

**May the Most High God Exalt Us,
the Lowest of All ...**

[Short Word Meditation (38)]

James Kim

May the Most High God exalt us, the lowest of all ...

May the Most High God exalt us, the lowest of all, like Daniel (Ref.: Daniel 2:48) and make us great like King Nebuchadnezzar, and grant us glory and honor (Ref.: Daniel 5:18).

The Most High God has anointed and appointed even someone as lowly as myself as a pastor.

Considering the passage where King Nebuchadnezzar dreamed that 'the Most High God rules over the kingdom of mankind and gives it to whom He wills, and sets over it the lowliest of people' (Daniel 4:17, 25, 32),

I believe that it is a great grace

that the 'Most High God' governs our lowly 'kingdom of mankind.'

Additionally, when reflecting on the statement

that the 'Most High God' gives the kingdom to anyone He wills according to His own purpose,

I think it should naturally be in accordance with God's sovereign will.

Yet, I wonder why humans, who are like a fleeting breath, assert that things should be according to our own will before God.

Another point that comes to mind is that when we consider that 'the Most High God' can even set the lowliest person on the throne,

I realize that the Most High God has anointed and appointed even someone as lowly as myself as a pastor.

I can only acknowledge this as an immense grace from God and offer my heartfelt thanks.

Are we continuously provoking God's anger and insulting Him in the most offensive ways?

Could it be that we are filling this world with terrible sin,
continuously provoking God's anger and insulting Him in the most offensive ways?
If we are doing so, no matter how loudly we cry out to God,
He will not listen to our prayers
(Ref.: Ezekiel 8:17-18).

‘An adulterous wife’

We, who have the Lord as our beloved Bridegroom,
are like an adulterous wife, consorting with other men in place of the Lord.
Typically, a prostitute receives payment, but we give gifts
and even bribes to all our lovers, drawing them from everywhere
to engage in immorality with us.
Therefore, we are different from other prostitutes.
No one follows us, enticing us to engage in immorality.
Moreover, we do not receive payment;
rather, we give it, making us unlike other prostitutes
(Ref.: Ezekiel 16:32-34).

While performing our sacred duties ...

May we not defile the temple of God
while performing our sacred duties
(Ref.: Ezekiel 44:7-8; 1 Corinthians 6:19).

False pastors are foolish people who fabricate lies ...

False pastors are foolish people who fabricate lies according to their own imaginations and preach a false gospel. They will surely face judgment!
(Ref.: Ezekiel 13:2-3).

False pastors are like foxes prowling around a ruined church.

False pastors are like foxes prowling around a ruined church. They show no interest in the spiritual collapse of the church and do not prepare for spiritual warfare against Satan and his forces attacking the church, nor do they strengthen the faith of the believers. Their sermons are false, and their prophecies are all lies. They speak as if they are delivering God's message, but God has never sent them. Nevertheless, these false pastors expect their own words to come to pass
(Ref.: Ezekiel 13:4-6).

May the Lord ensure that there will be no false gospel ...

May the Lord ensure that there will be no false gospel or incorrect preaching of the Word within His church in the future
(Ref.: Ezekiel 12:24).

**I hope to realize that the warning words
He has given are not in vain.**

I hope to come to understand God's divinity through His discipline
and realize that the warning words He has given about such disasters are not in vain
(cf. Ezekiel 6:10,

If that son continuously disobeys God's commands ...

Let us suppose that a righteous man has a violent son.
If that son is not righteous like his father, is unjust,
and continuously disobeys God's commands, breaks His laws,
and acts deceitfully, then the son will certainly not live and must die.
The responsibility for his death will fall upon him
(Ref.: Ezekiel 18:5, 9, 10, 13).

God will surely break ...

God will surely break the pride of the proud
(Ref.: Ezekiel 32:12).

Church leaders must cry out and wail.

Church leaders must cry out and wail.

We must beat our breasts and mourn

(Ref.: Ezekiel 21:12).

Aren't we turning the church into a den of sin?

Could it be that we are now committing a very serious sin
in the eyes of God and thus turning the church into a den of sin?

(Ref.: Ezekiel 9:9)

If we hear the warning message (Word) through the watchmen ...

If we hear the warning message (Word) through the watchmen
appointed by God for the church, and yet ignore the warning and become complacent,
resulting in the church facing the consequences,
it is our own fault, and the responsibility lies with us.

However, if the watchman is aware of the enemy's intention to attack the church
but fails to deliver the warning message to the church members,
leading them to experience great difficulties,
the Lord will hold that watchman accountable

(Ref.: Ezekiel 33:2-6).

Let us firmly resolved and pray to God for help.

Like Daniel, let us firmly resolve
not to defile ourselves and pray to God for help
(Ref.: Daniel 1:8).

Church leaders who abuse their authority

The Lord will break the power of church leaders
who abuse their authority and take away their pride in their power
(Ref.: Ezekiel 30:18).

As a result, we will face judgment.

However, we have used our beauty and reputation
to engage in prostitution, committing spiritual immorality with the passing world.
We adorned the sinful high places with splendor and engaged in prostitution there.
Additionally, with the material blessings that God gave us,
we created idols in our hearts and committed even more spiritual adultery.
We even sacrificed our children as offerings to idols,
leading them to idolize money in their hearts.
As a result, we will face judgment
(Ref.: Ezekiel 16:15-21).

It must take responsibility for the consequences.

When a church forgets the Lord, turns its back on Him,
and commits spiritual fornication and prostitution,
it must take responsibility for the consequences
(Ref.: Ezekiel 23:35).

We will have to pay the price.

We will have to pay the price
for the “fornication and uncleanness” we have done.
We will have to feel ashamed and bear our shame
for all that we have done
(Ref.: Ezekiel 16:52, 58).

It is because the God of heaven gave him a kingdom, power, might, and glory.

If the great President Lincoln is the greatest of all American presidents,
it is because the God of heaven gave him a kingdom, power, might, and glory
(Ref.: Daniel 2:37).

His heart became proud because of his riches.

He acquired wealth through his own wisdom and understanding,
piling up gold and money in the bank.

Although he increased his wealth through shrewd business methods,
his heart became proud because of his riches

(Ref.: Ezekiel 28:4-5).

Yet we treat them as trivial matters?

Are we doing things that are unclean in the sight of God
in the temple of God and yet we treat them as trivial matters?

(Ref.: Ezekiel 8:17)

They will certainly live.

However, if a wicked person hears God's warning message
and turns from their sins (repents), doing what is right and just,
following the commandments of life given by Jesus,
and does not commit sin again, they will surely live and not die.

None of the sins they committed before will be remembered,
and because they have acted righteously, they will certainly live

(Ref.: Ezekiel 33:14-16).

He will certainly live and not die for his father's sins.

If a son is born to a father, and that son sees all the sins his father has committed but does not commit those sins himself, instead keeping God's laws and obeying His commands, he will certainly live and not die for his father's sins. A righteous person who acts with fairness and integrity, adhering to all of God's laws, will certainly live (Ref.: Ezekiel 18:14, 17, 19).

They will not succeed.

Even if many people join together to attack the church, they will not succeed (Ref.: Daniel 11:14).

I do not wish to fear or be intimidated by them.

Why does the Lord want to send me to people with hardened hearts who refuse to listen to God's Word, so that I may share the message He has given me? It seems that the Lord is making me as resolute as they are, making me as firm as a rock and as hard as flint. Therefore, even if they are rebellious people, I do not wish to fear or be intimidated by them (Ref.: Ezekiel 3:7-9).

Many people will seek to exploit them.

When God's children are being persecuted,
they may receive some help from those who do not believe in God,
but instead, many people will seek to exploit them
(Ref.: Daniel 11:34).

We are to proclaim God's message to them regardless of whether they listen to God's word or not.

God sends us to those who have 'betrayed' Him,
regardless of whether they listen to God's Word or not.
We are to proclaim God's message to them
and ensure that at least among them,
there is someone who recognizes
the presence of a true servant of God
(Ref.: Ezekiel 2:5, 7).

God tells the true servant of God not to be afraid ...

God tells the true servant of God not to be afraid
of those who have betrayed Him, nor to be intimidated
by their boldness and stubbornness.
He instructs not to fear what they say
(Ref.: Ezekiel 2:6).

Therefore, we cannot help but give thanks and praise to the Lord.

What is remarkable is that after Daniel said to his three friends,

'Let us ask the God of heaven for mercy
and pray that He will reveal this mystery,'

the mystery was indeed revealed
to Daniel that very night in a vision.

Therefore, Daniel praised God, saying:

'Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
for wisdom and power belong to Him.

He changes times and seasons;

He deposes kings and raises up others.

He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with Him. Praise be to the God of my ancestors,

who has given me wisdom and power.

He has made known to me what we asked of Him,

revealing the king's dream and its interpretation

(Daniel 2:18-23).

As I reflect on this passage, I receive several lessons:

(1) Prayers offered to God with urgency and earnestness
in critical situations are answered quickly.

(2) Only the Lord hears our pleas in desperate circumstances
and grants us the wisdom and power

we so desperately need to rescue us from crisis.

(3) Those who receive prompt answers to their prayers praise God.

(4) Wisdom and power belong solely to God.

(5) God, who dwells in light, reveals deep and hidden things
and knows everything hidden in darkness.

(6) Therefore, we cannot help but give thanks and praise to the Lord.

**In their presence, the Lord tells His servant
to leave and go to another church..**

Those wicked church members who rebel against the Lord
have eyes but do not see the people whom the Lord is observing,
and ears but refuse to hear His voice.

In their presence, the Lord tells His servant to leave and go to another church.

The reason is that even though they are rebellious members,
they will likely realize something when they see the pastor leaving
(Ref.: Ezekiel 12:3).

Their pride will surely lead them to disgrace.

No matter how powerful and frightening
a person may be to the people of the world,
their pride will surely lead them to disgrace
(Ref.: Ezekiel 32:29-30).

Only then will they recognize that the Lord is God.

The Lord will strike down the adversaries of His church,
revealing God's greatness and holiness,
and making Himself known to many people.

Only then will they recognize that the Lord is God
(Ref.: Ezekiel 38:21-23).

Only then will we come to know who God is.

God the Father may spread His net to catch rebellious and wicked children,
dragging them into gatherings of the people of the world
and scattering them here and there, causing us to be imprisoned.
Only then will we come to know who God is
(Ref.: Ezekiel 12:13, 15).

