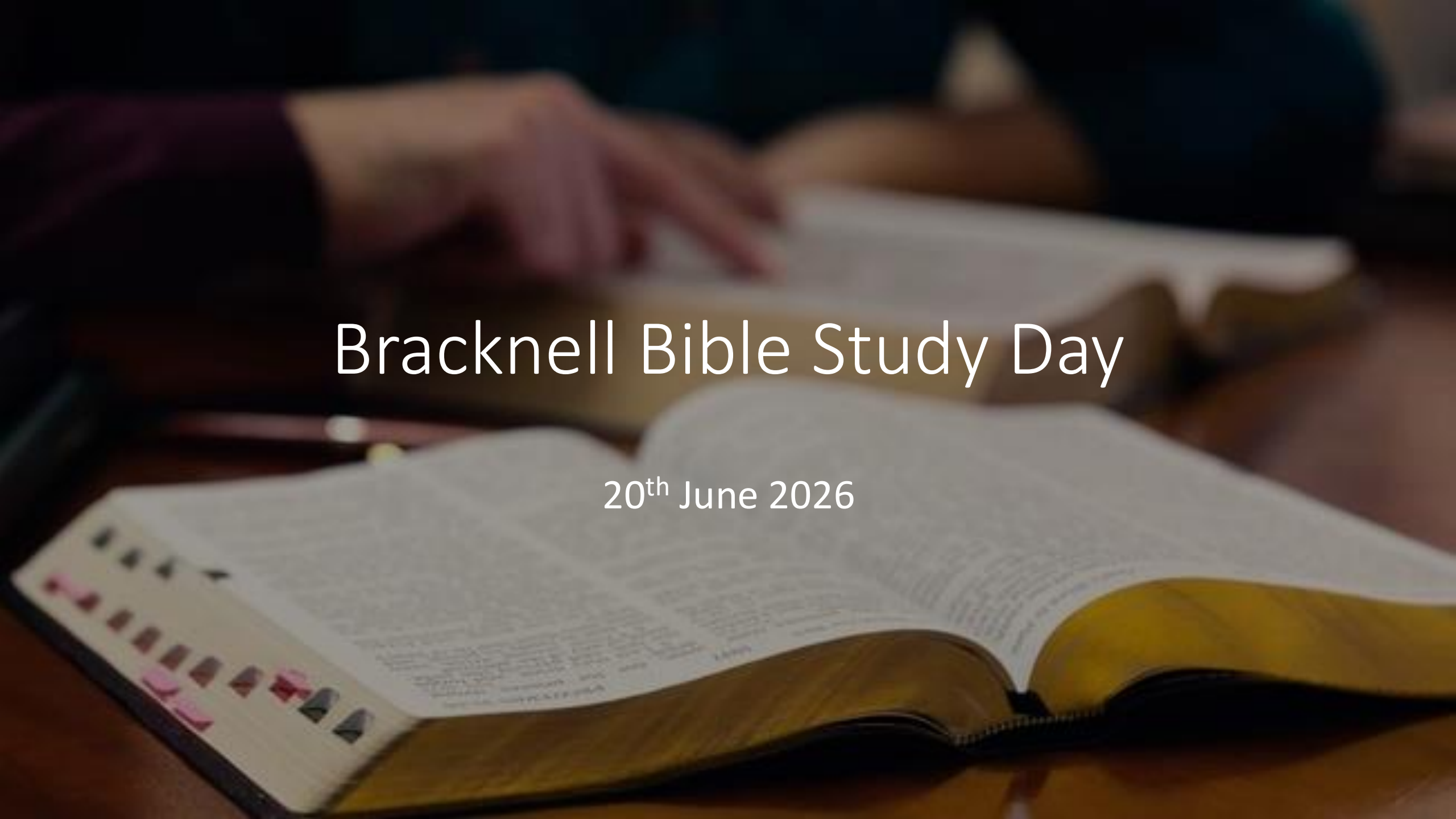


A photograph of a person's hands pointing at a Bible on a table. In the foreground, an open Bible is visible, showing text on its pages. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the Bibles.

