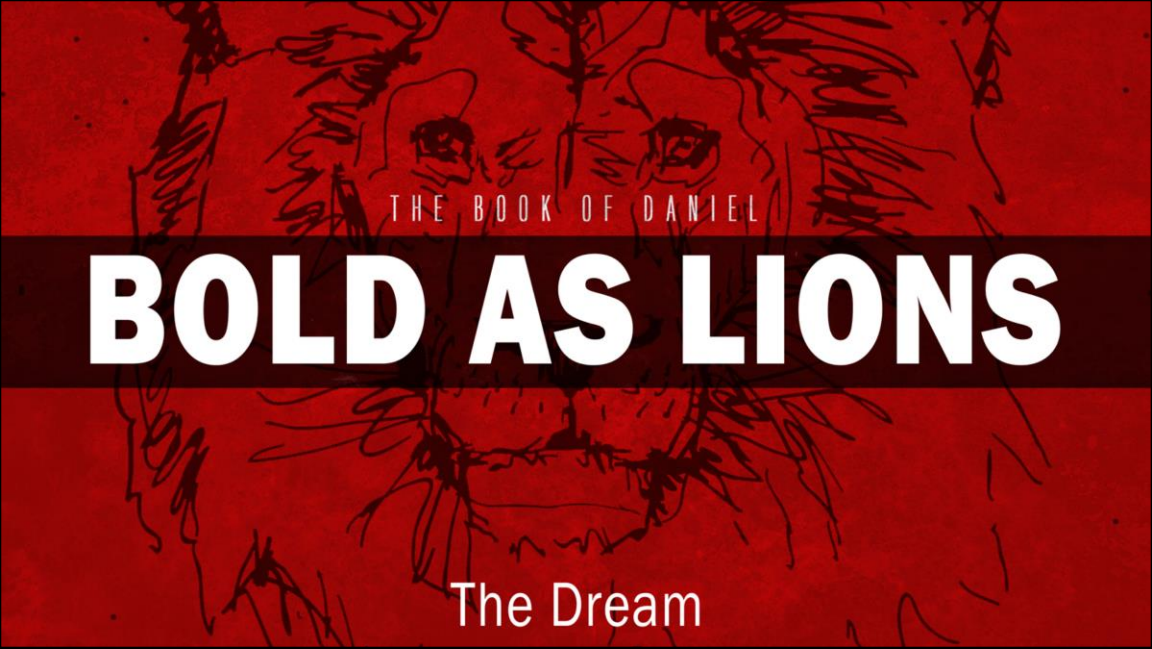
# BOLD AS LIONS

## The Dream

In our text for this morning we find Daniel and his friends at the mercy of the MANIACAL KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.

The situation is this, King Nebuchadnezzar has a terrible dream that troubles him deeply, so much so that he cannot sleep. So, he gathers all of his enchanters, sorcerers, and magicians, and he asks them for something pretty astounding.

He asks them not only to interpret his dream (*to tell him what his dream means*), but to also tell him what happened in the dream (*Nebuchadnezzar wants them to to give him a blow by blow account of his entire dream*).



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

The Dream

The Sorcerers and Magicians are astounded by this request.

And I have to agree with them, right. This would be like you or I calling our local mechanic on the phone, describing to them what your car trouble sounds like for a diagnosis, and then also asking them to guess what type of car we have. Try doing that the next time your car breaks down, you won't get far.

The Sorcerers and Magicians say to Nebuchadnezzar, **NOBODY CAN DO WHAT YOU ARE REQUESTING!** And then Nebuchadnezzar says ok well then you all are going to die, and he orders all of the wise men of Babylon to be destroyed.

## Daniel 2:14-16 (ESV)

<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 to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" 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.

### **BOLD AS LIONS**

This decree to destroy the Wise Men of Babylon included Daniel and his friends.

Daniel finds out about this decree only when Arioch the Captain of the King's Guard arrives to kill him.

In verse 14 we read: **Read**

Church I don't know how to incapsulate fully how UNBELIEVABLY BOLD this move is by Daniel.

With the lives of him and his friends on the line, he says, oh those magicians, and sorcerers, why didn't you just ask me 😊.