He who endures to the end

Blessed is he who endures to the end
(Ref.: Daniel 12:12).

As a pastor ... (1)

As a pastor, I must not cause my congregation
to fall into sin by encouraging them to worship idols
(Ref.: Ezekiel 44:12).

As a pastor ... (2)

As a pastor, I must faithfully fulfill my duty
of speaking the gospel of Jesus Christ and the word of God
(Ref.: Ezekiel 44:15).

As a pastor ... (3)

As a pastor, I must teach the congregation
the difference between the holy and the profane
and how to distinguish between the unclean and the clean
(Ref.: Ezekiel 44:23).

As a servant of the Lord ...

As a servant of the Lord,
do I have the attitude of wanting to suffer like Jesus,
who bore the sins of the Lord's people?
(Ref.: Ezekiel 4:4-5)

Because of my sin of idolatry ...

Because of my sin of idolatry, when I receive God's loving discipline,
I will remember God and, with my own lustful heart, depart from Him,
preferring and serving idols more than God.

I will be ashamed of and lament my sin,
and I will come to loathe myself
for the evil and filthy deeds I have committed
(Ref.: Ezekiel 6:9).

**I pray that He will unite South Korea and North Korea
into one country and one people,
with one president to govern them all.**

Just as the Lord made Israel and Judah
into one nation with one king to rule them all,
I pray that He will unite South Korea and North Korea
into one country and one people,
with one president to govern them all
(Ref.: Ezekiel 37:16-22).

When I am anxious and troubled ...

When I am anxious and troubled,
I pray that the mighty hand of Almighty God will strengthen and uphold me,
and that the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of the Lord, will grant peace to my heart
(Ref.: Ezekiel 3:14).

‘I am sending you to those who rebel against Me.’

The word of God to us is, 'I am sending you to those who rebel against Me.'
God does not send us to His children who listen well to His words and obey them,
but rather to those who rebel against Him, disobey Him, and commit sins
(Ref.: Ezekiel 2:3).

‘You are to listen to what I say and warn them with My words’

The Lord has appointed me as a watchman for my family
and for the Victory Presbyterian Church where I serve as the senior pastor.
The message the Lord gives me is,
'You are to listen to what I say and warn them with My words'
(Ref.: Ezekiel 3:1).

**'Go to your friends who are in various forms of captivity
and tell them, whether they listen or not.'**

The Lord seems to be telling me,
'My beloved son, you should listen carefully to everything
I say to you and keep it well in your heart.
Then go to your friends who are in various forms of captivity
and tell them, whether they listen or not,
"This is what the Sovereign Lord says!"
(Ref.: Ezekiel 3:10-11, 27).

**'Yet, if you pastors are not seeking My sheep,
you are only feeding yourselves and not feeding My sheep.'**

Right now, God's sheep are wandering
and scattered all over the world,
but there are no pastors seeking them.
The living God is clearly speaking:
'My sheep are being attacked by Satan
because they have no shepherd.
They are becoming prey to Satan,
leaving the church and abandoning their faith.
Yet, if you pastors are not seeking My sheep,
you are only feeding yourselves and not feeding My sheep
(Ref.: Ezekiel 34:6-8).

‘You come to My temple every Sunday and listen to My words as usual, but you do not put My words into practice.’

Could it be that the Lord is speaking to us now in this way?

‘You come to My temple every Sunday and listen to My words as usual, but you do not put My words into practice.

You speak of love with your lips,

but your hearts are focused on satisfying your own desires.

You appear to be people who sing love songs

with beautiful voices and handle instruments well.

Yet, you hear My words but do not practice them’

(Ref.: Ezekiel 33:31-32).

‘You have acted like a brazen prostitute in all these things; you have truly become depraved.’

We have not been satisfied

with our spiritual fornication with our lewd neighbors,

so we have also engaged in spiritual fornication with others.

Even that was not enough,

and we committed spiritual fornication with the wealthy as well,

yet we did not find satisfaction.

The word of God is:

‘You have acted like a brazen prostitute in all these things;

you have truly become depraved’

(Ref.: Ezekiel 16:26-30).

The high will be brought low.

The lowly will be exalted, and the high will be brought low
(Ezekiel 21:26).

The Lord will ensure that His holy name is no longer profaned.

The Lord will make His holy name known among His church
and ensure that His holy name is no longer profaned.
Then all people will know that the Lord is the holy one of His church
(Ref.: Ezekiel 39:7).

To make church work easier...?

King Darius divided his kingdom into 120 provinces
and appointed a governor for each province.
He also set up three administrators to oversee these 120 governors.
The reason King Darius did this was to ensure
that the administration of the kingdom would be manageable and efficient
(Daniel 6:1-4).

As I reflect on this passage, I am reminded of how Moses,
who was alone, had to serve as judge, prophet, teacher,
and mediator between God and the people of Israel.
After his father-in-law Jethro advised him, 'What you are doing is not good.
You and these people who come to you will only wear yourselves out.
The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone' (Exodus 18:17-18),
Moses was guided to organize an effective administrative structure
by appointing leaders to assist him and share the responsibilities.

Although he is a despicable person unworthy of becoming president ...

Although he is a despicable person unworthy of becoming president,
he will try to seize power through wicked schemes during a time of peace
(Ref.: Daniel 11:2).

Even if two leaders sit at the negotiating table ...

Even if two leaders sit at the negotiating table,
if their motives are evil, they will lie to each other,
and they will not achieve their goals
(Ref.: Daniel 11:27).

So that he could understand what he had been thinking.

God revealed 'this mystery' to Daniel not because Daniel was wiser than others,
but to make known to King Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of his dream
so that he could understand what he had been thinking
(Daniel 2:30).

Last night, God made me meet a brother in Korea in a dream,
and through our KakaoTalk conversation, I began to understand why.
It seems that the purpose was for the Lord to prompt me
to remember and pray for that brother more. I thank God.

I pray that the Lord will remove all the idols from my heart.

I pray that the Lord will remove all the idols from my heart

(Ezekiel 6:3, 6).

In particular, I pray that He will remove 'greed,' which is idolatry

(Colossians 3:5).

The corruption of our hearts is indeed a terrifying form of divine punishment!

When I meditate on the passage

about how God punished the proud King Nebuchadnezzar

by making 'his mind like that of an animal'

(Daniel 5:21),

I realize that the corruption of our hearts

is indeed a terrifying form of divine punishment.

Therefore, I am all the more inclined to hold onto Proverbs 4:23:

'Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.'

I earnestly pray that God will protect all of our hearts.

In the last days, through trials and persecution ...

In the last days, through trials and persecution,

many people will be refined and made pure,

but the wicked will continue to act wickedly

(Daniel 12:10).

In the last days, the angel Michael who guards God's children will appear, and there will be the greatest distress in human history.

In the last days, the angel Michael who guards God's children will appear, and there will be the greatest distress in human history.

At that time, those whose names are recorded in 'the book of God'

['the book of life' (Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27)] will all be saved.

Many who have already died and are buried in the earth will be resurrected, some to eternal life and others to everlasting disgrace

(Ref.: Daniel 12:1-2).

if the wicked person turns from all the sins he has committed, keeps God's laws ...

However, if the wicked person turns from all the sins he has committed, keeps God's laws, and does what is just and right, he will live and certainly not die.

None of the sins he has committed will be remembered against him;

he will live because of the righteousness he has practiced.

The reason is that God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather in their turning from their wicked ways and living

(Ezekiel 18:21-23).

If a wicked person turns from their wickedness and keeps the laws ...

If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin,
and then dies, it is because of the sin they have committed that they will die.

But if a wicked person turns from their wickedness and keeps the laws
and does what is just and right, they will save their life.

They will live because they have considered their deeds and turned from their sins;
they will surely live and not die

(Ezekiel 18:26-28).

If we persist in serving the filthy idols of our hearts to the end ...

If we persist in serving the filthy idols of our hearts to the end,

God says to us: 'Go ahead and do as you please' ...

'But afterward, you will repent and return to Me, and you will surely obey Me.

You will no longer defile My holy name with your idols.

You will serve Me, and I will accept you with pleasure'

(Ref.: Ezekiel 20:39-40).

If we commit sin against God and are unfaithful ...

If we commit sin against God and are unfaithful,

God may lift His hand and cut off our food supply, leaving us in need

(Ezekiel 14:13).

**if a righteous person turns away
from their righteous path and commits sin ...**

However, if a righteous person turns away from their righteous path and commits sin, doing all the detestable things that the wicked do, none of their righteous acts will be remembered.

Because of their unfaithfulness and the sins they have committed, they will die (Ezekiel 18:24).

If God exposes our hidden sins ...

If God exposes our hidden sins

(Ref.: Ephesians 5:11),

our sins will be revealed, and everyone will know our wickedness

(Ref.: Ezekiel 21:24).

**If God draws a sword and it does not return to its sheath,
what will happen??**

If God draws a sword and it does not return to its sheath, what will happen?

(Ref.: Ezekiel 21:5)

Fortunately, God places the sword back in its sheath and halts the calamity He was bringing upon us

(Ref.: 1 Chronicles 21:22, 27).

Interpreting the meaning of the words 'Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin'...

Interpreting the meaning of the words 'Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin,'
'Mene' means 'to count,' indicating that 'God has counted
the days of King Belshazzar's reign and has brought it to an end.'
'Tekel' means 'to weigh,' indicating that
'King Belshazzar has been weighed on God's scales and found wanting.'
And 'Upharsin' means 'to divide,' indicating that
'King Belshazzar's kingdom will be divided
and given to the Medes and Persians'
(Daniel 5:26-28).

As I meditate on this passage, I gain several lessons:

(1) I pray that the Lord will teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom (Psalms 90:12) and keep in mind
that the end of all people is death (Ecclesiastes 7:2).

The wise live not only with a perspective of death
but also with an eternal perspective.

(2) We should not judge according to human standards (John 8:15)
but rather by the correct standard (7:24).

Although we fall short of God's glorious standard (Romans 3:23),
the Son of God, Jesus Christ, through His atoning death on the cross,
will raise us on the day of His return with glorious bodies
(1 Corinthians 15:43; Philippians 3:21).

We will enter His glorious kingdom (Mark 10:37)
and live forever with Him, rejoicing in glorious joy (1 Peter 1:8).

