

## Embracing Our Identity

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Message Notes:

Aldersgate Church



## The Daniel Dilemma

How to Stand Firm & Love Well in a Culture of Compromise

## BIG IDEA:

Your identity is revealed in God's truth.

Therefore...

1. We are a people of Wisdom and Tact.

When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. Daniel 2:14 (NIV)

2. We are a people of Prayer.

Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. He urged them to plead (to ask, pray for, look for with urgency) for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven Daniel 2:17-19 (NIV)

3. We are confident in God's Sovereignty.

The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?" Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these...

Daniel 2:26-28 (NIV)

True Identity vs. Babylonian Identity  
Daniel (God is my judge) → Beltshazzar (Bel will protect)  
Hananiah (Yah has been gracious) → Shadrach (Inspired of Aku)  
Mishael (Who is what God is) → Meshach (Belongs to Aku)  
Azariah (Yah has helped) → Abednego (Servant of Nego)

The astrologers answered the king, "There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. What the king asks is too difficult. **No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men.**" Daniel 2:10-11 (NIV)

Gen. 3:8 "the sound of the Lord as he was walking in the garden"  
Ex. 25:8 "make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them"  
Jn. 1:14 "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us"  
Gal. 4:6 "God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts"  
Rev. 22:12 "Behold, I am coming soon!"

When someone forgets that God dwells with us...

They forget their Identity

Purpose

& Rewards