

A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT

The Foundation Holds

F — FOUNDATIONAL: God, Truth, and Reality

Daniel 4:17 • John 14:6 • 2 Corinthians 4:18

ANCHOR VERSE

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. — Genesis 1:1"

"What is ultimately real and true?"

F — FOUNDATIONAL | God • Truth • Reality

The Awakening

Everything depends on the foundation. In architecture, the foundation is invisible once the building is complete — hidden beneath the floors, buried below grade, taken for granted by everyone who walks through the door. But if it shifts, everything above it shifts. If it cracks, the cracks travel upward. If it fails, nothing built on it survives.

The Foundational dimension of FRAME addresses three questions that function exactly this way in the life of faith and the structure of any worldview: Who or what is ultimate? How do we know what is real? What exists? Every other conviction — about identity, purpose, governance, and eternal destiny — rests on the answers given here. Get the foundation wrong, and the entire structure eventually collapses. Babylon understood this. It did not simply imprison Daniel and his three friends; it systematically attacked their foundation, renaming them, re-educating them, and reorienting their diet — attempting to rebuild their entire worldview from the ground up.

The foundation held. This devotional examines why — and what that means for us.

The Foundational Texts: Genesis 1:1 and Daniel 4:17

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." — Genesis 1:1

Four words establish everything: 'In the beginning God.' Before anything else existed, God was. He is not a product of the universe — He is its Author. He is not one force among many — He is the singular, uncaused, self-existent Creator of all that is. Every worldview question flows from this opening claim. Who is ultimate? God. Where did reality come from? God created it. How do we know truth? God has revealed it.

"The Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes and sets over them the lowliest of people." — Daniel 4:17

These are not Daniel's words — they are the words of the messenger who appeared to Nebuchadnezzar, the most powerful man in the ancient world, to remind him of what the Foundational dimension establishes: God is sovereign over kingdoms, cultures, and human history. The mightiest empire in Daniel's world was accountable to a higher throne.

What the Text Reveals

God — Who or What Is Ultimate?

Biblical Theism's answer to the first Foundational question is precise: God is personal, triune, and the Creator of all that exists. He is not an impersonal force to be channeled, an absentee clockmaker who wound up the universe and walked away, or a projection of human hope onto the cosmos. He is self-existent — not dependent on anything outside Himself for His being — and self-sufficient — lacking nothing.

This matters enormously, because what you believe about the nature of ultimate reality determines everything downstream. If ultimate reality is impersonal — energy, karma, the universe, the market, the state — then human dignity is an accidental byproduct, not a design. If ultimate reality is personal but not triune, then love is not intrinsic to God's nature — He had to create beings to love, making creation necessary rather than free. Biblical Theism alone establishes a God who is love within Himself (Father, Son, Spirit) before creation began — which means creation is not God's need but God's gift.

The Holy Spirit's role is foundational in the most immediate, personal sense: before any human being can even recognize the need for God, the Spirit convicts. Salvation begins not with human searching but with divine initiative. We loved Him because He first loved us (1 John 4:19). This is the Foundational dimension operating at the level of personal transformation — the God who is ultimate does not wait for us to find our way to Him. He comes first.

Truth — How Do We Know What Is Real?

The second Foundational question — epistemology, or the theory of knowledge — determines how every other truth claim is evaluated. If truth is objective and revealed by God, then there is a standard outside of human experience that judges all claims. If truth is subjective and constructed by culture, then no worldview can claim to be right; it can only claim to be dominant.

Biblical Theism holds that truth is objective, knowable, and revealed. God's Word is not one perspective among many on a flat landscape of equally valid options — it is the standard by which all other truth claims are measured. This does not mean Christians are infallible; it means Scripture is authoritative. The distinction matters: we are fallible interpreters of an infallible text.

This hermeneutical conviction has a practical implication that Daniel modeled: you cannot be absorbed by a culture's truth claims while remaining anchored to Scripture. Daniel engaged Babylonian wisdom, literature, and learning — God gave him skill in all of these (Dan 1:17) — but he never confused Babylonian epistemology with biblical revelation. He could excel in their system without adopting their assumptions. That capacity requires a clear, settled conviction about the source and standard of truth.