People who suffer because of a foolish leader

King Darius, upon hearing the accusations against Daniel, was deeply distressed and spent the rest of the day until sunset trying to find a way to save Daniel. Then, the accusers came back to the king and said, 'Your Majesty, remember that according to the law of the Medes and Persians, no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.' So, the king had no choice but to give the order, and they threw Daniel into the lions' den. At that time, the king said to Daniel, 'May your God, whom you always serve, rescue you.' When the stone was placed over the mouth of the den, the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that nothing could be changed concerning Daniel. Then the king returned to his palace, and he spent the night without eating and without entertainment, and he could not sleep (Daniel 6:14-18).

As I meditate on this passage, I believe that King Darius was not wise. He fell for the scheming of those who wanted to accuse Daniel. He should not have issued the decree based on their demands and should not have set it into law. Moreover, if King Darius truly valued Daniel, he would have known that Daniel prayed to God three times a day, and he should not have issued the decree that the accusers requested. In the end, King Darius, realizing that he could not change the decree he had issued, reluctantly followed the wishes of those who sought to accuse Daniel and ordered that Daniel be thrown into the lions' den. Interestingly, King Darius said to Daniel while he was in the den, 'May your God, whom you always serve, rescue you' (v. 16). From this passage, it is clear that King Darius knew Daniel served God 'always' and that Daniel 'always' prayed to God three times a day.

So why did he issue the decree based on the words
of those who wanted to accuse Daniel?
Why did he prohibit prayer to any god or man other than himself?
Could it be that he was so foolish as to forget
that there is a King of kings in heaven,
and became so arrogant that he made such a decree?
Despite his foolishness, King Darius, who had commanded
that the wise and distinguished Daniel be thrown into the lions' den,
went back to his palace and, rejecting the usual joyful music,
spent the night without eating and without sleep (vv. 16, 18).
A wise associate pastor working under
a foolish senior pastor may suffer in such a way.
Similarly, a foolish husband who digs his own grave
causes his wise wife to suffer because of him.

Our God who performs unbelievable miracles and wonders

King Nebuchadnezzar, who commanded the creation of a golden image and ordered everyone to bow down and worship it (Daniel 3:1-6), made a declaration and said:

'It is with great joy that I proclaim the miraculous and wondrous deeds that the Most High God has performed for me to all nations. The God who has shown me unbelievable miracles and wonders will be the eternal King, ruling through all generations' (4:1-3).

Our God performs unbelievable miracles and wonders, transforming even those who seem unchangeable in our eyes, enabling us to testify to these miracles and wonders with great joy.

God will certainly fulfill the promises ...

God will certainly fulfill the promises He has made to us in His own time and in His own way!
(Ref.: Ezekiel 17:24).

“just as he had done before” faith that is unchanging and consistent

King Darius, seeking to find fault with Daniel,
listened to the two administrators and the satraps
and issued a decree with his seal affixed, declaring the new law.

However, Daniel knew that the decree had been published,
yet he went home to his upstairs room
where the windows opened toward Jerusalem,
and three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed,
giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before
(Daniel 6:8-10).

How could Daniel act this way? I am reminded of Daniel's three friends:
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

They disobeyed King Nebuchadnezzar's command
by not serving his gods or worshiping the golden image he had set up.
They knew that by doing so, the king would throw them into a blazing furnace,
yet they refused to obey the king's command.

They were able to do this not only because they were certain of God's deliverance,
but also because, as they said, 'If we are thrown into the blazing furnace,
the God we serve is able to deliver us from it,
and he will rescue us from your hand, O King' (3:17).

They loved God with all their heart, soul, and might
because they were assured of God's saving love.

Therefore, they firmly told King Nebuchadnezzar
that even if God did not deliver them,
they would not serve the king's gods or bow down
to the golden image set up by the king (v. 18).

When I think of the faith of Daniel's three friends,
I believe that both Daniel and his friends had sincere and faithful belief.

This sincere and faithful belief was a consistent faith
that did not change whether they were thrown into the furnace or the lion's den.
It was a faith that involved 'praying to God as he had always done' (6:10),
meditating on God's word, and giving thanks to God.

We should feel ashamed ...

We should feel ashamed of our sins (Ref.: Ezekiel 43:10).

When a person who has acquired wealth and power gives in to the temptations of Satan ...

When a person who has acquired wealth and power
gives in to the temptations of Satan, he will incite everyone around him
to attack his common enemy (Ref.: Daniel 11:2).

The end of a person who commits many sins through illegal activities will be miserable.

The end of a person who is prideful because of their beauty,
who defiles their wisdom because of their reputation,
and who commits many sins through illegal activities will be miserable
(Ref.: Ezekiel 28:17-19).

Even if a powerful president rules over a vast country and acts according to his own will ...

Even if a powerful president rules over a vast country
and acts according to his own will, when his power reaches its peak,
his country may be divided and separated.
His descendants may not be able to rule,
and the country could fall into the hands of others
(Ref.: Daniel 11:3-4).

“Even if God does not deliver us”

Some Babylonians told King Nebuchadnezzar that Daniel's three friends—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—had disobeyed the king's command by not serving the king's gods and not bowing to the golden statue he had set up. The king became furious and ordered that the three men be brought before him immediately.

King Nebuchadnezzar then gave them a second chance to obey his command to bow down to the golden statue. He said to them, 'If you do not bow down this time, you will be thrown into the fiery furnace.

Then what god will be able to rescue you from my hand?'

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego replied to the king:

“O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter.

If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.

But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up” (Daniel 3:12-18).

(1) As I reflect on King Nebuchadnezzar giving Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego a second chance to obey his command,

I am reminded of how God gave the prophet Jonah a second chance to fulfill His command (Jonah 3:1-2).

When Jonah was given a second chance, he obeyed God's command (v. 3).

However, in the case of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, even though they were given a second chance to bow to the golden statue as commanded by King Nebuchadnezzar, they were rightfully expected to remain disobedient.

When given a second chance in our lives, if it involves obeying God's command, we should obey.

But if it involves commands that conflict with God's commands from a ruler, we must consistently remain disobedient.

(2) Another point I reflected on is that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego told King Nebuchadnezzar,

"We do not feel the need to defend ourselves concerning this matter"

(the issue of bowing to the golden statue).

As I meditate on this, I learn that when it comes to commands from authorities that conflict with God's commands, we should not feel the need to defend our position.

In this world, when accused, we usually hire a lawyer to defend us.

However, if the accusation pertains to our faith in God, we should not even feel the need to defend our position to those who accuse us.

(3) The third point I reflected on is that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had a firm assurance of God's salvation. In other words, they had the conviction that even if they were thrown into the fiery furnace,

the God we serve is able to deliver us from it (Daniel 3:17).

They firmly believed that God would surely rescue us from the king's hand (v. 17).

This teaches us that our faith life should be conducted with such assurance of salvation and steadfast faith.

(4) The fourth point I reflected on is that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego boldly told King Nebuchadnezzar that even if God does not deliver us, they would not serve the king's gods or bow down to the golden image (v. 18).

When I reflect on this passage, I believe that not only did they trust in God as the God of salvation, but they also had a firm belief in God's saving power. However, they also acknowledged and accepted that whether God would rescue them from the fiery furnace was subject to God's sovereign will.

Typically, when we face such crises, we believe that God is indeed the God of salvation and also trust in His saving power.

However, we tend to earnestly pray for deliverance from the crisis while struggling to humbly accept God's sovereign will, often placing our own desires and fervent wishes above God's will.

The lesson here is that, like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, we should have faith that says, "Even if God does not deliver us."

We must remember that God who cannot save is inconceivable!

God who reveals mysteries, “through the Holy Spirit” ...

When the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers could not understand or interpret the king's dream, and instead said, "What the king asks is too difficult; no one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans,"

King Nebuchadnezzar became very angry and ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be put to death (Daniel 2:1-12).

However, King Nebuchadnezzar later heard the interpretation of his dream through Daniel and said, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries" (vv. 45, 47).

Therefore, King Nebuchadnezzar believed that although none of the wise men of Babylon could interpret his dream, Daniel alone could reveal it. This was because Nebuchadnezzar believed that Daniel had a spirit of the holy gods (4:8, 9, 18).

The Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of the holy God, dwells within us.

Our God is the God of all gods and the Lord of all presidents.

The "God who reveals mysteries" has made known to us, through the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10), not only the mystery of God, which is "Christ, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27; 2:2), but also "what will happen in the future" (Daniel 2:29).

The future event, which is "one mystery," is that

"we will not all die but will all be changed.

At the last trumpet, in the twinkling of an eye, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will all be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).

When we think about our children in crises like the lion's den ...

When Daniel was thrown into the lion's den,
King Darius said to him, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you"
(Daniel 6:16).

The next day, Darius, having risen early in the morning,
rushed to the lion's den and, with a worried voice, called out to Daniel,
saying, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God,
whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" (vv. 19-20).

As I reflect on this passage,

I believe that when we think about our children in crises like the lion's den,
it is natural for us to be deeply worried and concerned.

However, we should also believe that our God,
whom we serve continually, will rescue our beloved children in times of crisis,
and we should earnestly pray to the living God for them with faith.

When we live in this sinful world, which is like a lion's den, and sinful people with great power rush in to devour our children ...

Daniel said to King Darius, "O king, live forever!

My God sent His angel and shut the mouths of the lions, so they have not hurt me.

Because I was found innocent in His sight.

Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, your Majesty"

(Daniel 6:21-22).

As I reflect on this passage, I think of our children living in this sinful world,

like the lions in the den with their mouths open,

ready to devour those who are vulnerable.

Just as God shut the mouths of the lions to protect Daniel,

I pray that God will also protect our children

from the powerful forces of evil that seek to harm them,

ensuring that they are not harmed

because they are innocent and have done no wrong.

Furthermore, just as the enemy, the devil,

prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour

(1 Peter 5:8), I pray that God will not only protect our children

but also keep them vigilant and alert,

ensuring that they are thoroughly on guard (v. 8).

We must abandon our spiritual prostitution ...

We must abandon our spiritual prostitution

of serving other gods and get rid of lifeless idols

(Ref.: Ezekiel 43:9).

**These are the words of promise
from the Lord, the Good Shepherd. (1)**

I will hold you accountable for my sheep
and will no longer let you shepherd them.
I will rescue my sheep from your mouths,
and they will no longer be food for you
(Ref.: Ezekiel 34:9-10).