Bracknell Bible Study Day

20th June 2026

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

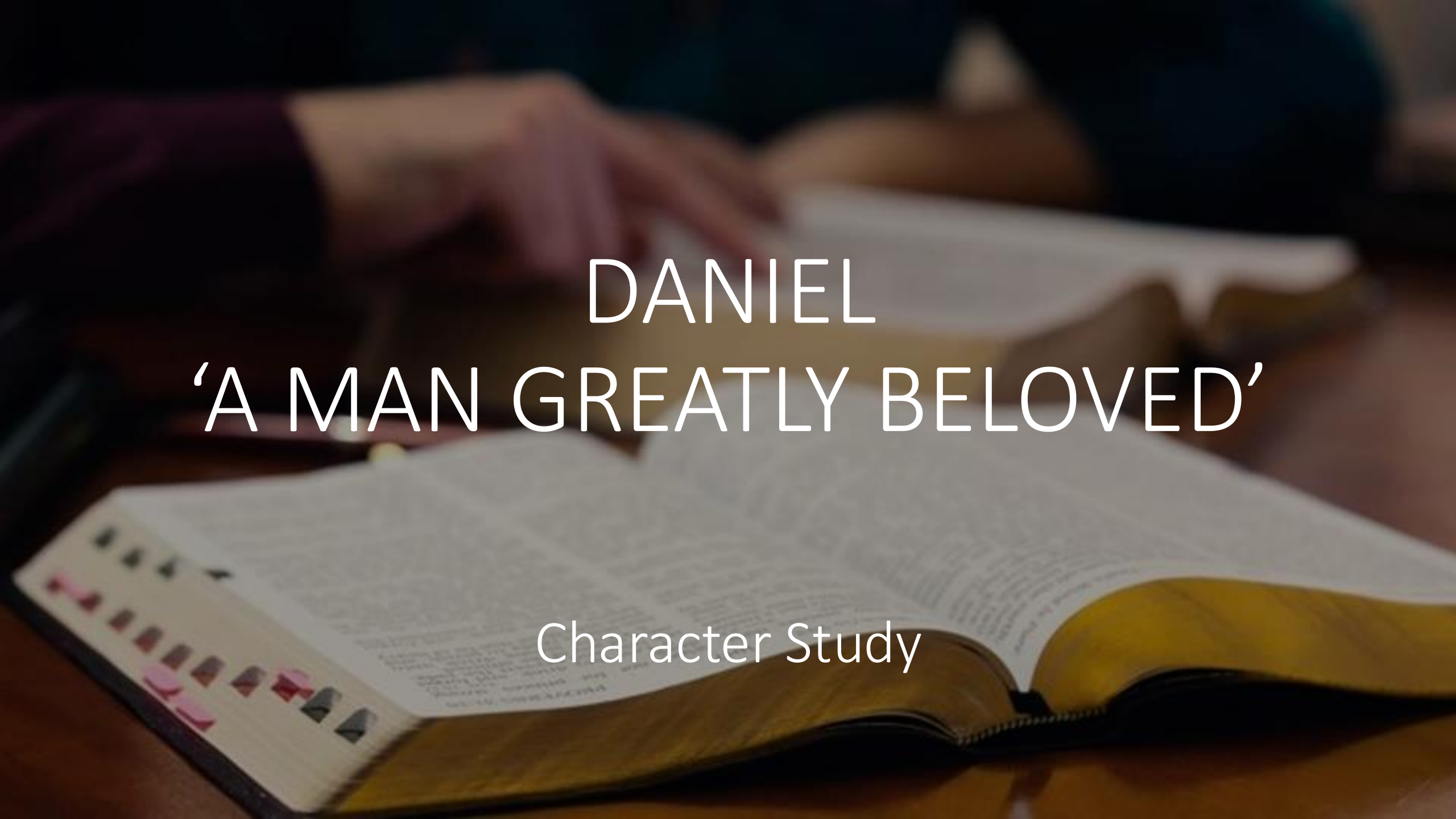
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips, and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it Thine;
It shall be no longer mine:
Take my heart, it is Thine own;
It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store:
Take myself and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a person's hands resting on an open Bible. The Bible is open to a page with text, and the person's fingers are visible on the pages. The background is dark and out of focus. The text 'DANIEL' and '‘A MAN GREATLY BELOVED’' is overlaid in white, serif font. The text 'Character Study' is overlaid in a smaller, white, sans-serif font at the bottom.

DANIEL

‘A MAN GREATLY BELOVED’

Character Study

WHO ARE YOUR ROLE MODELS?

Try Daniel



Where to begin - READ

Read the book

Read it again

Note down or underline key phrases
and words that emphasise the
character of Daniel





WHO WAS DANIEL?

A Jew

A prince – of noble birth

A captive - likely carried away with Jehoiachin in 2 Kings 24:10-16 in fulfillment of 2 Kings 20:18

A young man – thought to be around 15 years of age

2 Kings 20:16-18

16 And Isaiah said unto Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD. 17 Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store unto this day, shall be carried into Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. 18 And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

DANIEL: 'A RARE THING'

In chapter 2, when they are seeking people to interpret the king's dream, which he can't even remember himself, the Chaldeans respond by saying: 'It is a rare thing that the king requireth'. Then Daniel emerges.