## Daniel 2:14-16 (ESV)

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### **BOLD AS LIONS**

This was risky because Daniel if the King was willing to tear all the wise men limb from limb so flippantly, what do you think he would have done to Daniel for promising to interpret his dream, and then failing to deliver on that promise.

Another reason this is bold is because Daniel isn't psychic, at the time he says these words in verse 16 Daniel doesn't know ANYTHING ABOUT NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S dream.....BUT he does know the GOD OF ALL, and here the boldness we see from Daniel isn't his own, it's buffeted by his unwavering trust in God.

We know this because of what we find in verses 17 – 19.

## Daniel 2:17-19 (ESV)

<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. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

### **BOLD AS LIONS**

Right after this...

**Read:**

You see Church Daniel doesn't go home and try to find a way out, he doesn't plan an escape or try to use his ingenuity to survive.

He gathers his friends and he says let's seek the God of heaven concerning this mystery.

And I think it's important that Daniel specifically called God the "God of Heaven" here, it's as if he's stating that if God can make the heavens, well then he can certainly give us the intel on this crazy King's dream.

And God does, he delivers.

And in return Daniel gives God the glory.

# Biblical Boldness - Step #1

Trust God's plan, not our own.

## BOLD AS LIONS

And from this we understand that the first step of Biblical Boldness is to ***Trust God's plan, not our own.***

What's awesome about Daniel's response to this difficulty is that he didn't have a moment's hesitation about what to do.....he trusted immediately that God could give him the interpretation, and therefore he sought God immediately for the interpretation.

I wish over the course of my life that I was as fast of a learner as Daniel. So often in my past and even to this day, I have to realize again and again that God's plan is always superior.



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

Illus:

One of my favorite things to do with my kids is to play wrestle. And one of the things that my kids love is when I pick them up by their ankles and swing them around.....I KNOW IT SOUNDS HORRIBLE BUT THEY LOVE IT.

They love is because they know their DAD won't drop them.....they know I wouldn't hurt them and so they *just enjoy the ride.*

But imagine if I picked up one of your kids or grandkids by the ankles and started swinging them around ☺.....I don't think I would get the same giggling reaction.....and why?.....because we do not share the same bond of trust.





THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# **BOLD AS LIONS**

Remember what I said earlier, **BOLDNESS IS ALWAYS THE PRODUCT OF A STRONG SENSE OF TRUST.**

In verses 20-23, after Daniel receives the interpretation from God he offers this prayer to God.

As we read verses 20-23 together, think about the **UNWAVERING TRUST DANIEL HAS IN GOD, and HOW IT WAS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THE PATHWAY TO BOLDNESS.**

# Daniel 2:20, 21 (ESV)

<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;

**BOLD AS LIONS**

**Read:** 

# Daniel 2:22, 23 (ESV)

<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.”

**BOLD AS LIONS**

**Continue Reading:** 

Here Daniel speaks of God's wisdom & power, how He alone sets up Kings and deposes them. David recognizes that God is High and Lifted Up.....and that he is not.

But notice in verse 23, in the midst of glorious praise Daniel says, *“I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might.”*

What's Daniel doing there? He's recognized that he isn't the source of WISDOM and MIGHT but that's OK, because he is close to the God of Heaven who is.

# Daniel 2:22, 23 (ESV)

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I give thanks and praise,  
for you have given me wisdom and might,  
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for you have made known to us the king's matter.”

## **BOLD AS LIONS**

Daniel's understanding of the wisdom and might of God has him in the position that he's much more in awe of God's power than puny little Nebuchadnezzar.

From Daniel's prayer here we clearly see that he places God much higher on the pecking order than MANIACAL KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR.



# Biblical Boldness – Step #2

Fear God, not man.

## BOLD AS LIONS

And this leads us into our second step in Biblical Boldness, that is to ***Fear God not man.***

Church this is where we must go inward with this teaching, because if we are honest and paying attention to our lives, this point should be hitting all of us square between the eyes.

Because truthfully all of us have FEAR in our lives, and it is fear that often keeps us from making bold decisions for Christ.

We can FEAR how people might view us if we speak up for our Christian values/ethics.

We can FEAR to be generous financially because we worry that in the future we might need that which we have given away.

# Biblical Boldness – Step #2

Fear God, not man.

## **BOLD AS LIONS**

We can FEAR to hold our Christian friends accountable because we are worried about how they will respond.

