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APRIL 2, 2017

FAITH IN THE LION'S DEN

PREACHED BY JAY MESSENGER

DANIEL 6

FAITH

= (1) _____

WILL BE (2) _____ BY (3) _____ AND

(4) _____

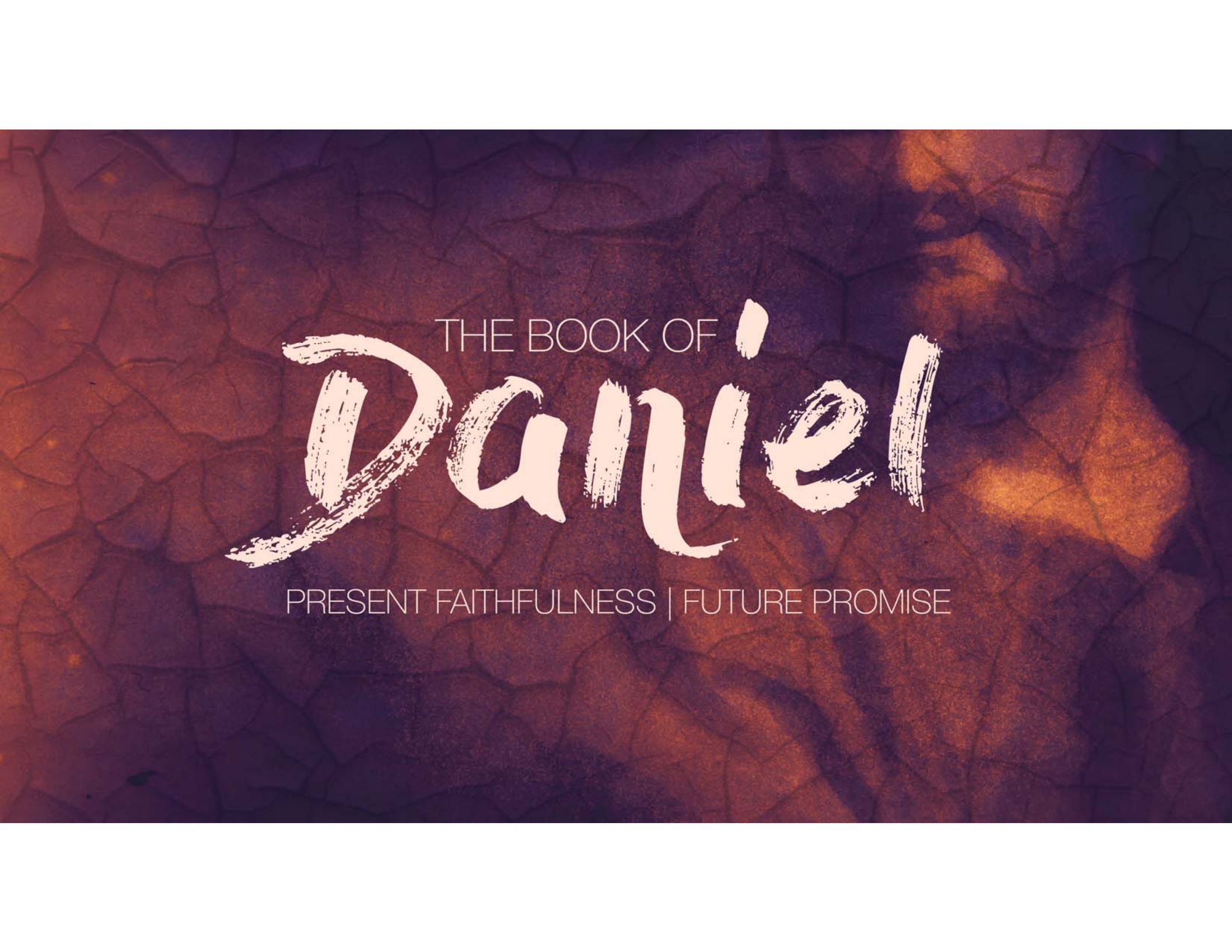
(5) _____ FROM THE (6) _____

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. FAITHFULNESS CAN BE DEFINED AS "A LONG OBEDIENCE IN THE SAME DIRECTION." WHO IS SOMEONE YOU KNOW WHO IS FAITHFUL IN SERVING AND LOVING THE LORD? HOW IS THAT DISPLAYED IN THEIR LIFE?
2. IF FAITHFULNESS MEANS "LIVING DISTINCTLY FOR THE LORD" HOW CAN YOU DO THAT IN YOUR LIFE? HOW CAN YOU BE A DISTINCT, CHRIST-LIKE EXAMPLE AT YOUR WORK, HOME, SCHOOL, ETC.?
3. WHAT ARE SOME THINGS YOU'RE GIFTED OR GOOD AT? THAT YOU ENJOY? HOW IS DOING THOSE THINGS WITH EXCELLENCE AN ACT OF WORSHIP TO THE LORD AND A WAY TO POINT OTHERS TO HIM?
4. RESPOND TO THE STATEMENT "CHARACTER WINS THE DAY." WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES YOU'VE SEEN IN YOUR LIFE OR IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS? HOW CAN THIS APPLY WHEN WE DON'T GET REWARDED, RECOGNIZED, OR EVEN OVER-LOOKED OR CRITICIZED? HOW CAN THIS STILL MOTIVATE US IN THESE TYPES OF CIRCUMSTANCES?
5. HOW DID DANIEL'S FAITH NOT ONLY DELIVER HIM FROM THE LION'S DEN BUT ALSO *PUT HIM THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE?*
6. WHAT ARE SOME WAYS YOU'RE TEMPTED TO COMPROMISE WHEN YOU'RE CRITICIZED (OR WORSE) FOR DOING WHAT YOU KNOW PLEASES THE LORD?
7. EXPLAIN HOW THE FURNACE (DANIEL 3) AND THE LION'S DEN (DANIEL 6) REVEAL A GOD WHO GOES THERE WITH US. .HOW DOES THAT GIVE US HOPE AND PERSPECTIVE WHEN WE FACE DIFFICULTY/HARDSHIP/PERSECUTION WHEN WE'RE LIVING FOR HIM?
8. HOW IS DEATH THE ULTIMATE "LION'S DEN" WE WILL EVER FACE? WHEN WE GRIEVE THE LOSS OF SOMEONE WE LOVE, HOW DOES THE HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION HELP US AND GIVE US HOPE?
9. HOW CAN YOU LIVE OUT YOUR FAITH THIS WEEK? IS THERE AN AREA OF COMPROMISE THAT YOU'RE STRUGGLING WITH RIGHT NOW? HOW WILL YOU LIVE DISTINCTLY FOR CHRIST THROUGH A LIFE OF EXCELLENCE, SERVICE, AND GODLY INFLUENCE FOR HIM? WILL YOU PRAY FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TELL SOMEONE ABOUT JESUS THIS WEEK?
