

August 22, 2020
guest Shabbat speaker Lambert Bariho
Withstanding the Pressures of the Current Times



Lambert Bariho and his wife, Catherine, are directors of Ellel Ministries Rwanda. Lambert is also the son-in-law of Greg and Deborah McIntire. Lambert and Catherine serve in Rwanda, in the center of Africa. As leaders of this Christian mission organization, their heart is to see people healed and restored so that they may accomplish G-d's mission on their lives.

They do this through welcoming people, teaching them about the Kingdom of G-d and bringing healing to those in need through prayer ministry. They are the parents of Daviella and Ethan.



Ellel Ministries Rwanda

- G-d has called us to help people be healed and restored so that they can accomplish G-d's mission on their lives
- We do this by welcoming people, teaching them about the Kingdom of G-d and bringing healing to those in need through Prayer Ministry

History of Ellel Ministries

- Started in the UK in 1986 from restoring an old, broken sports car, to healing and restoring broken lives
- Ellel Ministries USA is based in Tampa, Florida



Introduction

- Pandemic – why I can't be with you in person as planned before
- Chaos in the world: political, social and moral arenas
- We are in a Post-Truth Era, where “alternative facts” have replaced actual facts and feeling have more weight than evidence.
- What used to be universally accepted to be wrong is not only accepted, it is also promoted as good and noble.
- With the rise of human rights – ignoring what is right, everyone is back to doing whatever seems to be good for them.
- In this context, the space for freedom of religion and other liberties is shrinking day by day.
- We are challenged to compromise every single minute by media, business, government, etc.

So how can we ...

...be able to withstand the pressures of the current times?

...stand on the truth and not compromise under pressures?

...stay sane when chaos and anarchy reign around us?

...remain faithful to our Faithful G-d despite the high cost?

Daniel 1:1-8

- In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.
- G-d gave King Jehoiakim of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the House of G-d. He brought them into the land of Shinar to the house of his god and put the vessels into the treasure house of his god.
- Then the king told Ashpenaz the chief of his officials to bring in some of the sons of Israel from royal descent and nobility – youths without any defect, handsome, proficient in all wisdom, knowledgeable, intelligent and capable of serving in the king's palace. He was to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.
- The king allotted them a daily portion from the king's delicacies and from the wine that he drank. They were to be trained for three years, and at the end they were to stand before the king.

- Now among them were some of the sons of Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah
- The chief officer gave them new names:
 - o to Daniel, Belteshazzar
 - o to Hananiah, Shadrach
 - o to Mishael, Meshach
 - o to Azariah, Abed-nego
- **But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the king's delicacies or with the wine he was drinking, so he entreated the chief official for permission not to defile himself.**

Daniel context

- Exiled – no rights
- Selected – among the few privileged Jewish young people – learning the wisdom and literature of Babylon – excelled in all
- Served at least 4 different foreign kings and at least 2 of them turned to worship His G-d without Him holding an Evangelist Conference
- Opportunity to exalt himself –but always pointed to G-d
- He and his other three Jewish companions accepted to pay the price instead of compromising on his beliefs and conduct.
- Excellent in his service – despite the pressure and scrutiny of his colleagues.

Daniel's secret?

1. His determination
2. His wisdom
3. His gift of vision and interpretation of dreams
4. His seriousness in the Word of G-d
5. ... but what was really behind his ability to withstand all the pressure?
 - a. Daniel and the Spirit of G-d
 1. He had a reputation of being filled with the Holy Spirit
 - a. The magicians (Daniel 2:11): "The king is asking a difficult thing; nobody but the gods could tell this to your majesty, and they don't live with mere mortals." They acknowledged that the person who can do what the king was asking would need to have a relationship with the G-d of heaven.
 - b. Nebuchadnezza: r (Daniel 4:5-6) Finally, however, Dani'el (renamed Belt'shatzar, after the name of my god), in whom is the spirit of the holy gods, came before me; and I told him the dream: 'Belt'shatzar, chief of the magicians! Because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you, and no mystery is too

difficult for you, tell me the meaning of the visions I saw in my dream.

- c. The queen mother (Daniel 5: 10-12) At this point the queen mother, because of what the king and his lords were saying, entered the banquet hall. The queen mother said, “May the king live forever! Don’t be scared by your thoughts or let your face be so pale. There is a man in your kingdom in whom is the spirit of the holy gods. In the days of your father, he was found to have light, discernment and wisdom like the wisdom of the gods. King N’vukhadnetzar your father — the king, your father — made him chief of the magicians, exorcists, astrologers and diviners; because he was found to have an extraordinary spirit, knowledge, discernment, and the ability to interpret dreams, unlock mysteries and solve knotty problems. He is called Dani’el, but the king gave him the name Belt’shatzar. Now have Dani’el summoned, and he will tell you what this means.”
2. He depended on Him – instead of depending on the knowledge and understanding he had learned at school. His decisions were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit instead of being just good logic.
 - a. His diet – where others saw a delicacy, he saw a trap of the enemy
 - b. His studies and professional life – where others saw pagan literature, he saw opportunity, thinking if I can learn this, I’ll be able to be a witness of my G-d
 - c. His “spiritual life” – he continued to pray even when it was forbidden
 - d. What was truth – and what was not truth – for him
 - e. King’s dreams – others saw end of their life but he saw an opportunity to exalt his G-d
 - f. Daniel 10:10-19 Then a hand touched me and raised me, tottering, to my hands and knees. He said to me, “Dani’el, you are a greatly loved man. Now pay attention to the words I am saying to you, and stand upright; for it is to you that I have been sent now.” After he had said this to me, I stood up, trembling. Then he said to me, “Don’t be afraid, Dani’el; because since the first day that you determined to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words have been heard; and I have come because of what you said ...”

b. Daniel and the Love of G-d

1. There is no doubt that Daniel was anchored in the Love of G-d.
2. Even when he saw a vision that troubled him, G-d was quick to come and assure him again of His love for him.
 - a. Daniel 10:10-19 Then, again someone who looked human touched me and revived me. He said, “You man so greatly loved, don’t be afraid. *Shalom* to you; and be strong, yes, truly strong.” His speaking to me strengthened me, and I said, “My lord, keep speaking; because you’ve given me strength.”

Conclusion

- **Without the Holy Spirit of the Lord and our dependence of Him, it will be very difficult to discern and understand what is happening in the world around us.**
- **Without the assurance of the Love of the Father in our lives, it will be difficult to withstand the pressures of the current times and what is yet to come.**