We can FEAR to allow our children to grow up and make their own mistakes because we know how cruel this world can be.

Meanwhile, 99.9% of the things we have FEAR over and worry about are outside of our control.

***[Pause]***

You see Church, we often do not enter into the pressure filled situations we face in life with the posture that Daniel exudes here because we FEAR THE WRONG THING.

# Biblical Boldness – Step #2

Fear God, not man.

## **BOLD AS LIONS**

Make NO mistake, Daniel is foremost fearful of letting God down.

And it is his love/trust for God that drives his Biblical Boldness.

How about you? Where is God calling you to be bold in your life right now? *[Pause]* Every single Christian here has at least one area of our lives where God is challenging you to be bold.....right now!

*Perhaps you have the opportunity to be biblically bold at work.*

*Perhaps you have the opportunity to be biblically bold in your marriage.*

# Biblical Boldness – Step #2

Fear God, not man.

## BOLD AS LIONS

*Perhaps God is challenging you to be biblically bold in a friendship.*

*Perhaps God is calling you to make a biblically bold decision with regards to your employment.*

Whatever the case may be, we need to be aware that just as God has proven Himself faithful to Daniel in our text, the same God who gave Daniel **wisdom & might** will do the same in your life and mine.....but we must NOT be focused on what man might do to us, NO we need to have our eyes fixed on GOD'S PURPOSES and be FEARFUL of NOT FOLLOWING HIS WILL FOR OUR LIVES.





THE BOOK OF DANIEL

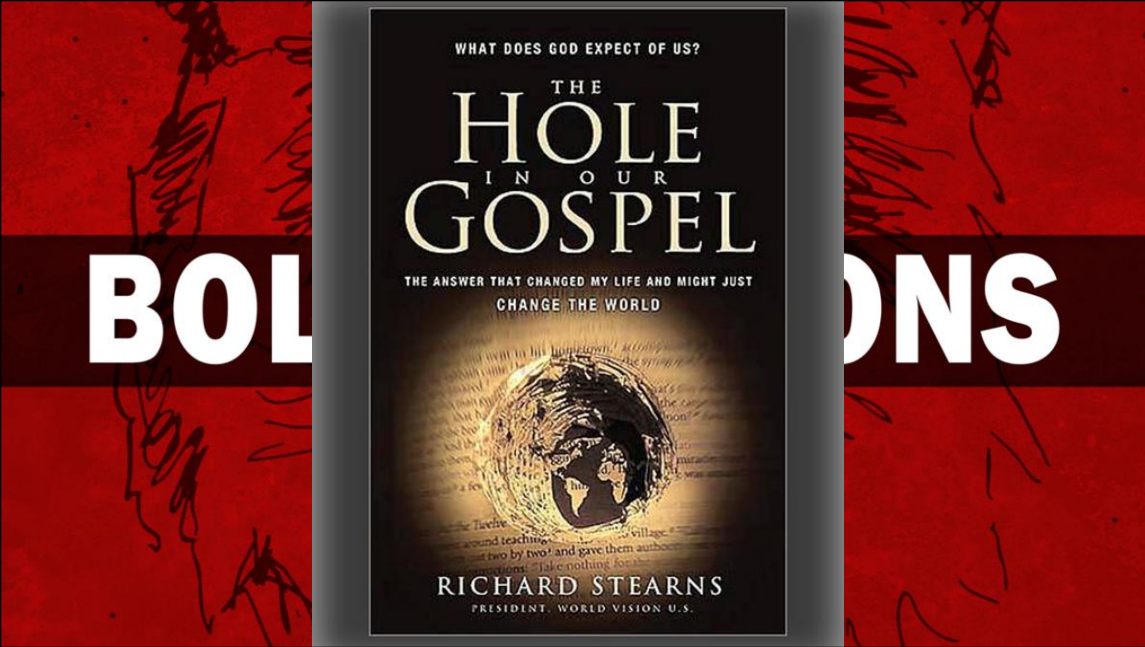
# BOLD AS LIONS

Illus:

Speaking of overcoming our FEARS in order to follow Christ. I'd like to share a testimony with you from the life of man named Richard Stearns.

Richard is a brilliant man who in the first half of his life put his efforts towards making lots of money. And he was quite successful at doing so.