**These are the words of promise
from the Lord, the Good Shepherd. (2)**

I will search for my sheep and look after them.
As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them,
so I will look after my sheep.
I will rescue them from all the places
where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness.
I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries,
and I will bring them into their own land.
I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel,
in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land.
I will tend them in a good pasture,
and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land.
There they will lie down in good grazing land,
and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
I myself will tend my sheep and have them lie down,
declares the Sovereign Lord
(Ref.: Ezekiel 34:11-15).

**These are the words of promise
from the Lord, the Good Shepherd. (3)**

These are the words of promise from the Lord, the Good Shepherd:

‘I will search for my lost sheep and bring back the strays.

I will bind up the injured and strengthen the weak.

But the sleek and the strong I will destroy;

I will shepherd the flock with justice’

(Ref.: Ezekiel 34:16).

**These are the words of promise
from the Lord, the Good Shepherd. (4)**

These are the words of promise from the Lord, the Good Shepherd:

‘I will judge between one sheep and another, and between rams and goats.

I will place over them one shepherd, my servant David,

and he will tend them; he will tend them and be their shepherd’

(Ref.: Ezekiel 34:22-23).

These are the words of promise from the Lord, the Good Shepherd. (5)

These are the words of promise from the Lord, the Good Shepherd:

‘I will make a covenant of peace with them
and cause them to dwell safely in the wilderness and sleep in the woods.
I will bless them and the places around my hill.
I will send down showers in season; there will be showers of blessing.
The trees of the field will yield their fruit, and the earth will yield its crops.
They will be secure in their land; they will know that I am the Lord,
when I have broken the bars of their yoke and delivered them
from the hand of those who enslaved them.
Then they will no longer be plundered by the nations,
nor will wild animals devour them.
They will live in safety, and no one will make them afraid.
I will provide for them a land renowned for its beauty,
and they will know that I am the Lord their God,
with them, and that they are my people’
(Ref.: Ezekiel 34:25-30).

May the Holy Spirit raise us up ...

May the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God,
raise us up and let us hear what God is saying to us
(Ref.: Ezekiel 2:2).

No matter how powerful a president may be ...

No matter how powerful a president may be,
one of his military commanders may be stronger than him
and may wield power and rule the country
(Ref.: Daniel 11:5).

The proverb ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge’

The proverb ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on edge’ will no longer be used.
Every soul belongs to God.
Just as the soul of the father belongs to God,
so the soul of the son also belongs to God.
The soul that sins is the one that will die
(Ezekiel 18:2-4).

God takes pleasure when the wicked turn from their wicked ways and live.

God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked,
but rather in their turning from their wicked ways and living
(Ezekiel 33:11).

It could be a sign of things to come for that church.

Perhaps the fact that the pastor left the church he served according to the Lord's will could be a sign of things to come for that church (Ref.: Ezekiel 12:11).

God is leading us to His kingdom, an eternal realm.

God is leading us out of this sinful world, like He did with Egypt, and guiding us to His kingdom, which is an eternal realm like the "land flowing with milk and honey"—the most beautiful land of all (Ref.: Ezekiel 20:6).

Spiritual prostitution?

Anything or anyone loved and desired more than God is an idol. Having spiritual lust towards that idol and loving and serving it more than God defiles oneself as an act of spiritual prostitution (Ref.: Ezekiel 23:3-13).

The shame of spiritual prostitution

God exposes the shame of our spiritual prostitution
(Ref.: Ezekiel 23:29).

Our youth who believe in Jesus ...

I pray that our youth who believe in Jesus will be given wisdom
and intelligence ten times greater than the youth of the world
(Ref.: Daniel 1:20).

It is only the Lord Jesus Christ!!

The object of our pride in strength, the joy of our eyes,
and the love of our hearts is only the Lord Jesus Christ!
(Ref.: Ezekiel 24:20).

Only the wise will understand.

The wicked will understand nothing,
but only the wise will understand
(Ref.: Daniel 12:10).

" Rather, is it not your deeds that are unjust?"

If we say that what God does is not right, and claim that "God is unjust,"
then God might respond to us: "Is what I do not right?
Rather, is it not your deeds that are unjust? ...
Why do you say I am unjust? Is it not you who are unjust?"
(Ref.: Ezekiel 18:25, 29).

But our actions have become even more corrupt than theirs.

Perhaps we have not only emulated the detestable practices of the people around us
but our actions have become even more corrupt than theirs.
As we enjoy abundance and a carefree life, our hearts may become proud,
neglecting to help the poor and needy, and we may act with arrogance,
committing abominable acts before God
(Ref.: Ezekiel 16:47-50).

He treats us graciously for the sake of His name.

God does not punish us
according to our wicked deeds and abominable practices;
instead, He treats us graciously for the sake of His name.
Therefore, we come to know the graciousness of God
(Ref.: Ezekiel 20:44).

Why does God bring us to a state of poverty?

God said to the prophet Ezekiel:
'I will cut off the food supply to Jerusalem.
The people will be in despair, eating their bread
by weight and drinking their water by measure.
When food and water run out,
they will be appalled at each other's wretched condition
and will waste away because of their sin'
(Ezekiel 4:16-17).

Why does God bring us to a state of poverty?

He surely knows that we will be distressed and struggling in such circumstances.

Could it be that God wants us to cry out to the Lord in our distress?

(Ref.: Psalms 107:5-6)

Could it be that God intends to make us realize the truth
that our lives are like an evening shadow and a withering grass? (102:11)

Or perhaps God is using our poverty to weigh us down
so that we may resolve to confess our sins
and disclose all our wrongdoings without hiding anything,
thereby leading us to forgiveness? (32:4-5)

The church will not be overthrown again.

God will ensure that our church
no longer hears the scornful voices of the world,
will not be subjected to the shame of all the earth,
and will not be overthrown again
(Ref.: Ezekiel 36:15).

So that our country's talented people don't have to go abroad

We need to ensure that the talented individuals in our country
can fully utilize their abilities, skills, and talents here,
so there is no need for them to go abroad
(Ref.: Ezekiel 17:13).

When our strength fades, our faces grow pale, and we feel as if we are about to collapse ...

When our strength fades, our faces grow pale,
and we feel as if we are about to collapse, ultimately sitting down in despair,
may the Lord reach out with His hands marked by the cross to comfort and lift us up
(Ref.: Daniel 10:8-10).

How many things in our lives are beyond explanation?

No soothsayer, magician, sorcerer, or astrologer was able to explain the mysterious matter that King Nebuchadnezzar asked about.

The reason is that the one who can reveal such secrets is only the God in heaven (Daniel 2:27-28).

How many things in our lives are beyond explanation?

Only the God in heaven can explain these matters to us and help us understand them.

Both we and our children should always trust in God.

Upon hearing Daniel's response from the lion's den,

King Darius was overjoyed and did not know what to do and commanded that Daniel be lifted out of the lion's den.

When Daniel came up from the den, not a single part of his body was harmed.

This was because he had trusted in his God (Daniel 6:23).

As I meditate on this passage, I am reminded of Daniel's three friends,

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were thrown into a furnace heated seven times hotter by King Nebuchadnezzar for not bowing to the golden image.

Yet, they experienced no burns, their hair was not singed, their clothes were unharmed, and they did not even smell of smoke.

Consequently, King Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that

God had sent His angel to save His servants who trusted in Him (3:19-21, 27-28).

In this way, God delivers His children who trust in Him from the perils of this harsh world, such as the lion's den, and ensures that not a single part of their body is harmed.

Therefore, both we and our children should always trust in God, the eternal rock (Isaiah 26:4), with all our hearts (Proverbs 3:5), and trust in the God who helps and protects us (Psalms 115:9, 10, 11).

If we live according to the customs of the people around us ...

If we do not follow God's laws and commands and live according to the customs of the people around us, God will discipline us with love (Ref.: Ezekiel 11:12; Hebrews 12:6).

Our God is the only true God, and the true God is with us!

King Nebuchadnezzar had a strange dream and was troubled to understand its meaning. He called for magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers to interpret the dream for him. The astrologers said to King Nebuchadnezzar, "O king, live forever! Tell us the dream, and we will interpret it for you." Interestingly, Nebuchadnezzar did not tell them his dream but wanted them to reveal both the dream and its interpretation.

Why did Nebuchadnezzar not disclose his dream to them?

Ultimately, the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers told Nebuchadnezzar, "What the king asks is too difficult; no one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans" (Daniel 2:2-11).

When I meditate on this passage, I believe that before God exalted Daniel in Babylon, He first orchestrated a series of events: He caused King Nebuchadnezzar to have a dream and made it so that the king did not disclose the dream.

Nebuchadnezzar then demanded that all the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers reveal both the dream and its interpretation.

As a result, they said, "No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and such gods do not live among humans." The "gods" they referred to were only God, and while they knew that no such gods lived among humans, God was with Daniel.

Thus, God granted Daniel wisdom and power, and in response to his prayers, revealed the interpretation of the dream, that is, the mystery (vv. 11-28).

Therefore, both King Nebuchadnezzar and all the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers came to realize that only Daniel's God is the true God, and that the true God was with Daniel.

Our God is the God of gods!

Our God is the God of gods, the Lord of presidents,
and a revealer of mysteries
(Ref.: Daniel 2:47).

We will come to understand that the reason we have suffered is because of our sins.

We will come to understand that the reason we,
as the Lord's church, have suffered is because of our sins.
Because we have sinned against God,
He has turned His face away from us
and handed us over to our enemies,
causing us to suffer as a result of our sins.
God has punished us with love and turned away from us
according to our filthiness and sins.
However, for the sake of His holy name,
the Lord will have compassion on us,
rescue us from our suffering, and restore us.
Therefore, the Lord will manifest
His holiness through us for many to see.
And the Lord will give us the Holy Spirit
so that He will not turn away from us again
(Ref.: Ezekiel 39:23-29).

When we are prideful and arrogant ...

While King Belshazzar was acting with arrogance and pride,
suddenly God caused the fingers of a human hand
to write the inscription "Mene Mene Tekel Uparsin."
The king, upon seeing it, was so frightened
that his face turned pale and his legs gave way.
He called out loudly for the magicians, enchanters,
and astrologers of Babylon, declaring that anyone
who could read and interpret the writing would be clothed in purple,
have a gold chain placed around their neck,
and be made the third highest ruler in the kingdom.
However, none of the wise men could read or interpret the writing.
At that time, the king's mother introduced Daniel,
who had been known for his wisdom comparable to that
of the gods during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar, the king's father.
Daniel then interpreted the meaning of the inscription
"Mene Mene Tekel Uparsin" for King Belshazzar
(Daniel 5:1-16, 24-26).

