



# THE VICAR WRITES

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*<sup>46</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. <sup>47</sup>The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." (Daniel 2:46-47).*

Five times in the Book of Daniel (Daniel 2:46-47; 3:28-30; 4:1-3; 4:34-35 & 4:37), Nebuchadnezzar the greatest king of Babylon, a pagan worshipper, honoured and praised God. Nebuchadnezzar was famously known for his military campaign and construction projects. He was the greatest king of the Chaldean dynasty and he had conquered Syria, the Palestinian countries, and Israel, and turned Babylon into a prosperous city. As part of his military campaign, he had destroyed the Temple of Jerusalem and forced the Jewish people into exile. It was during his reign that Daniel was given high honours and many great gifts, and was made ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men (Daniel 2:48). Together with his good friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego they served in Nebuchadnezzar's court while remaining faithful to the Lord.

He prided himself on his achievements. "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?" (Dan 4:30) and it was also obvious that he was not a man who feared men or god. So, what had caused Nebuchadnezzar, a pagan king, known to

be a tyrant and a ruthless conqueror to bow his heart and face to worship God? Nebuchadnezzar had witnessed the power of God through Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Daniel and his friends had refused to defile themselves with the king's food and wine, and emerged stronger (Dan 1:8-21). Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego had refused to bow down and worship the golden image of Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 3:8-15), and God delivered Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the fiery furnace (Dan 3:16-18). Moreover, Daniel carried out his duty and responsibility relying solely on the power and wisdom of God (Dan 2:19-23; 31-45 & 4:19-27).

Most of us work in the marketplace and we have colleagues, superiors and bosses who are pre-believers. How do we carry ourselves as witnesses for Jesus Christ? What can we learn from the faith and life of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in drawing our pre-believing colleagues and bosses to experience God, and for them to bow their hearts and face to God? Pray and ask God for His Holy Spirit to empower and enable you to be a faithful witness for Jesus Christ in the marketplace.