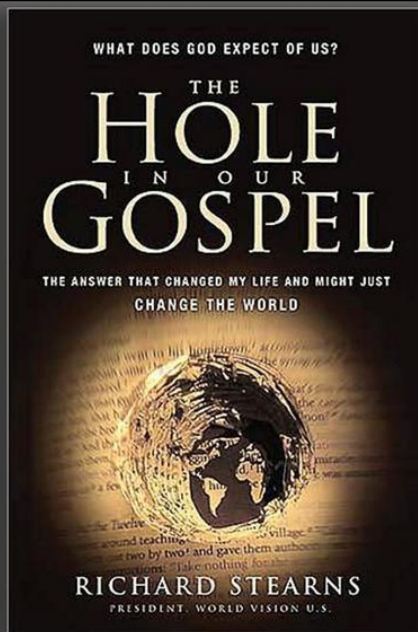
And then something happened that changed his life forever that turned him from FEARFUL to FOLLOWER.



This is Richard's testimony that he wrote in his best selling book **THE HOLE IN OUR GOSPEL**.

*"In 1987, the largest, single-day stock market crash since 1929 took place. In one day [my wife, Renee] and I lost more than one-third of our life's savings and the money we had put aside for our kids' college education. I was horrified and became like a man obsessed, each night working past midnight, analyzing on spreadsheets all that we had lost, and the next day calling in orders to sell our remaining stocks and mutual funds to prevent further losses. (Of course that turned out to be the absolute worst thing I could have done.)"*

**BOL**

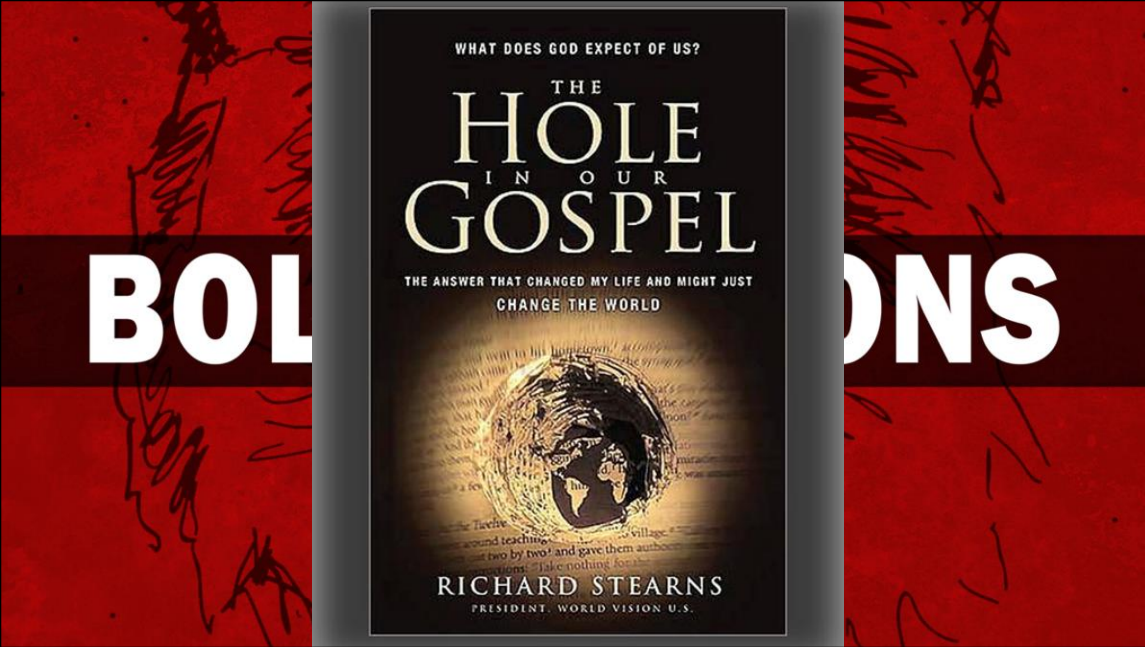


**ONS**

*"I was consumed with anguish over our lost money—and it showed. One night when I was burning the midnight oil, Renee came and sat beside me. "Honey," she said, "this thing is consuming you in an unhealthy way. It's only money. We have our marriage, our health, our friends, our children, and a good income—so much to be thankful for. You need to let go of this and trust God."*