When I meditate on this passage,
I hope that when we are prideful and arrogant,
God will speak to us through the Word of God,
which is the sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17).
May this Word cause us to tremble (Isaiah 66:5)
and bring conviction to our hearts
(1 Samuel 24:5; 2 Samuel 24:10; Acts 2:37).

I pray that the indwelling Holy Spirit will humble us before God
(Daniel 10:12) and lead us to repent of our sins (Acts 2:38),
turning away from our wrongdoing
and keeping all of God's commandments
(Ezekiel 18:21).

When we are in great difficulty and distress ...

When we are in great difficulty and distress,
even if we ask a neighbor whom we believe could offer substantial help,
that neighbor might not be able to assist us.

This may not be because they do not want to help,
but because God might prevent them from doing so.

The reason God might do this is that we have broken
or betrayed a vow, covenant, or promise made to Him
(Ref.: Ezekiel 17:17-18).

When our church suffers disaster and receives loving discipline from God ...

When our church suffers disaster
and receives loving discipline from God
because of our sins, those who oppose and confront us
will be punished and judged by God for their hatred
and the anger and jealousy they show towards us, His church
(Ref.: Ezekiel 35:5, 11).

We have sinned against God.

We have sinned against God and committed evil.

Therefore, we are suffering disgrace.

We pray that God will hear our earnest prayers and forgive us.

Our plea to the Lord is not because we have done what is right,
but because the Lord is a merciful God.

We hope that the Lord will not delay for His own sake.

We belong to the Lord

(Ref.: Daniel 9:15-19).

When we are unfaithful to God ...

When we are unfaithful to God,

He may make the land we live in desolate

(Ref.: Ezekiel 15:8).

The more we receive God's abundant grace ...

The more we receive God's abundant grace,

the more we remember our wicked deeds and all our defilements,

and we cannot help but hate ourselves for the evil we have committed

(Reference: Ezekiel 20:43).

We must remain faithful to the Lord until the end.

We must remain faithful to the Lord until the end.

Then, after we die and rest in peace,

we will be resurrected at the last days

and receive the reward that the Lord will give us

(Ref.: Daniel 12:13).

We will also hear the voice of God speaking to us.

In the year when the prophet Ezekiel turned 30 and was among the captives in Babylon, he saw a vision that God revealed to him, and he also saw the radiant glory of God and heard the voice of the One who spoke to him (Ezekiel 1:1, 28).

As I meditate on this passage, a few thoughts come to mind:

(1) Joseph also became the governor of Egypt at the age of 30 (Genesis 41:46).

David became king at the age of 30 and ruled over Israel

and Judah for about 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4).

Similarly, Jesus began His public ministry at the age of 30 (Luke 3:23).

(2) Just as when we are confined in all directions—north, south, east, and west, as if in captivity—we will come to see the Lord with our own eyes, rather than just hearing about Him with our ears (Ref.: Job 42:5).

(3) When we ascend to the house of God to worship Him, God will meet us there, and that place will be made holy by the radiant glory of God (Ref.: Exodus 29:43).

We will also hear the voice of God speaking to us (Ref.: Ezekiel 1:28).

**We should give glory to God,
who determines the issues of life and death and all that we do.**

King Belshazzar, the son of King Nebuchadnezzar, knew that his father was removed from the throne and had his glory taken away because of his pride and arrogance. Yet, Belshazzar did not humble himself but instead defied the Lord of heaven. He took the vessels from the Jerusalem temple and used them to drink wine with his nobles, his wives, and his concubines, praising gods of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone—gods that do not see, hear, or know anything. Despite this, King Belshazzar did not honor the God who holds the power over life and death and decides all that happens to the kingdom (Daniel 5:1-4, 20, 22-23).

- (1) If we act with arrogance and pride, God will take away all the power, honor, glory, and wealth that we enjoy.
- (2) If we are aware that our father lost all the blessings and glory he once enjoyed due to his pride and arrogance, we should humble ourselves.
- (3) If, knowing all this, we act with pride and arrogance like our father and worship and serve idols, we too will lose all the blessings and glory we once enjoyed and will no longer be able to enjoy them.
- (4) We should give glory to God, who determines the issues of life and death and all that we do.

We will know that the Lord is our God.

The Lord will reveal God's glory to the whole world,
and all people will see the judgments and power of the Lord.
From that time on, we, the church of the Lord,
will know that the Lord is our God
(Ref.: Ezekiel 39:21-22).

We have done evil and acted wickedly.

The Lord always keeps His promises to us and shows unchanging love,
but we have sinned against God.
We have done evil and acted wickedly,
we have disobeyed the Lord's commands
and departed from the right path He has shown us.
We also did not listen to
what the Lord's servants spoke to us in His name
(Ref.: Daniel 9:4-6).

We provoked God's anger by committing spiritual adultery ...

In the past, we did not remember the grace of salvation that God had given us,
and instead engaged in spiritually defiling and immoral acts.

Despite committing all this evil, we built a "temple of money"
and erected a "high shrine" for ourselves, casting aside the beauty
God had given us like a discarded garment.

We mingled with the passing world,
engaging in spiritual adultery in a very disreputable manner.

We provoked God's anger by committing spiritual adultery
with all who we relied on more than God

(Ref.: Ezekiel 16:22-26).

God will prevent us from committing "prostitution" any longer.

God will examine us and, in His anger and jealousy,
will bring "blood revenge" upon us, preventing us
from committing "prostitution" any longer.

God will ensure that we can no longer pay wages to lovers.

Then, God's anger against us will cease,

His jealousy will depart from us,

and His heart will be at peace,

and He will no longer be angry

(Ref.: Ezekiel 16:35-42).

God made us grow greatly and become like the most beautiful gem.

After God saved us in Jesus Christ,
He made us grow greatly and become like the most beautiful gem.
As a result, our reputation spread throughout the world
because the splendor God gave us made our beauty perfect
(Ref.: Ezekiel 16:7, 14).

Those who are jealous of us will not be able to harm us.

One of the three administrators was Daniel.
Daniel was distinguished for his wisdom
and was superior to the 120 satraps and the other two administrators,
so King Darius planned to put him in charge of the entire kingdom.
The other two administrators and the satraps sought
to find grounds for accusing Daniel in his administration of the kingdom.
However, since Daniel was faithful to his duties
and had committed no wrongdoing or corruption,
they could find no fault with him
(Daniel 6:2-4).

When I meditate on this passage, several thoughts come to mind:

- (1) I pray that God will grant us wisdom, discernment, and ability,
enabling us to excel in all areas compared to others in our workplaces.
- (2) We need to be cautious when we receive favor from our leaders more than others.
- (3) There are likely to be people who, out of jealousy, will seek to ensure
that we no longer receive favor from our leaders
and will look for any faults or mistakes in us to achieve that.
- (4) Nevertheless, if we are diligent in our work and have no faults or mistakes,
those who are jealous of us will not be able to harm us.

Those who envy and oppose us will do whatever they can ...

The other two governors and officials,
who could not find any fault with Prime Minister Daniel,
believed that unless it involved Daniel's religion,
they had no way to find any wrongdoing
on his part and bring charges against him.
Therefore, they went to King Darius and said,
"All the governors, satraps, administrators, advisors,
and officials of the kingdom have consulted together
and agreed to request that the king establish a decree and enforce a law."
They requested that a decree be issued stating,
"For the next 30 days, anyone who petitions any god or man
besides the king shall be thrown into the lions' den"
(Daniel 6:4-7).

As I reflect on this passage,
it occurs to me that those who envy and oppose us
(for example, anti-Christians) will do whatever they can
to find fault with us, either by accusing us of wrongdoing
or by posting it online to try to bring us down or even bury us socially.
However, if we are living our work, church, or family lives so well
that they cannot find any fault or wrongdoing,
they will certainly try to find a way
to attack us through our Christian faith.

There might be people in this world who do not believe in Jesus but are closely watching us.

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden image and commanded that everyone bow down and worship it.

He declared, "Anyone who does not bow down and worship shall be thrown immediately into the blazing furnace."

However, Daniel's three friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, did not obey the command.

Some Babylonian individuals accused them to King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 3:1-12).

As I reflect on this passage,

it seems to me that there might be people in this world who do not believe in Jesus but are closely watching us.

The reason they are observing us so closely is

that they are looking for any fault in us

so that they can accuse us

(Ref.: 6:4-5).

The loving God, who grants us the grace of restoration ...

The loving God, who grants us the grace of restoration, removes all the filthy idols from among us.

He gives us the Holy Spirit to remove our hearts of stone and replace them with hearts of flesh that are obedient and soft.

This enables us to follow God's commands faithfully

(Ref.: Ezekiel 11:18-20).

He has freed us from our sins and made us free from our guilt.

The Lord has saved us from a place of sin and corruption,
cleansing us with the blood of Jesus Christ.

He has ensured that we no longer defile ourselves
with idols, impurities, and our iniquities.

Therefore, we have become children of God,
and God is our Father

(Ref.: Ezekiel 37:23).

He makes us realize how evil and ugly our actions are.

God disciplines us with love
so that we realize how evil and ugly our actions are.

Only then will we know who God is

(Ref.: Ezekiel 12:16).

A crisis is a precious opportunity to look to and rely on God through prayer!

When King Nebuchadnezzar heard the response,
“What the king has asked is too difficult; no one can reveal it
to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men,”
he became extremely angry and issued a decree
to kill all the wise men of Babylon.

Upon hearing this command,
the palace also sought out Daniel and his three friends.
At that time, Daniel encountered Ariok,
the captain of the king’s guard, and wisely inquired
why the king had issued such a harsh decree.
He asked Ariok to request a little time from the king
so that he might interpret the dream.

Daniel then returned to his house and explained the situation
to his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,
urging them to pray to the God of heaven for mercy
and to reveal the mystery so that they would not be executed
along with the other wise men of Babylon
(Daniel 2:11-18).

As I reflect on this passage, I am blessed by Proverbs 13:14

“The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life,
turning a person from the snares of death.”

God granted Daniel wisdom in a life-threatening situation,
enabling him to speak and act very wisely.

