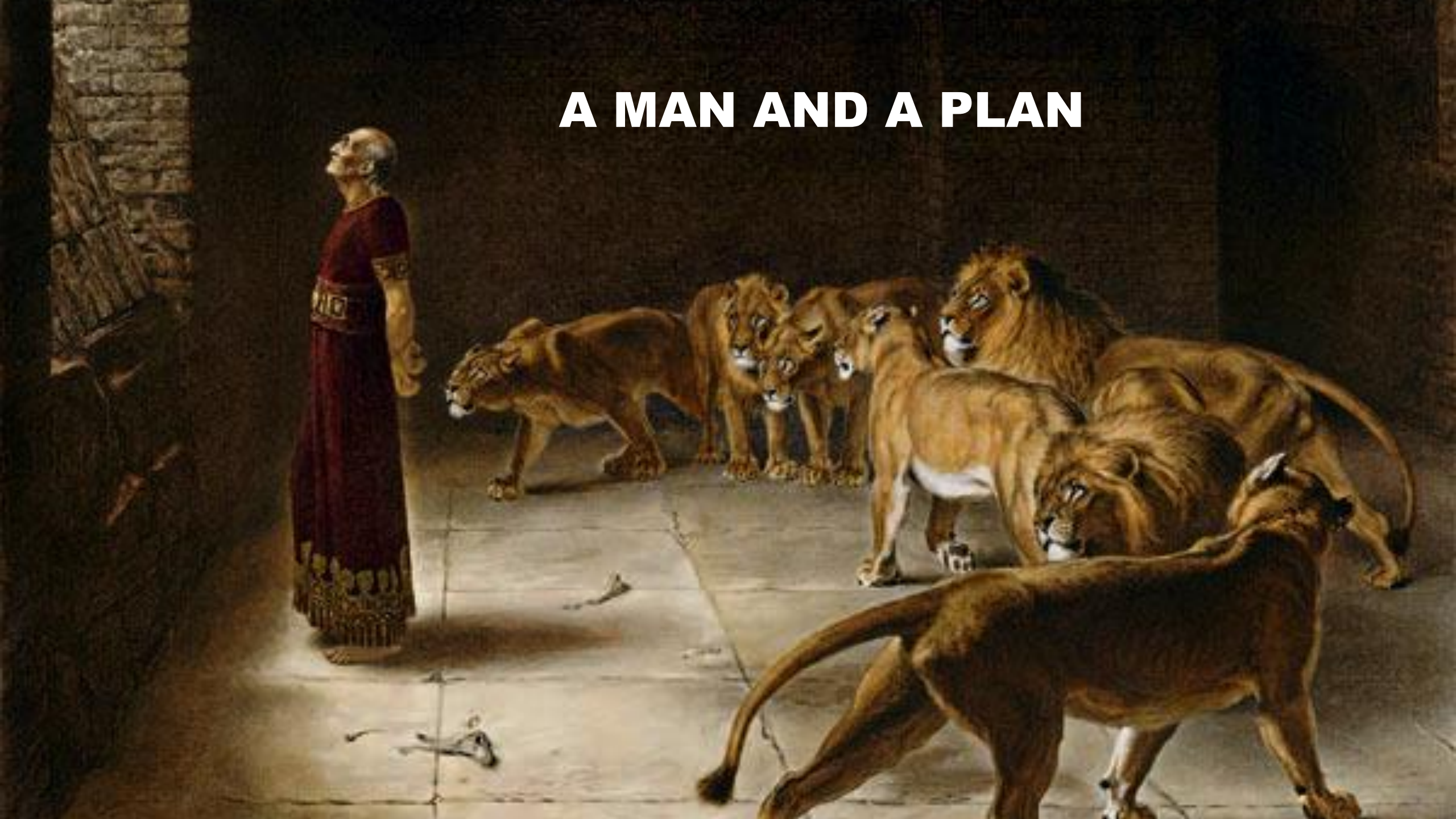


A MAN AND A PLAN



“In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.” Dan. 1:1-2

“Look among the nations! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder! Because I am doing something in your days—you would not believe if you were told. For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans, that fierce and impetuous people who march throughout the earth to seize dwelling places which are not theirs.” Hab. 1:5-6

“All of them come for violence. Their horde of faces moves forward. They collect captives like sand.” vs. 9

“And some of your sons who shall issue from you, whom you beget, shall be taken away; and they shall become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.” Isa. 39:7

“Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, the chief of his officials, to bring in some of the sons of Israel, including some of the royal family and of the nobles, youths...” Dan. 1:3

1. THE PROPHET.

Dan the man was:

A. Crème de la crème.

“Youths in whom was no defect, who were good-looking, showing intelligence in every branch of wisdom, endowed with understanding, and discerning knowledge, and who had ability for serving in the king’s court; and he ordered him to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.” Dan. 1:4

“Now God granted Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the commander of the officials.” 1:9

“And as for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom...” 1:17

“And as for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and conjurers who were in all his realm.” 1:20

“Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel, and gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense.” 2:46

“Then this Daniel began distinguishing himself among the commissioners and satraps because he possessed an extraordinary spirit, and the king planned to appoint him over the entire kingdom.” 6:3

B. A man of conviction.

“But Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself...” 1:8

C. A man of prayer.

“Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, about the matter, in order that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.” Dan. 2:17-18

“...and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously.” 6:10

“So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.” 9:3

“In those days I, Daniel, had been mourning for three entire weeks.” 10:2

2. THE PLAN.

Sovereignty. Nothing in the universe is outside of God's authority and control.

A. He protects His own.

“...and saw in regard to these men that the fire had no effect on the bodies of these men nor was the hair of their head singed, nor were their trousers damaged, nor had the smell of fire even come upon them.” 3:27

“I make a decree that all...are to fear and tremble before the God of Daniel; For He is the living God and enduring forever, and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed, and His dominion will be forever. He delivers and rescues and performs signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.” 6:26-27

B. He rules over principalities and powers.

“My God sent His angel and shut the lions’ mouths, and they have not harmed me...” 6:22

**“While I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel...came to me in my extreme weariness...”
9:21**

“Then he said to me, ‘Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia.’”

10:12-13

“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation...” 12:1

C. He promises a kingdom of righteousness and peace.

“Daniel answered and said, ‘Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to Him. And it is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings...’ 2:20-21

“...For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation. And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, ‘What hast Thou done?’” 4:34-35

“And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations, and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.” 7:14

“But the saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, for all ages to come.” 7:18

“...a king will arise insolent and skilled in intrigue. And his power will be mighty, but not by his own power, and he will destroy to an extraordinary degree and prosper and perform his will; he will destroy mighty men and the holy people. And through shrewdness he will cause deceit to succeed by his influence; and he will magnify himself in his heart, and he will destroy many while they are at ease. He will even oppose the Prince of princes, but he will be broken without human agency.” 8:23-25

“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but others to disgrace and everlasting disgrace. And those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.” 12:2-3

APPLICATION FOR ME:

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