The expression is a good summary of Daniel: 'A rare thing'. He is different to any other. None found like him.

How 'rare' are we? Or do we just blend in?

Daniel's CHARACTER: The king's requirements 1:3-4

LIFT THE WORDS OFF THE PAGE

No blemish – no stain or spot

Well favoured – fair countenance

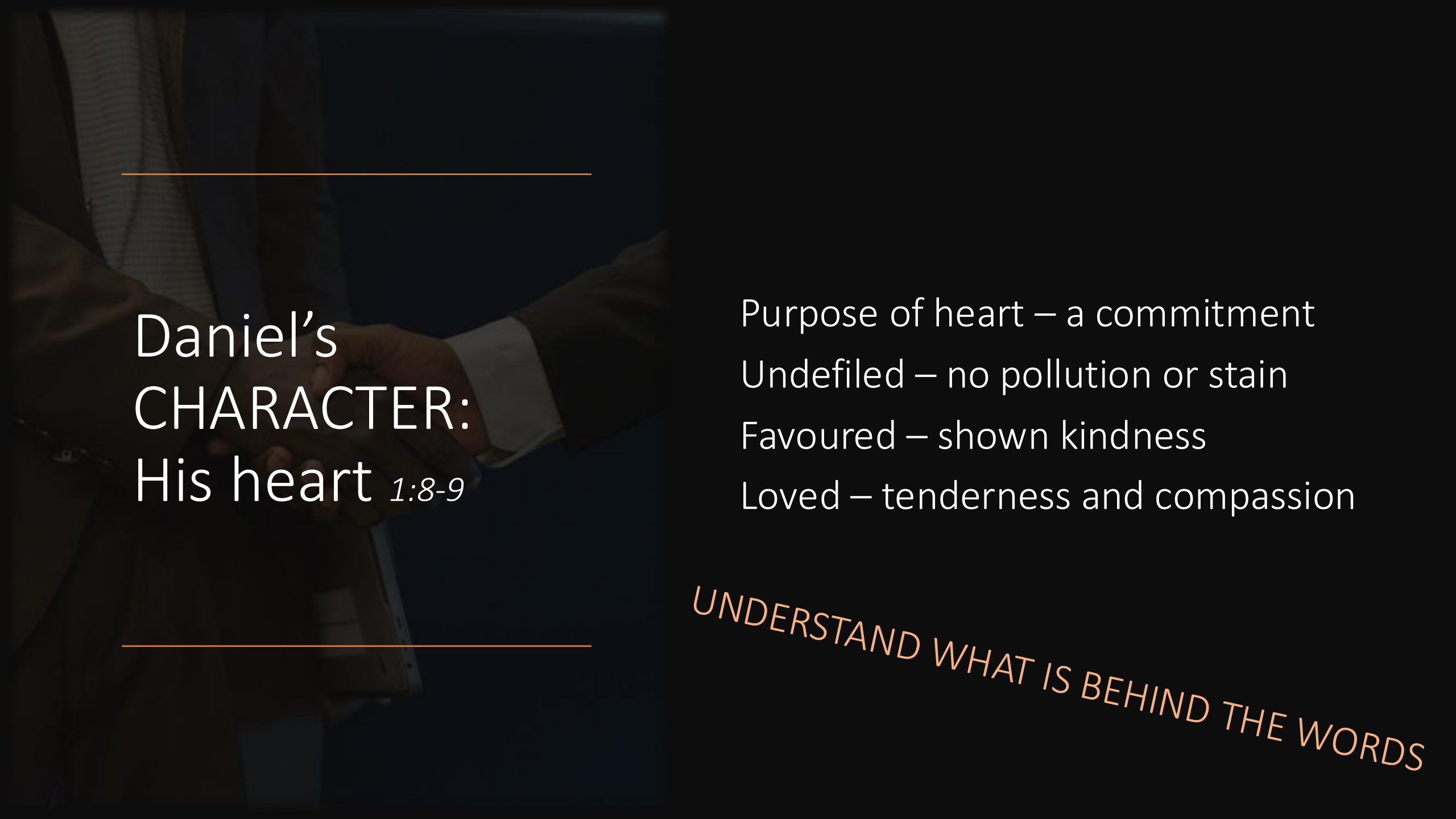
Skilful in all wisdom – circumspect and prudent

Cunning in knowledge - discerning

Understanding science - intelligent

Ability to stand in the king's palace – strength and substance

USE A BIBLE DICTIONARY



Daniel's CHARACTER: His heart *1:8-9*

Purpose of heart – a commitment
Undefined – no pollution or stain
Favoured – shown kindness
Loved – tenderness and compassion

UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEHIND THE WORDS

Daniel's
CHARACTER:
A test – 'of your
sort' *1:10*

Not to eat of the king's meat - likely offered to idols and contrary to the law for a Jew *v10-13*

Fairer – better/more pleasing *v15*

Fatter – more plenteous!