*Don't you hate it when someone crashes your pity party? I didn't want to let go of it. I told her I felt responsible for our family and that she didn't understand. It was my job to worry about things like this."*





*She suggested we pray about it—something that hadn't occurred to me—so we did. At the end of the prayer, to my bewilderment, Renee said, "Now I think we need to get out the checkbook and write some big checks to our church and ministries we support. We need to show God that we know this is his money and not ours." I was flabbergasted at the audacity of this suggestion, but in my heart I knew she was right.*

*So that night we wrote some sizable checks, put them in envelopes addressed to various ministries, and sealed them. And that's when I felt the wave of relief. We had broken the spell that money had cast over me. It freed me from the worries that had consumed me.*





Not too long after this Richard doubles down on his investment in heaven and trades his high paying corporate job.....to lead The International Christian Aid Organization World Vision.

Church, I love Richards story. The story of God taking someone who is fearful, who lacks boldness, someone who is scared to death of losing their fortune, God subsequently taking them on a journey where they discover the joy of ***giving away*** that which they despritalely feared losing.



Church it takes BOLDNESS to walk away from a multimillion dollar corporate job, to then start a Christian Aid organization to the developing world.....but that is exactly what Disciples of Jesus Christ do, we walk boldly in truth. Not our truth, His truth.

The reason why I told you this story isn't because you need to quit your multimillion dollar job and start a Christian Aid Organization.

But you do need to start something.



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

Perhaps biblical boldness for you looks like talking with your neighbor/friend about your faith.....working on your relationship with them so that when you have an opportunity to present the Gospel your relationship has credibility.

Perhaps biblical boldness for you looks like prioritizing serving God with your talents. We say here at Brandywine that we'd like our church to have 100% spiritual employment, that means that EVERYONE here is pulling this ministry forward. This will be a bold step for some because you might need to sacrifice something to make that happen, and it will take boldness to make that decision.





THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

Perhaps biblical boldness for you looks like ***FORGIVING SOMEONE WHO WRONGED YOU, LOVING SOMEONE WHO IS HARD TO LOVE, OR HAVING PATIENCE WITH SOMEONE WHO DRIVES YOU UP A WALL.***

Church the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls us [Christians] to be ***Bold As Lions*** with regards to these things, but often we are gentle as lambs.  
***[Pause]***

Now let me be clear, the reason why I am almost exclusively placing the word biblical in front of boldness is because I think Christians already do have a reputation for boldness.





THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

Unfortunately the boldness that many unbelievers see from us isn't Christ ordained biblical boldness.....it's self-seeking, self assured, I'm right and your wrong boldness.

Church what we see Jesus doing in his earthly ministry is building bridges to the lost. Yes he was bold, you do not get more bold than Jesus *[we'll talk more about that in a minute]*.

But Jesus was a ministerial bridge builder.....he built a bridge to Zaccheus, he built a bridge to the Samaritan Woman at the Well, he built a bridge to the Rich Young Ruler, he even built a bridge to the thief next to him as he died.



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

Christians, if our boldness blows up a bridges instead of builds them we might need to reevaluate how biblical our boldness really is.

And I know what some of you are thinking. ***“But the Gospel is an offense,”*** and you are right, but while the Gospel is an offense NOTHING ELSE ABOUT OUR APPROACH TO WIN SOULS SHOULD BE. Can I get an AMEN?!?!?

It takes boldness to connect others to God. But boldness alone won't get the job done. Boldness apart from brokenness makes a bully. You can stand with courage, but without compassion you'll only widen the gap. When you're ***bold and broken*** you become a bridge, one connecting heaven and Earth in supernatural ways.

~ David & Jason Benham *Bold & Broken*

## BOLD AS LIONS

You know, to this point there is a great book that just came out that speaks to this very topic. It's called **Bold & Broken** : *Becoming a Bridge Between Heaven and Earth*.

It's written by brothers David and Jason Benham, and here is a quote I want to read you from this book, that touches on what biblical boldness looks like practically.

Read: 

This is so true! Those of us who are ***bold for Christ*** and ***broken by His grace*** in our lives realize what Daniel realizes in our text.....this wisdom and understanding is not my own, it is from God, therefore there is no pride in this from me, no lording over others with my righteous life.