10. THAN THE LORD FOR GIVING YOU HOPE FOR HIS DEFEAT OF DEATH AND PROMISE OF LIFE FOR THOSE WHO TRUST AND FOLLOW HIM!

FILL IN THE BLANK KEY

1. FAITHFULNESS 2. CHALLENGED 3. CRITICISM 4. COMPROMISE 5. DELIVERS 6. LION'S DEN



THE BOOK OF
Daniel

PRESENT FAITHFULNESS | FUTURE PROMISE

It pleased Darius to appoint 120 satraps to rule throughout the kingdom, ² with three administrators over them, one of whom was Daniel. The satraps were made accountable to them so that the king might not suffer loss.

DANIEL 6:1-2

³ Now Daniel **so distinguished himself** among the administrators and the satraps by his exceptional qualities that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom. ⁴ At this, the administrators and the satraps **tried to find grounds** for charges against Daniel in his conduct of government affairs,

DANIEL 6:3-4

but they were unable to do so. They could find
no corruption in him, because he was
trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

DANIEL 6:3-4

⁵ Finally these men said, “We will never find any basis for charges against this man Daniel unless **it has something to do with the law of his God.**”

DANIEL 6:5

⁶ So these administrators and satraps went as a group to the king and said: “May King Darius live forever! ⁷ The royal administrators, prefects, satraps, advisers and governors have all agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or human being during the next

DANIEL 6:6-9

thirty days, except to you, Your Majesty, shall be thrown into the lions' **den**.⁸ Now, Your Majesty, issue the decree and put it in writing so that it cannot be altered—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”⁹ So King Darius **put the decree in writing**.

DANIEL 6:6-9

¹⁰ Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. **Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.**

DANIEL 6:10



11 Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. **12** So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

DANIEL 6:11-13

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

¹³ Then they said to the king, “Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, **pays no attention to you, Your Majesty, or to the decree you put in writing.** He still prays three times a day.”