God-given knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom *v17*

FURTHER STUDY:
HOW MIGHT BELIEVERS BE TESTED?

Daniel's CHARACTER: Better than all

None like Daniel, Hananiah,
Mishael and Azariah *v19*

Ten times better than all *v20*

HOW IS IT WITH MY CHARACTER?

Daniel's CHARACTER: Approved by God

STUDY FURTHER: HOW CAN WE
SEEK THE APPROVAL OF GOD?

And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. *Daniel 10:11*

And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened... *Daniel 10:19*

Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord GOD. *Ezekiel 14:14,20*

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) *Matthew 24:15*

Daniel – a TYPE OF CHRIST

Chapter 2

A man upon the earth *v10*

A rare thing

Whose dwelling is not with flesh

Counsel and wisdom *v14*

Desiring mercies of the God of heaven *v18*

Wisdom and might *v23*

A great man – a ruler *v48*

Beloved of God *10:11,19*

ALWAYS LOOK FOR CHRIST IN YOUR STUDY
HOW MUCH LIKE CHRIST AM I?

Daniel's GIFT – Daniel had understanding in all dreams and visions *1:17*

Three interpretations of others' dreams/visions, then four visions of his own

1. They would desire the mercies of God...Then was the secret revealed...Daniel blessed the God of heaven...I will shew unto the king the interpretation *2:17-24*
2. [Nebuchadnezzar – tree] Daniel...was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him...Belteshazzar answered and said... *4:19*
3. Daniel answered and said before the king, Let thy gifts be to thyself, and give thy rewards to another; yet I will read the writing unto the king, and make known to him the interpretation. *5:17*
1. In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. *7:1* (Four beasts)

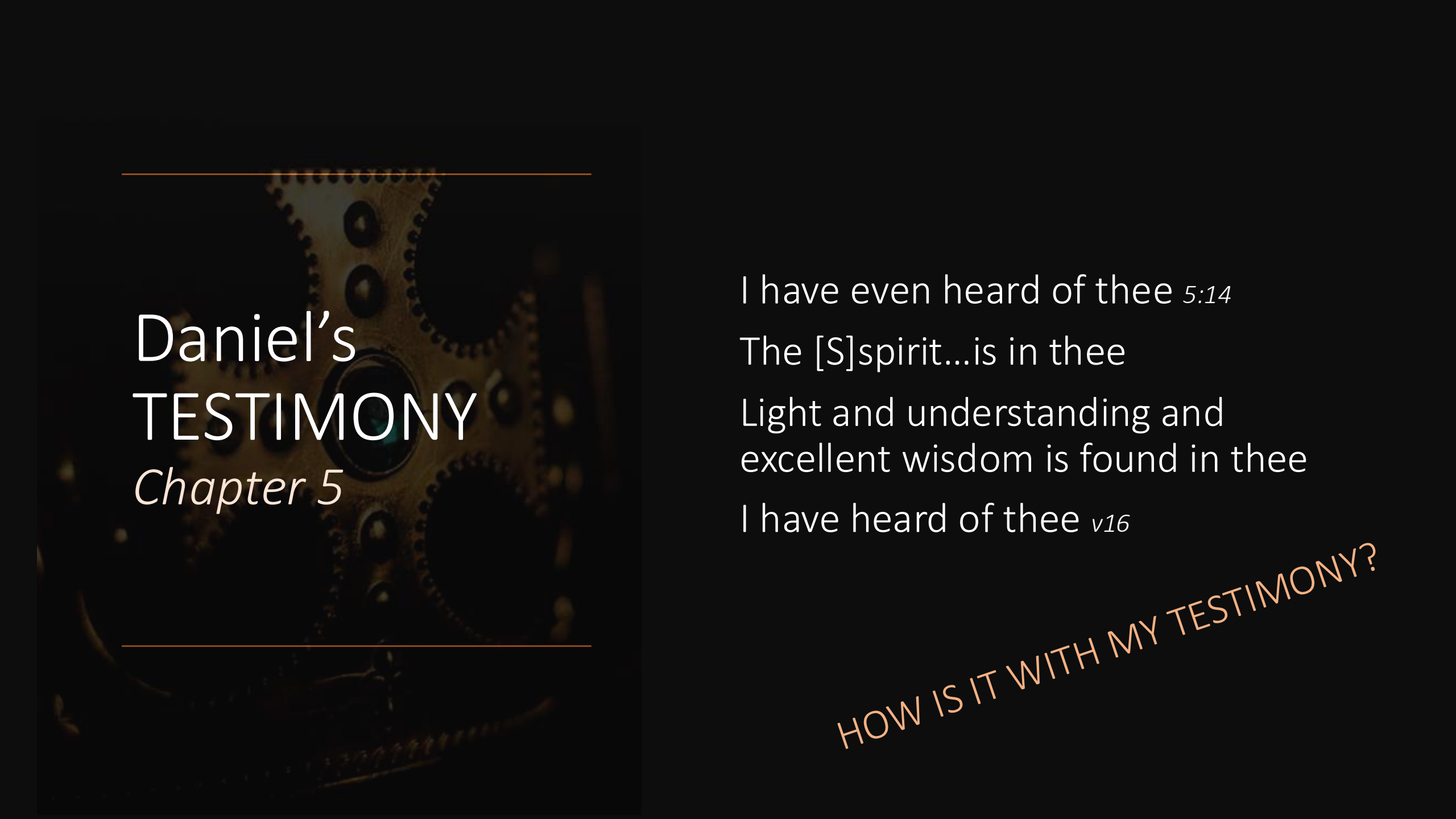
Daniel's GIFT – Daniel had understanding in all dreams and visions *1:17*