Revival always requires this dimension to be addressed directly, because we live in a culture where the definition of truth is contested at the most fundamental level. Week 2 of Revival 2026 calls for the examination of spiritual blind spots — areas where we believe lies we don't even know we believe. That self-examination only works if there is an objective standard against which our assumptions can be tested. Relativism has no capacity to produce genuine repentance; only objective truth can reveal objective failure.

Reality — What Exists?

The third Foundational question addresses ontology — what kinds of things actually exist. Biblical Theism's answer is both against materialism (only matter exists) and against pure spiritualism (the physical is illusory or evil). Reality is dual-dimensional: physical and spiritual, both created by God, both genuine, both significant.

This means angels and demons are real — not metaphorical forces but actual agents operating in the world. Daniel experienced this directly: the prince of Persia delayed the angel sent to him for twenty-one days (Dan 10:13) — a passage that reveals behind-the-scenes spiritual conflict that was invisible to every physical observer but entirely real in its effects on the physical world. The kingdoms Daniel navigated were genuinely governed by spiritual powers he could not see.

The practical implication is what the Revival 2026 curriculum calls 'spiritual eyesight' — the capacity to see people not merely as physical beings with material needs and social roles, but as souls with eternal destinations. On a scale from zero to ten, where zero is seeing only the physical and ten is seeing everything through the lens of spiritual reality, the Foundational commitment to dual-dimensional reality invites ongoing movement toward ten. Not everyone you encounter is simply what they appear to be. Every person is an immortal soul heading somewhere.

The Biblical Architecture

The Daniel Pattern — When the Foundation Is Tested

Daniel's entire book is a sustained case study in what happens when a Foundational worldview is tested by a hostile, totalizing culture. Babylon did not ask Daniel to abandon his faith privately. It asked him to inhabit a completely different reality — one in which the Babylonian gods were ultimate, Babylonian wisdom was truth, and Babylonian society was the only reality worth navigating.

Daniel's resistance was not rigid or defensive. He was brilliant, excellent, and deeply engaged with Babylonian culture. But his engagement was always from the foundation, not without it. When he interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream and could have taken credit, he immediately redirected to the God who reveals mysteries (Dan 2:28). When he was elevated to ruler over Babylon, his first recorded action was to ask the king to appoint others over the province's affairs while he himself remained in the royal court — maintaining proximity to power while refusing to be captured by it (Dan 2:49).

The foundation held not because Daniel avoided pressure but because the foundation was deep enough that pressure could not reach it. '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' (Dan 6:10). The decree changed nothing because the foundation was not built on circumstances.

The Uniqueness of Biblical Theism

It is worth pausing to register what makes the Foundational dimension of the FRAME genuinely distinct from every competing worldview. Six major worldview families offer competing answers to the same three Foundational questions:

- **Secularism:** No God exists; truth is empirically determined; only physical reality is real. Result: human beings are highly evolved animals with no intrinsic dignity, no objective moral standard, and no destination beyond death.
- **Marxism:** No God exists; truth serves class interests; material forces drive history. Result: human beings are economic units, morality is ideology, and the only ultimate reality is the class struggle.
- **Islam:** One God exists (but not Trinity); truth is the Qur'an; physical and spiritual reality exist. Intersection with Christianity at several points, but Christ is denied as Son and Savior.
- **Hinduism:** Ultimate reality is Brahman (impersonal divine force); truth is relative across paths; physical reality is maya (illusion). Result: no stable foundation for human dignity, science, or justice.
- **New Spirituality:** All is divine; truth is personal spiritual experience; physical reality is an expression of cosmic consciousness. Result: no external standard for truth or morality.
- **Postmodernism:** No ultimate reality; truth is socially constructed; reality is a language game. Result: every truth claim is a power move; no worldview is more true than any other.

None of these worldviews can sustain the things they often claim to value — human rights, scientific inquiry, genuine justice, or meaningful love — because none of them have a foundation capable of bearing that weight. A personal, triune God who reveals objective truth and creates a dual-dimensional reality is the only foundation on which those commitments can actually stand.