This wise action was that Daniel,
together with his three friends, prayed to God.

A crisis is a precious opportunity
to look to and rely on God through prayer!

A crisis can be an opportunity to be exalted by the Lord.

As a result, God used King Nebuchadnezzar
to further exalt Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
who were in danger
(Daniel 3:30).

A crisis can be an opportunity to be exalted by the Lord.

A righteous person is righteous and does what is just and right.

A righteous person is righteous and does what is just and right.
He obeys God's commands and keeps God's laws and acts faithfully.
Such a righteous person will surely live (Ezekiel 18:5, 9).

How astounding is this miraculous salvation from God!

From King Nebuchadnezzar's perspective,
he had thrown three men bound into the fire,
but seeing four men walking around in the midst of the fire,
he naturally must have been astonished.
Furthermore, he was even more amazed
because the four men were not bound and showed no signs of injury.
However, I believe the reason King Nebuchadnezzar
was most astonished was because the fourth figure appeared
to be like a son of the gods
(Daniel 3:24-25).

This is what I consider the second divine salvation.
Despite being thrown into the blazing furnace,
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego not only survived
but were walking around in the furnace,
and they were neither bound nor showing any signs of injury.
How astounding is this miraculous salvation from God!
Our God delivers us even through great persecution and crisis,
freeing us from everything that binds us and granting us freedom.

God is telling us to throw away the filthy idols we love and not to defile ourselves with the false gods of this sinful world.

God is telling us to throw away the filthy idols we love
and not to defile ourselves with the false gods of this sinful world.
However, we are rebelling against God, not listening to His words,
and we are not abandoning the filthy idols we love
nor turning away from the gods of this sinful world
(Ref.: Ezekiel 20:7-8).

We must not become prostitutes to this sinful world.

We must not become prostitutes to this sinful world,
defiling ourselves with the idols of the world's people
(Ref.: Ezekiel 23:30).

I consider this the first divine salvation.

When King Nebuchadnezzar heard the words of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,
he was furious and commanded that the furnace be made seven times hotter than usual.
He also ordered some of the strongest soldiers
to tie up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego securely
and throw them into the blazing furnace.
As a result, the three men, firmly bound, fell into the blazing furnace
(Daniel 3:19-23).

In this situation, it would have been expected
that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego would have perished in the flames,
just like the strong soldiers who died from the flames (v. 22).
However, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not die in the fire.
I consider this the first divine salvation.
But if they had died in the flames,
could that also be considered a form of God's salvation?
Or would it have to be understood as part of God's sovereign will?

Even though the leaders of the heretics pretend to be gods ...

Even though the leaders of the heretics pretend to be gods,
they are humans and not gods!
(Ref.: Ezekiel 28:2)

Such things will continue until the time appointed by God.

In the future, some wise Christians will be martyred,
but as a result, God's children will be refined and made pure and clean.
Such things will continue until the time appointed by God
(Ref.: Daniel 11:35).

The salvation and judgment of God are astonishing.

King Darius ordered that the men who had accused Daniel
be brought and thrown into the lion's den, along with their families.
Before they even reached the floor of the den,
the lions pounced and crushed all their bones
(Daniel 6:24).

Isn't that extraordinary?
Clearly, when Daniel was thrown into the lion's den,
the lions did not harm him
(because God's angel had shut the lions' mouths) (v. 22).

Yet, it is astonishing that the very people
who accused the innocent Daniel were torn apart
by the lions before even reaching the bottom of the den.
Thus, the salvation and judgment of God are astonishing.
Even more remarkable is that the holy God the Father,
in His desire to save us, who are full of sins (God's salvation),
poured out all His wrath upon His sinless and innocent Son,
Jesus Christ, and judged Him on the cross (God's judgment).

God did not do all these things without a reason.

We will come to know
that God did not do all these things without a reason
(Ref.: Ezekiel 14:23).

Human victory

Human victory will not last
(Ref.: Daniel 11:12).

We must open our mouth and receive the words that God gives us.

A true servant of God keeps God's word in mind,
does not rebel like others, and opens their mouth
to receive and consume the words of lamentation,
mourning, and woe that God provides
(Ref.: Ezekiel 2:8-10).

Korean pastors who only care for themselves will face woe.

Korean pastors who only care for themselves will face woe.

They eat the fat, make themselves clothes from wool,
and slaughter fat sheep for their meat, yet they do not feed God's flock.

They do not support the weak, heal the sick, bandage the wounded,
bring back the straying, or seek the lost.

Instead, they treat the sheep harshly and brutally.

As a result, God's flock, having no good shepherd,
has been scattered and has become prey for Satan

(Ref.: Ezekiel 34:2-5).

When disaster strikes, people's hearts will melt with fear ...

When disaster strikes, people's hearts will melt with fear,
and all hands will go limp, their strength will fail,
and every knee will become as weak as water.

Behold, disaster is approaching.

These are the words of God:

“My word will certainly be fulfilled”

(Ezekiel 21:7).

**I believe this was not a coincidence
but something that happens under God's sovereignty.**

Last night, in a dream, I warmly met my dear brothers,
Enzo and Jaeyoung, from Seohyeon Church in Korea.
This morning, I was meditating on Daniel chapter 2,
which talks about Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
I believe this was not a coincidence
but something that happens under God's sovereignty.
Typically, when I see a brother or sister in a dream,
I reach out with a hopeful heart.
Today, I contacted Enzo and Jaeyoung through KakaoTalk.
Although I only had a conversation with one of the brothers,
it was a truly precious exchange of hearts.
I thank God for this
(Ref.: Daniel 2:1-3).

‘Can a person in despair live?’

The Lord asks us, “Can a person in despair live?”
At that time, we can only respond like the prophet Ezekiel:
“Sovereign Lord, you alone know.”
Then the Lord tells us to proclaim His word to that person in despair.
Therefore, we must convey the Scriptures, as brought to our remembrance
by the indwelling Holy Spirit, exactly as they are.
When we do this, the Lord will revive the soul of that person
in despair and restore them once again
(Ref.: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalms 19:7).

On the day of disaster ...

On the day of disaster (Ezekiel 7:2, 6),
when the punishment of God's wrath
will be poured out on everyone (vv. 12, 14),
silver and gold will not be able to save people,
nor will they satisfy them or fill their hungry stomachs.
Instead, they will become obstacles that lead to sin (v. 19).

God wants us to tell them “what the Lord God says.”

God is sending us to these shameless and stubborn children of God
to tell them “what the Lord God says”
(Ref.: Ezekiel 2:4).

‘No, Lord GOD. I have never defiled myself.’

When God said to the prophet Ezekiel,
'The people of Israel, whom I will scatter throughout the world,
will eat such unclean food in foreign nations,' the prophet Ezekiel responded,
'No, Lord GOD. I have never defiled myself.
From my youth until now, I have never eaten what died of itself
or was torn by wild animals, and unclean meat has never entered my mouth'
(Ezekiel 4:13-14).

As I meditated on this, I remembered Acts 10:13-15:
'Then a voice told him, 'Get up, Peter. Kill and eat.'
But Peter replied, 'Surely not, Lord! I have never eaten anything impure or unclean.'
The voice spoke to him a second time,
'Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.'

May the Lord open our mouths ...

May the Lord open our mouths so that we no longer remain silent,
but boldly proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ and, as watchmen for God,
faithfully deliver the warnings we have received from Him
(Ref.: Ezekiel 33:22).

**It seems that the Lord is saying to me, 'Open your mouth wide
so that you may receive the words I give you
and go and speak to My people.'**

It seems that the Lord is saying to me, 'Open your mouth wide
so that you may receive the words I give you and go and speak to My people.'
I desire to obey that command by opening my mouth wide,
receiving the sweet, honey-like words of God, filling my heart with them,
and by obeying them (digesting the words I have eaten), to go and share them
with beloved brothers and sisters whom God wishes to bless with these words
(Ref.: Ezekiel 3:1-5; Psalms 81:10).

**The Lord has appointed pastors and elders
as watchmen for the church.**

The Lord has appointed pastors and elders as watchmen for the church.
Therefore, pastors and elders must listen to God's word
and, on behalf of the Lord, warn the members of the church
(Ref.: Ezekiel 33:7).

The Lord has disciplined us with love.

Because we have transgressed by breaking the Lord's commandments
and not obeying His word, the Lord has disciplined us with love according to His word.
Nevertheless, we did not seek God's grace
by abandoning our sins and following the truth of the Lord.
Therefore, the Lord has brought upon us the calamities He had prepared.
This is because our God always acts righteously,
but we did not obey the Lord
(Ref.: Daniel 9:11-14).

The Lord will certainly carry out the word of restoration.

The Lord will not only give us the word of restoration,
but He will certainly carry out that word in God's time and in God's way
(Ref.: Ezekiel 37:14).

Are we causing the Lord to turn away from His temple?

Are we doing great abominations in the temple of God,
thus causing the Lord to turn away from His temple?
(Ref.: Ezekiel 8:6)

The Lord will hold the pastors and elders responsible.

If pastors and elders fail to warn those among the congregation who are committing evil and do not turn them from their wicked ways, the person will suffer the consequences of their evil deeds, but the Lord will hold the pastors and elders responsible. However, if pastors and elders have warned the person to 'turn from their wicked ways,' and the person still does not turn away, then the person will suffer for their own sins, and the pastors and elders will bear no responsibility (Ref.: Ezekiel 33:8-9).

The Lord has established a covenant of peace with us, making it an everlasting covenant.

The Lord has established a covenant of peace with us, making it an everlasting covenant. Not only will the Lord make us firm and prosperous, but He will also be with us forever, sanctifying us (Ref.: Ezekiel 37:26-28).

The Lord will put an end to our spiritual immorality.

The Lord will punish us
for our spiritual prostitution and the sin of serving idols.
Therefore, the Lord will put an end to our spiritual immorality.
This will serve as a warning to all Christians
so that they do not imitate our spiritual unfaithfulness
(Ref.: Ezekiel 23:48-49).

The Lord is our King and our Good Shepherd.

The Lord is our King and our Good Shepherd.
Therefore, we must keep the Lord's words
and commandments and do them
(Ref.: Ezekiel 37:24).

The Lord is merciful and forgiving.

Although we have not obeyed the Lord and have rebelled against Him
by not keeping the commandments given through His servants,
the pastors, our Lord, who is our God, is merciful and forgiving
(Ref.: Daniel 9:9-10).