DANIEL 6:11-13

¹⁴ When the king heard this, **he was greatly distressed**; he was determined to rescue Daniel and **made every effort** until sundown **to save him.**

DANIEL 6:14

15 Then the men went as a group to King Darius and said to him, “Remember, Your Majesty, that according to the law of the Medes and Persians no decree or edict that the king issues can be changed.” **16** So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den.

DANIEL 6:15-18

The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!” ¹⁷ A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed.

DANIEL 6:15-18

18 Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

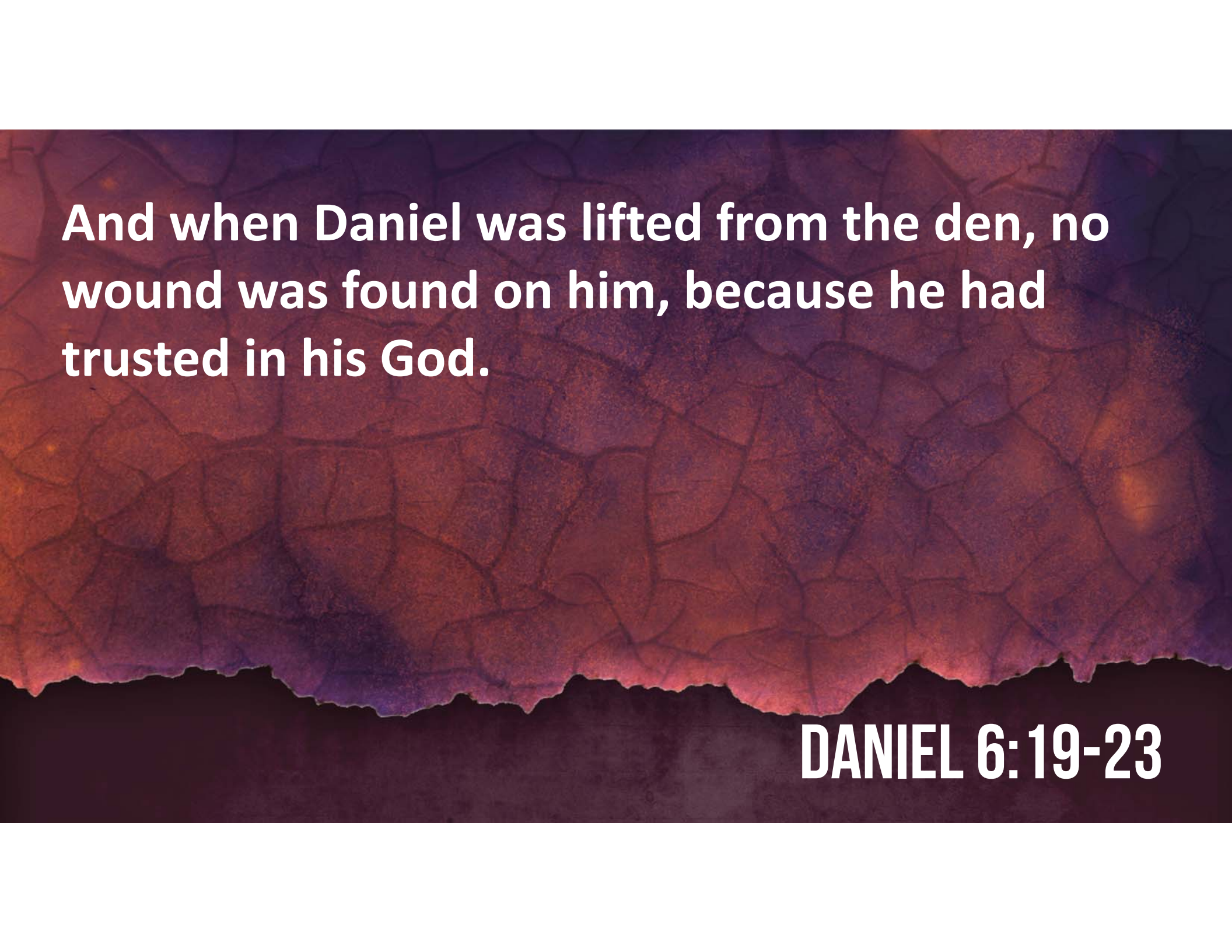
DANIEL 6:15-18

¹⁹ At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.²⁰ When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" ²¹ Daniel answered, **"May the king live forever!"**

DANIEL 6:19-23

22 My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.” 23 The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den.

DANIEL 6:19-23

The background features a dark, textured surface with a torn paper effect at the bottom. The colors transition from deep purple and blue at the top to dark red and black at the bottom. The text is overlaid on this background.