It takes boldness to connect others to God. But boldness alone won't get the job done. Boldness apart from brokenness makes a bully. You can stand with courage, but without compassion you'll only widen the gap. When you're ***bold and broken*** you become a bridge, one connecting heaven and Earth in supernatural ways.

~ David & Jason Benham *Bold & Broken*

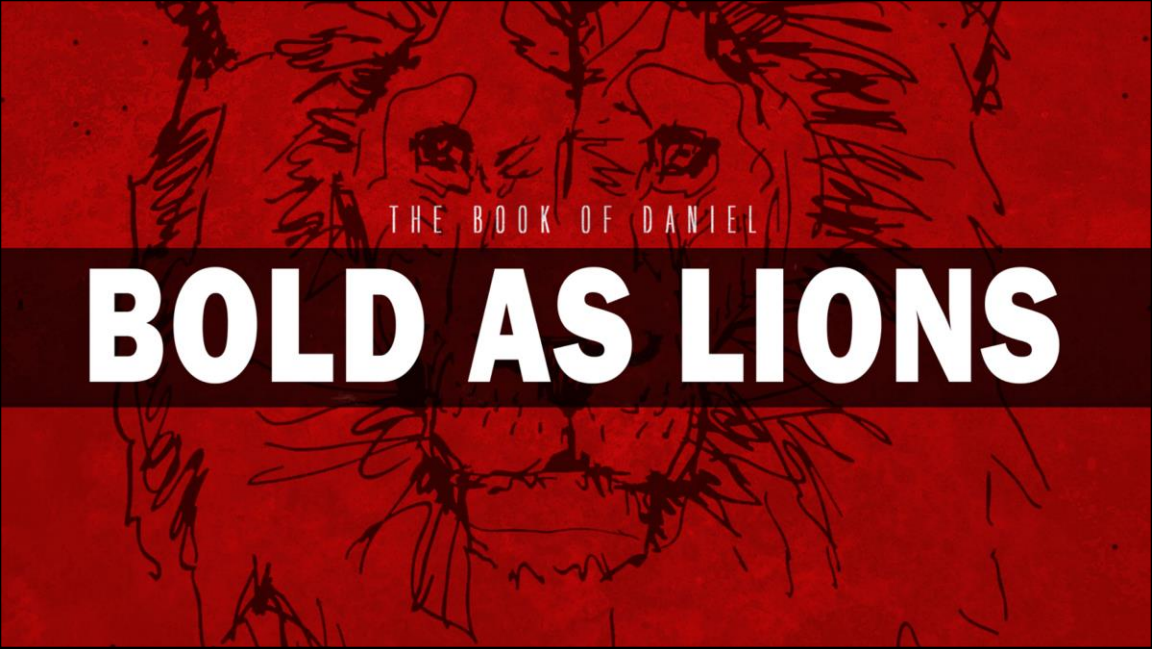
## **BOLD AS LIONS**

You see Church being ***bold & broken*** truly frees us up to connect heaven and Earth (to build a bridge) in supernatural ways.

*[Pause]*

And as we jump back into the context of our text we are going to see Daniel do this very thing [connect Heaven and Earth] with King Nebuchadnezzar.





