

## Message 4 Destiny

### ***Isaiah 46:8-11***

***8 "Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors,***

***9 remember the former things of old;***

***for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me,***

***10 declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'***

***11 calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country.***

***I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;***

***I have purposed, and I will do it.***

This sermon will help people understand how God orchestrates intersections to change their hearts and help them to faithfully live out their destinies.

The Israelites languished in captivity.



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The fierce Babylonians had invaded Judah, sacked Jerusalem, and taken most of the inhabitants back to their own country. But as most of the Israelites fled their homes, with little hope of returning, the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, commanded his officials to find the best and brightest Israelite men to come serve in his royal court.

These men, who worshiped Yahweh, would be forced to study the philosophy and religion of the Babylonians to worship their false gods.

But one of the bright young men taken to serve Nebuchadnezzar was Daniel.

Daniel refused to eat the king's food and worship the king's idols and God blessed him.

***(Daniel 1:8-9) But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.***

***9 And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs,***

Why, because Daniel gained the respect of the king and his officials for his wisdom, discernment, and resolute character.



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***(Daniel 1:18-20) At the end of the time, when the king had commanded that they should be brought in, the chief of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.***

***19 And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king.***

***20 And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom.***

And then one day, God orchestrated an intersection that would catapult Daniel to second in command over the whole kingdom.

In the second year of his reign, God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a nightmare that kept him awake at night.

After the magicians and sorcerers couldn't interpret his dream, the king became so enraged that he planned to kill all the wise men in Babylon.

***(Daniel 2:1-12) In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him.***



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***2 Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.***

***3 And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream."***

***4 Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation."***

***5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins.***

***6 But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation."***

***7 They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation."***

***8 The king answered and said, "I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm—***

***9 if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt***



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*words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation."*

*10 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean.*

*11 The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh."*

*12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed*

But Daniel stood up, trusted God, and volunteered to interpret the king's dream.

*(Daniel 2:14-18) Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon.*

*15 He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel.*



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***16 And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.***

***17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,***

***18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.***

Daniel recognized the opportunity that God had given him to intersect the king's life and save thousands of lives.

So, Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream, gave God the glory, saved all the wise men, and was made prime minister in Babylon, all because of the intersections God had set out in Daniel's life.

***(Daniel 2:46-49) Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him.***

***47 The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery."***



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***48 Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.***

***49 Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.***

God ordained intersections so that Daniel's life would come into contact with King Nebuchadnezzar.

God kept intersecting the king's life with His truth and sovereignty until finally Nebuchadnezzar repented and humbled himself before the Lord

***(Daniel 4:34-37) At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;***

***35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"***

***36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was***



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*established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.*

*37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*

Daniel played a major role in the God-ordained intersections that led to the conversion of the pagan king who ruled over them.

As Daniel simply walked in obedience to the Lord, He directed Daniel's path and used him to direct the course of an entire empire.

Daniel fulfilled his destiny as his life followed the twists and turns of God's will. And so can we, if we keep our eyes open, looking for God-ordained intersections.

## **Take-Aways**

### **1. GOD ORDAINS INTERSECTIONS TO LEAD YOU TO YOUR DESTINY.**

Intersections are the points of connection that God orchestrates to lead you to your destiny.



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Intersections often come as you're doing the ordinary, routine tasks of everyday life.

## **2. THROUGH INTERSECTIONS, GOD CAN CHANGE YOUR HEART.**

Through the normal intersections of life, God changes our hearts and gives us a burning passion to walk in a certain direction.

Saul's trip to recover his father's donkeys led him to Samuel who anointed Saul as the first king of Israel. (1 Samuel 9)

Saul wanted to turn back when he couldn't find the donkeys

Saul's servant suggested they find Samuel, the "man of God," to help them find the donkeys

Meanwhile, God spoke to Samuel and told him to look for Saul, the man from the tribe of Benjamin was on a journey to find his father's donkeys.

God told Samuel to anoint Saul as Israel's first king.



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### **3. WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER INTERSECTIONS, GOD DESIRES YOUR FAITHFULNESS.**

Moses faithfully herded sheep for 40 years until he noticed a burning bush that didn't burn up.

When Moses got close, he heard God's voice calling him to redeem the Israelites from Egyptian slavery. (Exodus 3:1-10)

When God intersected Moses's life, Moses discovered his destiny to save God's people.

God knows where He's taking us and He walks with us every step of the way.

All He asks is for our faithfulness.

*(Isaiah 46:8-11) "Remember this and stand firm,  
recall it to mind, you transgressors,  
9 remember the former things of old;  
for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none  
like me,  
10 declaring the end from the beginning*



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*and from ancient times things not yet done,  
saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
and I will accomplish all my purpose,'  
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the man of my counsel from a far country.  
I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass;  
I have purposed, and I will do it.*

## CLOSING:

As we travel to and from work each day, we drive through many intersections.

When we get to an intersection and the light turns green, we have the option to go straight, turn right, or turn left.

How do we decide which direction to go?

It all depends on our ultimate destination.

Very rarely do we hop in the car and head out if we don't know where we're going.



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But often Christians set out on their daily journeys without knowing where they're going—because they don't know their destiny.

But as we faithfully complete the daily assignments God has given us, and as we keep our hearts and minds focused on Him, He will lead us to and through the intersections that will take us to our destiny.

Be Faithful Chasing Donkeys: Before he became king, Saul's father sent him on a mission to find his missing donkeys.

So Saul and his servant set out.

When they couldn't find the donkeys, Saul wanted to turn around and go home.

But his servant wanted to seek the guidance of the man of God, the prophet of God, who was nearby.

So why would the servant want to involve a prophet of God in donkey chasing?

Saul's servant understood that God is the God of the ordinary.

During this time, God told the man of God, Samuel, that Saul, the future king of Israel, would be coming his way.

God orchestrated this intersection while Saul was just chasing his father's donkeys.



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Many of us stumble across most of God's intersections while we're chasing donkeys, while we're faithfully going about the ordinary tasks of everyday life.

"God is a God of the ordinary, not merely the extraordinary."

"Most of God's intersections will come through your ordinary donkey-chasing."

"If you would just be faithful chasing donkeys...God knows how to hook you up and connect you, at the right place, at the right time, with the right person."

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- 2. THROUGH INTERSECTIONS, GOD CAN CHANGE YOUR HEART.**
- 3. WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER INTERSECTIONS, GOD DESIRES YOUR FAITHFULNESS.**



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