

The Spirit of the Holy Gods

by Arthur Barry

Whatever “The spirit of the holy gods” is Daniel had it, according to his Babylonian captors. In Daniel chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar proclaimed three times that the spirit of the holy gods was in Daniel (4:8,9,18). Nebuchadnezzar’s son, Belshazzar, was reminded about this attribute of Daniel in chapter 5, verse 11.

There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. King Nebuchadnezzar your father—your father the king, I say— appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners.

Each instance involves revelations from God that could only be understood by Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar had two dreams that were interpreted by Daniel. The first, in chapter 2, was prophecy involving the kingdoms of the world. The second dream involved Nebuchadnezzar personally and spoke of a judgment from God (Chapter 4). It is interesting that Belshazzar’s revelation from God in Chapter 5 (writing on the wall) also involved a personal judgment on the king as well as announcing a change in world power. It was in these two latter instances that we find Daniel is described as having the spirit of the holy gods in him. Why did the Babylonian rulers use this phrase?

1. They were pagans who worshipped many gods so we can see why there is a multiplicity of gods in their minds. Yet the phrase only mentions one spirit. In the New Testament we are familiar with Paul’s teaching that there are many gifts but one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12:9). Paul was fighting the selfish, divisive tendencies of some who prized God’s gifts over God Himself. In the Pagan world everything that was a gift from God became a god. All of His creative works were glorified as gods. E.g. Stars, rivers, animals, harvest, sexual relations, etc. Listen to the way Nebuchadnezzar praised Daniel’s God in chapter 2:47

The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

Here we see the connection between those who prized God’s gifts more than God Himself in both the Old and New Testaments. It is also interesting that such Pagans had the concept of “holy” and apparently this meant one, supreme, invisible Being above all others.

2. We can also see that these Pagans recognized that revelation from God (or gods) came by God’s spirit at work in certain individuals. That is certainly a biblical principle, and we understand that the work of Christ on Earth was focused on Him attaining the authority to pour out the Holy Spirit on all flesh. As a result, any person on earth is now eligible to have the Spirit of the Holy God, or “Holy spirit” living in Him or her. Modern day Pagans still want to give credit to a plurality of gods (God’s gifts in the natural realm). You and I may well be able to help such people come to know the God of gods. That means, like Daniel, we have to tell it like it is and call people to humble repentance. Like Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar, many already know these things, but they need to be warned by someone who believes it.



That meets at 701 South Wilbur, Sayre, PA 18840
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September 24, 2023

All the Churches of Christ greet you.

Romans 16:16

WELCOME!

Sunday

Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study-6:30 p.m.

Today’s Sermon: An End to Endings

Scripture Reading: James 2:18-26

Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.

Bulletins are archived on the website.

Notes for Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available on the website.

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Headphones are available for the hearing impaired.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / UPCOMING EVENTS...

- ❖ **Wednesday Evening Bible Class:** 6:30pm September 20, on Zoom, Arthur will be continuing a study from G.R.O.W. We will be in the 6th chapter on O (Obey).
- ❖ **Next Potluck and Bring-a-Friend Sunday** – October 15.
- ❖ **Ladies' Class** –Tuesday, September 26. We will continue with the study of Hosea.
- ❖ **Next 5th Sunday Singing** – October 29, at Wellsboro.



- ✚ **Camp Hunt Men's Retreat- 2023** was a time of wonderful encouragement. Arthur found the lessons and the fellowship very uplifting. Don English announced that he will be leaving New York, after 25 years, to take a position in Oklahoma.

Welcome to Fall...



PRAYERS

- **Jackie lost her sister, Nancy**, this week. Please pray for Jackie and the rest of the family at this time of loss.
- **Sandy, Amy, Miki and Bonnie** are worshipping with the saints at Utica this morning as they conclude their retreat led by Denise Kashorek in the Adirondacks.
- **Ruthie** needs a replacement for her trailer home. Pray that she can find a way to get a new home.
- **Sandy's visit** visit with the neurosurgeon yielded some advice about recovering from her neck pain, which includes not lifting over 20lbs for a while.
- Prayers for the people of **Morocco** who suffered or lost loved ones in the terrible **earthquake** near Marakesh. Also pray for the people in **Libya** who experienced catastrophic **flooding**.
- **Darlene** will be having an upper endoscopy with chip on Friday, November 17.
- **Molly and José Rivera and their family now own their own home. Praise God!**

Continue to pray for these people:

- **Bonnie**- babesia
- **Bob** (Judy Burger's brother)- lung and rectal cancers
- **Greg (Bonnie's brother)**- long recovery from cancer surgery.
- **Monique (Miki's friend)**- waiting to hear when they can go in and fix the catheter and pump to administer morphine for pain relief.
- **Pat Guthrie**-he has lung cancer, stage 4. Also pray for his wife Robin who cares for him.
- **Sue Barry**- Pray that she stays in remission. She has a low red blood cell count. Pray that she doesn't need another transfusion.
- **Mike Walls**, frontal lobe dementia, and pray for his wife Carrie who has the hard job of caring for him.
- **Jim Sexton**, esophageal cancer, on chemo.
- **Tresa Shirrell's mom, April**, terminal cancer, salvation
- **Brian**, who was injured by a falling log and is now in rehab near Albany, NY.

If you have any PRAYERS or NEWS that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy at barncat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.