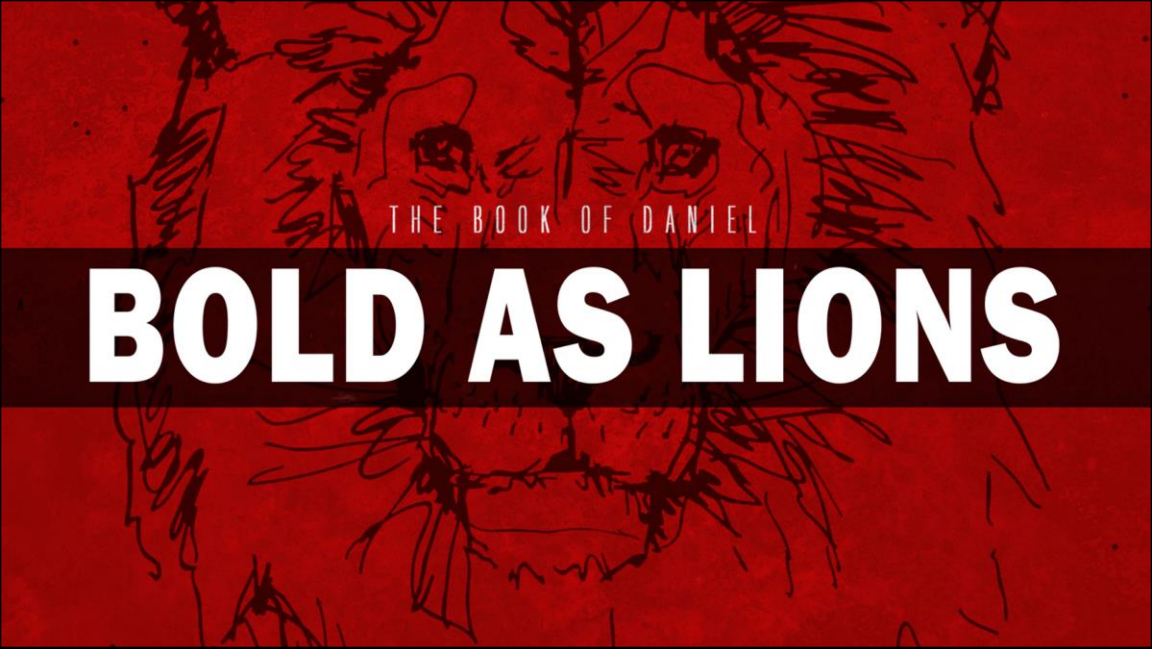
THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

In verses 24-30 we see Daniel ushered into the king's presence, where he gives glory to God for revealing the dream to him.

Daniel takes NO CREDIT, he doesn't try to make it seem like HE IS THE ONE.....in BOLDNESS he says in verse 28, "THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN WHO REVEALS MYSTERIES."

Daniel is in a situation where his life is on the line, and still he takes the opportunity to share the virtues of his God with the King. Often fear of rejection causes us to keep our mouths shut when we have opportunities to proclaim our God. Here Daniel shows NO FEAR, he exudes BOLDNESS, again because he TRUSTS GOD.



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

In verses 31-35 Daniel describes Nebuchadnezzar's dream.....and then in verses 36-45 Daniel gives the interpretation of the dream.

Now, Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is one of the most important passages of scripture as it relates to eschatology (end times theology). And there is so much within this interpretation that we could spend an entire sermon series on verses 36-45.

But what we want to focus on this morning is Nebuchadnezzar's response to Daniel's spot on interpretation of his troubling dream, and we see that response starting in verse 46.

# Daniel 2:46-48 (ESV)

<sup>46</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. <sup>47</sup> The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." <sup>48</sup> Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

## **BOLD AS LIONS**

Read: 

Upon hearing the spot on interpretation of his troubling dream.....the king falls on his face and pays homage to the foreign slave boy who had been moments away from execution.

Nebuchadnezzar proclaims YOUR GOD IS THE GOD OF gODS. Daniel wanted the glory to go to God and boy did it.

And what we see happen at the end of this passage is that Daniel not only has his life spared, but he is promoted to high office.

# Biblical Boldness – Step #3

Give God the glory from  
your victories.

## **BOLD AS LIONS**

And this leads us into our third step of Biblical Boldness..... ***GIVE GOD THE GLORY FROM YOUR VICTORIES.***

One of the ways to determine whether our Boldness is Biblical or not, is who gets the glory from it.

If we are bold, but our boldness is infused with a desire for our name to be in lights.....even if what we are saying/doing is true, we are doing it the worlds ways.

However if we are bold, but our boldness is empowered by the Holy Spirit, and we are thinking first and foremost about how our words, actions and behavior will bring Glory to God.....**THEN WE WILL BE LIKE OUR SAVIOR JESUS.**





***[Pause]***

Church I love the cross, I love the imagery it evokes, I love the truth it proclaims, I love the one who hung upon it, and the ***boldness*** it took for Him to carry His cross to Calvary in order to bring God the Father Glory.

And in light of what we have talked about this morning I am reminded of the words Jesus spoke to his Disciples in Matthew chapter 16 where he said, ***“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”***

If the cross stands as the emblem of Jesus' boldness which ultimately brought God the Father glory.



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

# BOLD AS LIONS

I ask you today, what will be your emblem?

When your life is said and done, what will be the story of how you were as BOLD AS A LION FOR JESUS CHRIST?

***Prayer: Offering***