

Midweek Meditation



Welcome to the first Midweek Meditation.

There is nothing that we can say that will bless you more than God's Word. And so, we urge you to get your Bible now, and have it ready to 'meditate' on the Lord's word for you this week.

The inspiration for this devotional is drawn from the writing of Billy Graham's daughter, Anne Graham Lotz, during dark days in her country and personal life. Anne reminds us that even though we cannot change the world, we can put a "hole in the darkness"

"Putting Holes in the Darkness"

When the Scottish novelist Robert Louis Stevenson was a child, the story is told that one night his nanny came into his nursery to put him to bed. She found the little boy looking intently out of his bedroom window. When she called to him, he continued staring into the darkness, so she went over to ask him what he found so interesting. As she peered over his shoulder, she saw the lamplighter walking down the street, lighting the street lamps. Little Robert responded, "Look, Nanny. I'm watching as that man puts holes in the darkness."

We can become discouraged when we look out into the "darkness" brought on by disease, suffering, pandemics, and a world rejecting the Father's love. But there is something, we all can do. While we may not be able to change the world, we can put a "hole in the darkness."

Take your Bible now and read Daniel chapter 1.

Daniel was a young man who lived during a time of great darkness in his nation of Judah. The Babylonians from the East swept through and destroyed everything in a series of ruthless campaigns. Nebuchadnezzar ordered the finest and the brightest Israelites to be taken captives to serve as slaves in his Palace. Among others, Daniel was seized and marched 1000 Kilometres east, never to return. But rather than despair, **Daniel put holes in the darkness.**

And this is how he began to do it. We pick up the story in v3 of Daniel 1. Having been selected with others from the nobility, Daniel and his three friends were to be prepared for the King's service. But Daniel had a problem! To do what was required of him meant eating Babylonian food including pigs and beef. Pigs were forbidden (Lev. 11:7-8) as also the blood in any animal (Lev. 17:10-12).

Further, although we are not told explicitly, it is likely also, that although Daniel does not refuse the training of the king or the use of a new name, he draws the line at eating the king's food because that would be a public declaration of dependency on the king. Daniel will not rely on Nebuchadnezzar, only on the God of his fathers- Yahweh.

And so we read those courageous words; **"And Daniel resolved...." (1:8)** Resolved not to defile himself with the Kings food. Took a stand. Put a hole in the darkness of captivity, inspired Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to refuse to bow down to the golden idol of the King, and God delivered them in an amazing way from the fiery furnace. (Dan. 3:13-30) But there is more. Who can forget the wonder of God's deliverance of Daniel from the Lions den when his enemies tried to stop him from praying to his God- putting holes in the darkness? (Daniel Ch.6)

This book of Daniel is a thrilling story that encourages us not to be discouraged because of any dark circumstances upon us, but to resolve to be true to our convictions, living out our commitment to Jesus, and experiencing the blessing of **'putting a hole in the darkness!'**

Dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone, dare to have a purpose true and dare to make it known.