The Lord is a great and awesome God.

The Lord is a great and awesome God.
He always keeps His promises and shows unwavering love
to those who love Him and obey His commands
(Daniel 9:4).

The Lord is always righteous, but we have become a source of shame today.

The Lord is always righteous,
but we have become a source of shame today.
The reason all of us Christians are experiencing disgrace
is that we have not been faithful to the Lord.
In this way, because we have all sinned against the Lord,
we are all suffering shame
(Ref.: Daniel 9:7-8).

The day of glorious victory for the Lord's church

The day when the Lord reveals God's glory
will be the day of glorious victory for the Lord's church
(Ref.: Ezekiel 39:13).

If it is the Lord's will ...

If it is the Lord's will, I pray that the Lord would make me mute
so that I cannot rebuke my beloved brothers and sisters
(Ref.: Ezekiel 3:26).

The voice (word) that the Lord is speaking to me right now is ...

The voice (word) that the Lord is speaking to me right now is,
'James, who has received great grace from God, do not be afraid.
Be at ease and be strengthened.'
Therefore, I am now at peace in my heart and strengthened by the Lord.
Thank You, thank You, God, for Your blessings
(Ref.: Daniel 10:19).

The person who should die is the one who commits the sin.

The person who should die is the one who commits the sin.
The son will not suffer punishment for the father's sin,
nor will the father suffer punishment for the son's sin.
Likewise, the reward for a righteous person's righteousness will go to that person,
and the punishment for an evil person's wickedness will go to that person
(Ref.: Ezekiel 18:20).

**If he repents of his sins from now on,
practices righteousness, and shows mercy to the poor.**

When a president becomes increasingly powerful,
his greatness reaches up to the heavens,
and his authority extends to the ends of the earth,
he can commit the sin of using his ability and power
to build his nation and display glory and majesty
(Ref.: Daniel 4:22, 30).

However, if he repents of his sins from now on, practices righteousness,
and shows mercy to the poor, then he will continue to enjoy prosperity
(Ref.: Daniel 4:27).

To gain knowledge

Nowadays, many people are
going back and forth to gain knowledge
(Ref.: Daniel 12:4).

The wise

The wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens,
and those who lead many to righteousness,
like the stars for ever and ever
(Daniel 12:3).

His jealous wrath

God will pour out His jealous wrath on us
to stop our spiritual fornication and prostitution
(Ref.: Ezekiel 23:25, 27).

The true servant of the Lord ... (1)

The true servant of the Lord laments
with heart-rending sorrow over the coming disaster
(Ref.: Ezekiel 21:6-7).

The true servant of the Lord ... (2)

The true servant of the Lord has no joy
when God's people ignore his warnings and counsel
(Ref.: Ezekiel 21:10).

A wise Christian

A wise Christian praises the Most High God,
who lives forever, with the following praise:
'God reigns forever, and His kingdom endures through all generations.
God considers all the inhabitants of the earth as nothing,
and He acts according to His will
among the angels in heaven and the people on earth.
No one can oppose His will or question what He does'
(Ref.: Daniel 4:34-35).

Those with great majesty

Those with great majesty are at great risk of becoming prideful
(Ref.: Ezekiel 31:2, 10).

False prophets are hunting the lives of God's people.

False prophets deceive God's people
by pretending that there is peace when there is no peace,
thus hunting the lives of God's people.
They lie to God's people, causing those who should not die to die
and sparing those who should not live
(Ref.: Ezekiel 13:10, 16, 17, 19).

God will make those who rely on someone more than on God weak and powerless

God will make those who rely on
someone more than on God weak and powerless,
so that we can no longer depend on them.
He will make us realize that
seeking help from such a person was a grave mistake
(Ref.: Ezekiel 28:15-16).

In the eyes of God, how can this not be considered false and fraudulent preaching??

False prophets preach things that God has not said,
claiming them to be God's words.
In the eyes of God,
how can this not be considered false and fraudulent preaching?
Therefore, God says, 'I will strike them,'
because they deliver false sermons.
God will surely strike and punish the false prophets
(Ref.: Ezekiel 13:7-9).

Rebellious children who oppose God the Father ...

Rebellious children who oppose God the Father have eyes
to see but do not see, and ears to hear but do not hear
(Ref.: Ezekiel 12:2).

So that I may praise God

I pray that when I am discouraged and downcast,
the Holy Spirit, who is the Spirit of God, will lift my discouraged soul
and allow me to see the glory of God in heaven, so that I may praise God
(Ref.: Ezekiel 3:12).

When God judges those who oppose and resist the church ...

When God judges those who oppose and resist the church,
they will realize that God has heard their insulting words against the church.
God has been listening to all their boastful and noisy talk against Him
(Ref.: Ezekiel 35:12-13).

He made them confess with his lips that God had saved them.

King Nebuchadnezzar initially said,

'The fourth looks like a son of the gods' (Daniel 3:25),

but later referred to him as 'an angel of God.'

He stated that 'the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego'

had 'sent His angel to rescue His servants who trusted in Him' (v. 28).

In the end, King Nebuchadnezzar recognized that God had sent an angel

to save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who trusted in Him.

Thus, God sent an angel to save Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego,

who firmly believed in God's saving power, leading King Nebuchadnezzar

of Babylon to confess with his own lips that God had saved them.

I pray that in the future, God will grant ...

I pray that in the future, God will grant scholars, wisdom, knowledge,

and abilities to the workers of His kingdom,

so that they may be exalted in the world

and be used honorably by God

(Ref.: Daniel 1:17).

Presidents established by God

Presidents established by God should cease their tyranny and oppression,

not oppress God's people, act justly and righteously,

and abandon the exploitation of God's people

(Ref.: Ezekiel 45:8-9).

I pray that God will use people in positions of power in the world ...

I pray that God will use people in positions of power in the world
to grant us grace and mercy from them
(Ref.: Daniel 1:9).

**I pray that in His time, God will save our evangelistic targets
through His amazing methods, and that everyone who witnesses
this miraculous salvation will also be saved.**

King Nebuchadnezzar issued this decree: 'Any people or nation
who speaks against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
shall be torn limb from limb and their house made a heap of rubble.
There is no other god who can save in this way' (Daniel 3:29).
Previously, King Nebuchadnezzar had commanded,
'Bow down and worship the golden image I have set up.
Anyone who does not fall down and worship will immediately
be thrown into the blazing furnace' (vv. 5-6).
Now, he commanded that anyone, regardless of their people or nation,
who speaks against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
should be torn limb from limb and their house turned into a heap of rubble (v. 29).
The reason is that he witnessed how God saved
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in a miraculous way.
I pray that in His time, God will save our evangelistic targets
through His amazing methods, and that everyone who witnesses
this miraculous salvation will also be saved.

God will test His people.

God will test His people.

If we do not repent, all these things will happen to us

(Ref.: Ezekiel 21:13).

When God reveals to us through His prophetic words the events that will occur in the future ...

When God reveals to us through His prophetic words

the events that will occur in the future,

we cannot help but be deeply troubled by those prophecies,

and we may even lose our strength.

Even if we become so weak that we can hardly breathe,

the Lord will comfort us with His hands marked

by the cross and will give us strength

(Ref.: Daniel 10:14-18).

The message that God is conveying to us through His servant

The message that God is conveying to us

through His servant is 'Do not be afraid.'

And it is said that from the very first day

we decided to humble ourselves before our God

to gain understanding, God has heard our prayers

(Ref.: Daniel 10:12).

God will abandon the arrogant person and hand them over to a stronger one ...

God will abandon the arrogant person
and hand them over to a stronger one,
so that the stronger person will deal with them
according to the evil deeds of the arrogant person
(Ref.: Ezekiel 31:11).

God will bring back our children who have left the church.

The time is approaching when God will bring back
our children who have left the church.
The Lord will take a keen interest and look after them
(Ref.: Ezekiel 36:8-9).

God will turn them into something disgusting to them.

If one harbors pride because of beautiful jewels or splendid ornaments
and uses them to create abominable idols and detestable things,
God will turn them into something disgusting to them
(Ref.: Ezekiel 7:20).

God knows everything ...

God knows everything we say and think

(Ref.: Ezekiel 11:5).

God did not turn His heart, did not show pity on Jesus, and did not relent.

When Jesus Christ, the only Son, cried out loudly on the cross,

'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?' (Matthew 27:46),

God did not turn His heart, did not show pity on Jesus,

and did not relent (cf. Ezekiel 24:14).

Instead, God desired for Jesus Christ to suffer and be afflicted,

allowing Him to endure suffering (Isaiah 53:10).

God will punish the people of the world.

When the church receives loving discipline from the Lord due to unrepented sins,

God will punish the people of the world who, seeing this,

clap their hands, stomp their feet, and rejoice with mocking hearts

(Ref.: Ezekiel 25:3-11).

Through a great crisis

God exalted Daniel through a great crisis that threatened his life (Daniel 2, esp. v. 48). The same God will also elevate us through great crises in this world, rescuing God's people (Ref.: Genesis 45:7-8).

**the God of heaven is establishing a kingdom of God
that will never be destroyed.**

In this era, when various presidents govern nations, the God of heaven is establishing a kingdom that will never be destroyed, the kingdom of God (Ref.: Daniel 2:44).

God has sprinkled us with the blood of Jesus Christ ...

God has sprinkled us with the blood of Jesus Christ to cleanse us from all impurities and idols. He has placed the Holy Spirit within us and given us a new heart, removing our stony hearts and giving us hearts of obedience. This has enabled us to follow God's laws and observe His commands (Ref.: Ezekiel 36:25-27).

**God values the holy name of God
that the church has profaned in the world.**

God values the holy name of God that the church has profaned in the world.

Therefore, God will sanctify His great name that has been desecrated in the world.

God will reveal His holiness in the presence of the people of the world

(Ref.: Ezekiel 36:21-23).

God will multiply ...

God will multiply and prosper His children

(Ref.: Ezekiel 36:11).

God is telling us to repent and turn away from all our sins.

God is telling us to repent and turn away from all our sins.

God is commanding us to abandon all the sins we have committed
and to renew our hearts and spirits.

The reason is that God does not want us to die because of our sins.

Therefore, God is saying to us, 'Repent and live'

(Ref.: Ezekiel 18:30-32).

God will dwell with us forever.

God will dwell with us forever from the place where His throne is located
(Ref.: Ezekiel 43:7).