Connections to the Revival Journey

The Foundational dimension maps to Week 1 of the Revival 2026 curriculum — Urgent Dependence — and extends through the entire series:

- **Week 1 — Urgency and Dependence:** You cannot be urgently dependent on a God whose nature is unclear. Foundational clarity about who God is — personal, sovereign, initiating — is what makes dependence rational rather than emotional. 'Work as if everything depends on you; pray as if everything depends on God' is only coherent if God is the kind of God who can actually do something when you pray.
 - **Week 2 — Repentance:** Genuine repentance requires an objective moral standard (Truth) and awareness of eternal stakes (Reality). Blind spots cannot be exposed without a light source external to the blind person. The Foundational conviction that Scripture is authoritative truth is what makes Week 2's self-examination possible and productive.
 - **Week 3 — Prayer:** Prayer makes no sense unless God is personal (He hears), sovereign (He can act), and engaged with both dimensions of reality (He operates in the spiritual realm that intersects the physical). Foundational clarity transforms prayer from wish-projection to genuine communion.
 - **Weeks 4–6 — Mission:** The urgency of the gospel — the 'brokenhearted boldness' that marks Week 4 — flows from the Foundational conviction that reality includes eternal dimensions. People are not merely physical. They are souls. And souls have destinations.
-

The Question That Matters Most

FOR REFLECTION

When the culture challenges your convictions, is God your foundation — or your preference?

Nebuchadnezzar tried to give Daniel a new name (Belteshazzar), a new education (Babylonian wisdom), and a new diet (royal food). He succeeded on one of the three. Daniel accepted the name — names were imposed on captives as a matter of practice. But he refused the food and held to the truth. He knew which battles were essential to the foundation and which were circumstances.

The diagnostic question for the Foundational dimension is not whether you believe in God, truth, and spiritual reality. Most people who would read this devotional would affirm all three. The diagnostic question is whether those convictions are functional in the moments when the culture presses hardest.

- **When the culture redefines truth as personal narrative:** does Scripture remain your standard, or does it soften into one voice among many?
- **When circumstances make God's sovereignty seem implausible:** do you trust His governance of kingdoms, or do you reach for human control?
- **When people around you are treated as merely physical beings:** do you see souls, or do you unconsciously adopt the materialist lens?

The foundation holds not when life is easy but when the decree goes up on the door. What holds then is what was built before.

A Prayer from the Awakening

Father,

You are the Beginning. Before anything else was, You were — self-existent, self-sufficient, sovereign, and love. You did not need to create. You chose to. And You did not stand at a distance from what You made. You spoke truth into it, breathed image into us, and then — when we abandoned the foundation — You rebuilt it at the cost of Your own Son.

Forgive us for treating You as a preference rather than a foundation. Forgive us for the moments when cultural pressure moved our convictions more than Your Word did. Forgive us for seeing only the physical when You have given us eyes for the eternal.

Establish the Foundational in us — not as intellectual conviction only, but as the bedrock on which every other dimension of life is built. Make us people of whom it can be said, as it was said of Daniel: when the decree went up, nothing changed, because the foundation was already set.

You are the Most High, sovereign over all kingdoms on earth. We rest in that today.

In the name of Jesus, who is Lord over all,

Amen.

Scripture Treasury

Foundational texts for meditation and further study

God — Who Is Ultimate?

Genesis 1:1 — *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Colossians 1:16–17 — *All things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

Daniel 4:17 — *The Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth.*

John 16:8 — *When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment.*

Truth — How Do We Know?

John 14:6 — *I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

John 17:17 — *Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.*

2 Timothy 3:16–17 — *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.*

Reality — What Exists?

2 Corinthians 4:18 — *What is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*

Ephesians 6:12 — *Our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, authorities, and powers of this dark world.*

Daniel 10:12–13 — *The prince of Persia resisted the angel for twenty-one days — spiritual conflict behind physical events.*

Daniel's Foundational Witness

Daniel 1:8 — *Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine.*

Daniel 2:28 — *There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.*

Daniel 6:10 — *Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, just as he had done before.*