And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

DANIEL 6:19-23

²⁴ At the king's command, **the men who had falsely accused Daniel were brought in and thrown into the lions' den, along with their wives and children.** And before they reached the floor of the den, the lions overpowered them and crushed all their bones."

DANIEL 6:24

= Faithfulness

FAITH

³ Now Daniel **so distinguished himself** among the administrators and the satraps by his **exceptional qualities** that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

DANIEL 6:3

4^b They could find **no corruption** in him,
because he was **trustworthy** and **neither
corrupt nor negligent.**

DANIEL 6:4B

= Faithfulness

FAITH

= Faithfulness

Will be challenged by criticism and
compromise

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Delivers from THE Lion's Den

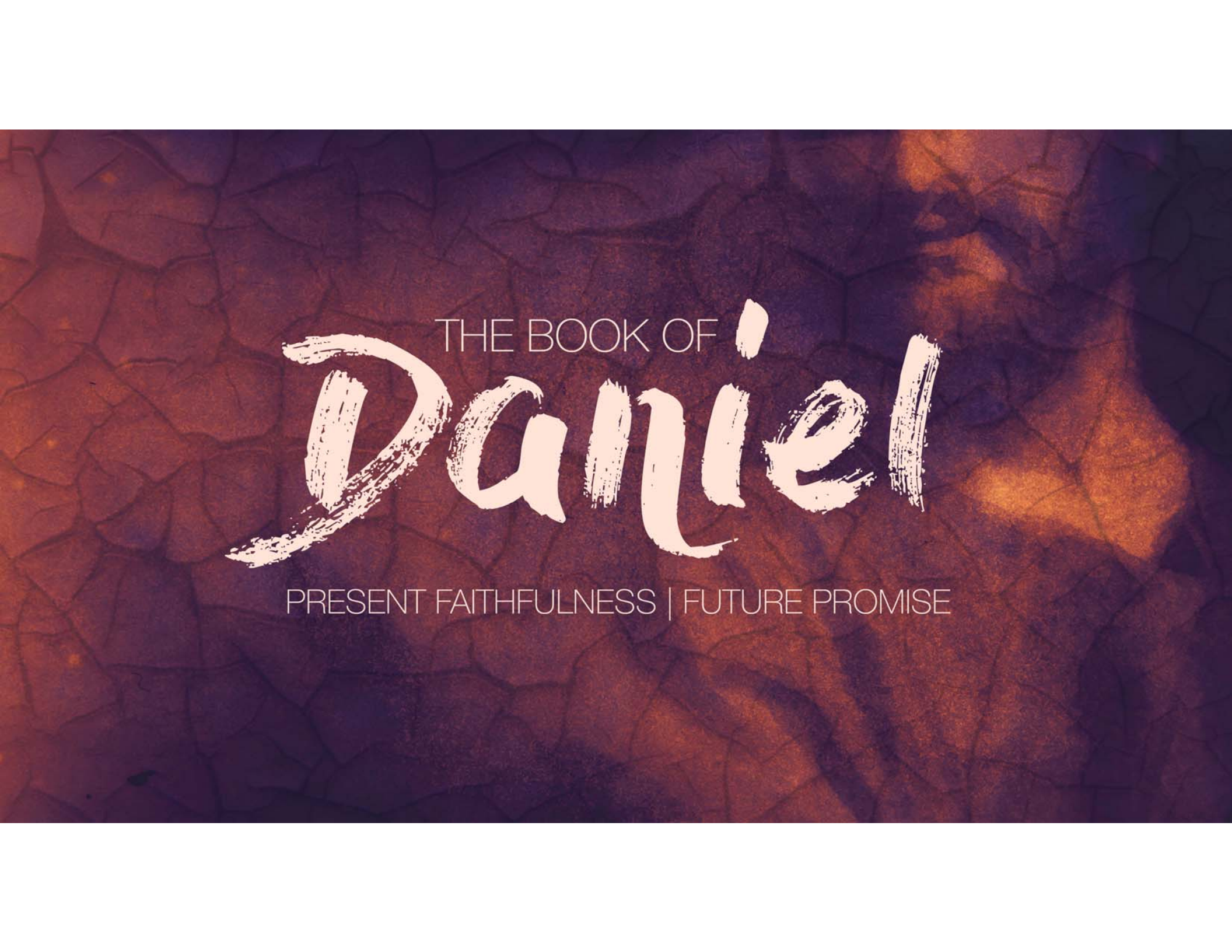
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