God has given us laws and commandments that anyone can live by if they obey.

God has given us laws and commandments
that anyone can live by if they obey,
even in this world that is like a wilderness.
Yet, we continue to rebel against God and disobey Him.
The reason is that we prefer to worship idols in our hearts
(Ref.: Ezekiel 20:11-13, 16, 21, 24).

Even though God must punish our sins of betraying Him ...

Even though God must punish our sins of betraying Him
(Ref.: Ezekiel 17:19-20),
our Lord Jesus still calls us and shows His true love.

**God will certainly rescue His people
from the hands of false pastors.**

False pastors discourage righteous believers
with lies and also encourage the wicked,
preventing them from leaving their evil ways and gaining life.
However, God will certainly rescue His people
from the hands of false pastors
(Ref.: Ezekiel 13:22-23).

**God sends His servant to us, who have received
great grace from Him, ...**

God sends His servant to us, who have received
great grace from Him, to deliver His words.
We must understand these words of God
and rise again from where we had been sitting down
(Ref.: Daniel 10:11).

God says ...

God says He will repay us
according to what we have done
(Ref.: Ezekiel 22:31).

God humbles the proud.

We must praise and exalt God, the King of kings in heaven,
and give all glory to Him alone.

God is true and performs righteous deeds,
and He humbles the proud

(Ref.: Daniel 4:37).

God's power is eternal and everlasting!

King Darius issued a decree to all the nations and peoples in his empire:

'Let everyone in my kingdom fear and worship the God of Daniel.

He is the living God who endures forever; His kingdom will not be destroyed,
and His power will last to the end. He rescues and delivers;

He performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth.

He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions'

(Daniel 6:25-27).

When I reflect on this decree, I receive several lessons:

- (1) Our God is the living God!
- (2) Our God will rule us forever, and His kingdom will never be destroyed!
- (3) God's power is eternal and everlasting!
- (4) God performs wonders and miracles, rescuing and delivering us.
- (5) God will ensure that we, His children, will never become prey to the enemy.

Those who truly know God ...

Those who truly know God
will stand firm and oppose the crafty man
(Ref.: Daniel 11:32).

God desires to turn our hearts back ...

God desires to turn our hearts back from idolatry
and from the obstacles of sin that stand before us,
as we have betrayed Him in our hearts.
Therefore, God is calling us to repent, forsake our idols,
and abandon all our abominable practices
(Ref.: Ezekiel 14:3-6).

There will never again be any profanation of God's holy name.

We will never again commit spiritual prostitution
by serving other gods or by profaning God's holy name by serving idols
(Ref.: Ezekiel 43:7).

The Lord will reveal His holiness ...

The Lord, through the adversaries of His church,
will reveal His holiness in the sight of the world
so that they may come to know God
(Ref.: Ezekiel 38:16).

The word of the Lord is:

The word of the Lord is:
"When I say to the wicked, 'You will surely die,'
and you do not warn him or speak out to dissuade him
from his wicked way to save his life,
that wicked person will die for his sin,
and I will hold you accountable for his blood.
But if you warn the wicked
and he does not turn from his wickedness and sin,
he will die for his sin; but you will have saved yourself.
If a righteous person turns from righteousness and commits sin,
I will put a stumbling block before him;
he will die since you did not warn him.
His righteous acts will not be remembered,
and I will hold you accountable for his death.
But if you warn the righteous person not to sin and he does not sin,
he will surely live because he took warning,
and you will have saved yourself
(Ezekiel 3:18-21).

When God's calling and God's will conflict with human will and commands ...

The people who sought to accuse Daniel went in groups to Daniel's house and saw him praying three times a day, as he had always done, kneeling down and praying to God.

They went to King Darius and said, 'Daniel, who is from Judah and has been exiled, disregards your decree, O king, and still prays three times a day.'

Eventually, the people who sought to accuse Daniel found no fault in him because 'Daniel was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.'

They realized that 'if it were not for matters related to his religion, they would not find any grounds to accuse him.'

Therefore, they persuaded King Darius to issue a decree that 'for the next 30 days, anyone who prays to any god or human being other than the king will be thrown into the lion's den'

(Daniel 6:10-13).

This was done to trap Daniel into breaking the law.

As I reflect on this passage, I consider from Daniel's perspective that when God's law—'to kneel and pray to God three times a day, as he had always done before' (v. 10)—conflicted with King Darius' decree—'that for the next 30 days, anyone who prays to any god or human other than the king will be thrown into the lion's den' (v. 7)—

Daniel chose to obey God's law, even though it meant breaking the king's decree.

This reminds me of something I told my dear daughter Yeri after meeting with the senior pastor of our church last evening:

'When God's calling and God's will conflict with human will and commands, we must obey God's calling and God's will.'

A believer who gives up his life in obedience to God's commands

King Nebuchadnezzar knew that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had refused to worship any god other than their own God and had willingly risked their lives by defying the king's command. As a result, he acknowledged that God had saved them (Daniel 3:28).

God saves those who, in obedience to His commands, are willing to risk even their own lives.

This is reflected in Matthew 10:39 –

'Whoever finds their life will lose it,
and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.'

There will be a period of God's wrath against His people.

Among the predetermined plans of God that must be fulfilled, there will be a period of God's wrath against His people.

During this period, arrogant leaders will act with impunity, exalt themselves, boast that they are greater than any god, and oppose the God who is the God of gods with blasphemous words (Ref.: Daniel 11:36).

In the discipline of God's love ...

In the discipline of God's love, there may be times when we eat our food with anxiety and drink our water in despair (Ref.: Ezekiel 12:19).

As people who have received God's grace ...

When Daniel, who had received God's grace,
began to confess his sins and the sins of his people Israel,
and to pray for the holy mountain of his God,
not only did God answer his prayer,
but He also sent an angel to help Daniel
and make God's plan clear to him
(Daniel 9:20-23).

As people who have received God's grace,
we too must confess our sins and intercede for the Lord's church.
In our intercession, we should not only believe
that God has already answered our prayers
by the time we begin to pray but also earnestly desire
that He help us and make His plan clear to us.

God's intention

God's intention is that we will never leave Him again
and that we will not defile ourselves with our sins,
so that we can be God's people and He can be our God
(Ref.: Ezekiel 14:11).

Among God's children, the wise will instruct many ...

Among God's children, the wise will instruct many,
but they will always face danger, trouble, and persecution,
and may even be martyred
(Ref.: Daniel 11:33).

Even through God's punishment ...

Like King Nebuchadnezzar, we also hope that
through God's punishment we may come to acknowledge that
'the Most High God rules over human kingdoms
and gives them to anyone He wishes'
(Ref.: Daniel 5:21).

The words spoken by God the Father to rebellious children ...

The words spoken by God the Father to rebellious children
will not be delayed but will certainly come to pass.
God will surely accomplish all that He has spoken
during our lifetime without any delay
(Ref.: Ezekiel 12:25, 28).

If you do evil believing that salvation once obtained will never be lost, ...

If someone believes that once they have received salvation by believing in Jesus,
they will never lose that salvation, and then they commit evil deeds,
none of their previous righteous acts will be remembered,
and they will die because of their sins
(Ref.: Ezekiel 33:13).

Are the pastors perhaps violating God's law ...

Are the pastors perhaps violating God's law, defiling the holy things,
not distinguishing between the sacred and the profane,
failing to teach the difference between
the unclean and the clean to the congregation,
and not valuing God's Sabbath?
If we are doing this,
then the Lord is being defiled among us
(Ref.: Ezekiel 22:26).

Are the people from near and far perhaps mocking the church ...

Are the people from near and far perhaps mocking the church, saying,
'The church leaders among you are all abusing their power,
murdering (hating) the congregation, despising parents,
not setting a good example for their children, being hypocritical,
failing to welcome strangers and instead driving them out of the church,
and causing harm to orphans and widows?'
(Ref.: Ezekiel 22:5-7)

Are we who claim to believe in Jesus perhaps forgetting God entirely ...

Are we who claim to believe in Jesus perhaps forgetting God entirely,
while charging interest and making a profit from each other,
exploiting our neighbors, accepting bribes, committing adultery
and thus defiling the temple of the Holy Spirit,
hating and slandering one another,
and engaging in spiritually immoral behavior
by loving money more than the Lord?
(Ref.: Ezekiel 22:9-12)

Are our country's government officials, like ravenous wolves, ...

Are our country's government officials, like ravenous wolves,
shedding blood and killing people to gain unjust profits?
And are our church pastors, like those who whitewash walls,
covering up the sins of these government officials who are church elders,
and preaching false and deceitful sermons to them,
while saying, 'The Lord has spoken'?
(Ref.: Ezekiel 22:27-28)

Are we perhaps now like dross to the Lord?

Are we perhaps now like dross to the Lord?

Are we, in the Lord's sight, like copper, tin, iron, or lead in a furnace,
just dross from which silver has been removed, becoming useless people?

(Ref.: Ezekiel 22:18-19)

However, in the end, the Lord will place us in the furnace
to remove all impurities and make us clean

(Ref.: Isaiah 1:25).

Could it be that the Lord, looking at His church, is saying to us ...

Could it be that the Lord, looking at His church, is saying to us,

'You church that has become defiled

by those who hate their brothers and sisters,

and by idolizing money (Matthew 6:24; Luke 16:13),

you have committed murder and sinned

by worshiping idols, thus defiling yourself.

Therefore, I have made you a mockery among the people

and a laughingstock to the whole world"?

(Ref.: Ezekiel 22:2-4)

Could it be that the Lord, in His love, is disciplining His church ...

Could it be that the Lord, in His love, is disciplining His church
by scattering us and causing us to be shamed in the sight of the whole world?
However, in the end, the Lord will completely remove the impurity from us
(Ref.: Ezekiel 22:14-16).

Could it be that God has said to us:

Could it be that God has said to us:
'I have tried to remove your impurities,
but the rust within you has not been stripped away
and has not been removed even by fire.
Your immoral behavior has defiled you.
I tried to make you clean, but you did not become clean.
Your filth will not be removed
until I have vented My fury upon you'
(Ref.: Ezekiel 24:12-13)

Therefore, is it not the case that God poured out
all His wrath upon His only Son, Jesus Christ,
who was nailed to the cross, bearing all our sins?
Is this not so that all our impurities might be removed
and the rust within us might be stripped away,
allowing us to be made clean?