2. In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first. *8:1*
(Ram/Goat)

3. At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. *9:23* (70 weeks)

4. In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia a thing was revealed unto Daniel, whose name was called Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, but the time appointed was long: and he understood the thing, and had understanding of the vision. *10:1* (the time of the end)

FURTHER STUDY: WHAT IS MY GIFT? AM I USING IT?



Daniel's TESTIMONY

Chapter 5

I have even heard of thee *5:14*

The [S]pirit...is in thee

Light and understanding and
excellent wisdom is found in thee

I have heard of thee *v16*

HOW IS IT WITH MY TESTIMONY?

Daniel's PRAYERS and COURAGE

Chapter 6

HOW ARE MY PRAYERS?

Daniel is now likely at least 80 years of age – 66 years after Nebuchadnezzar – he had passed through so much and outlasted all these kings

Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime. Then these men assembled, and found Daniel praying and making supplication before his God. *6:10,11*

Quote: In response to the observation, 'I wish I had your courage' - 'If you had my conviction, you'd have my courage.' *[Credit J.R. Baker]*

Daniel's PRAYERS and COURAGE

Chapter 9

The start of something:

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: And I prayed unto the LORD my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments; We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: 9:3-5

Daniel and THE WORD 9:2

HOW IMPORTANT IS READING THE WORD
OF GOD TO ME - NOW, AND ALWAYS?

In the first year of [Darius'] reign [around 80 years old] I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. *Daniel 9:2*

70 years of captivity | 70 years of desolations of Jerusalem (are these the same thing?) | 70 weeks [heptads – lots of 7 years] to 'bring in everlasting righteousness' (490 years – 483 past, 7 future) *9:24*

All as a result of Daniel reading Jeremiah – without the Word, he might have missed it all

WHAT OTHERS HAVE SAID

We know more of the personal history of Daniel, of his character, than of any of the other Prophets. What a man of faith he was! In the great Faith chapter of the New Testament, in the cloud of witnesses, his name is not mentioned, but his deeds are there. “Who through faith subdued kingdoms, wrote righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions” (Hebrews 11:33). Who is able to describe this truly great man? As a mere lad he was brought from Jerusalem to Babylon. In a short time he rose to the highest position in the empire. He continued even unto the first year of King Cyrus. What faithfulness is exhibited in his life. His dependence on God, his deep piety and humility are mentioned in nearly every chapter of the book. He was a great man of prayer. He talked with angels and the angel Gabriel addressed him thrice as “the man greatly beloved”. The Lord appeared unto him and he had the visions of God. He outlived the captivity of seventy years and was a very old man when Jehovah, whom he knew so well and whom he had so greatly honoured by his faith, gave him the promise. “But go thy way till the end be; for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days” (Chapter 12:13). *Gaebelein, The Prophet Daniel*

Daniel: A role model

A RARE THING

CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER | GIFT | TESTIMONY | PRAYERS | COURAGE | THE WORD

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