

A large, round hay bale is the central focus, positioned in a grassy field. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a sky filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of blue, orange, and yellow. In the background, there are trees with autumn foliage and two smaller hay bales. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and rural.

Welcome to Blaine Lake Gospel Chapel

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8

THE MOST HIGH IS SOVEREIGN

Daniel 4

By His Excellency the Right Honorable JOHN Earl of DUNMORE, His Majesty's Lieutenant and Governour General of the Colony and Dominion of VIRGINIA, and Vice Admiral of the Sea.

A PROCLAMATION.

AS I have ever entertained Hopes, that an Accommodation might have taken Place between GREAT-BRITAIN and this Colony, without being compelled by my Duty to this most disagreeable but now absolutely necessary Step, rendered so by a Body of armed Men unlawfully assembled, going on His MAJESTY'S Troops, and the formation of an Army, and that Army now on their March to attack His Majesty's Troops and destroy the well affected Subjects of this Colony. To defeat such reasonable Purposes, and that all such Traitors, and their Abettors, may be brought to Justice, and that the Peace, and good Order of this Colony may be again restored, which the ordinary Course of the Civil Law is unable to effect; I have thought fit to issue this my Proclamation, hereby declaring, that until the aforesaid good Purposes can be obtained, I do in Virtue of the Power and Authority to ME given, by His MAJESTY, determine to execute Martial Law, and cause the same to be executed throughout this Colony; and to that end that Peace and good Order may the sooner be restored, I do require every Person capable of bearing Arms, to resort to His MAJESTY'S STANDARD, or be looked upon as Traitors to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Government, and thereby become liable to the Penalty the Law inflicts upon such Offences; such as forfeiture of Life, confiscation of Lands, &c. &c. And I do hereby further declare all indentured Servants, Negroes, or others, (appertaining to Rebels,) free that are able and willing to bear Arms, they joining His MAJESTY'S Troops as soon as may be, for the more speedily reducing this Colony to a proper Sense of their Duty, to His MAJESTY'S Crown and Dignity. I do further order, and require, all His MAJESTY'S Lige Subjects, to retain their Quitrents, or any other Taxes due or that may become due, in their own Custody, till such Time as Peace may be again restored to this at present most unhappy Country, or demanded of them for their former military Purposes, by Officers properly authorized to receive the same.

GIVEN under my Hand on board the Ship WILLIAM of NORFOLK,
the 7th Day of NOVEMBER, in the SIXTEENTH Year of His Majesty's Reign.

DUNMORE.

(GOD save the KING.)

TESTIMONY

- Proclamation letter from the king to all his subjects.

INTRODUCTION – OPENING OF THE LETTER

- King Nebuchadnezzar
- to all peoples, nations, and languages that live throughout the earth:
- May you have abundant prosperity!
- The signs and wonders that **the Most High God** has worked for me I am pleased to recount (1:2).

HYMN OF PRAISE TO GOD

How great are his signs,

how mighty his wonders!

His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,

and his sovereignty is from generation to generation (3).

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Psalm 145:13

THE SETTING

- I, Nebuchadnezzar, was living at ease in my home and prospering in my palace.
- I saw a dream that frightened me; my fantasies in bed and the visions of my head terrified me.
- So I made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be brought before me, in order that they might tell me the interpretation of the dream.
- Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the diviners came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not tell me its interpretation (4-7).

DANIEL'S ENTRANCE

- At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and who is endowed with a spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the **dream**:
- ‘O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods and that no mystery is too difficult for you.
- Hear the **dream** that I saw; tell me its interpretation’ (8-9).

DANIEL'S ENTRANCE

- At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and who is endowed with a spirit of the holy gods—I told him the dream:
- ‘O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, I know that you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods and that no mystery is too difficult for you.’
- Hear the dream to which I told him its interpretation’ (8:1-3).

“God” in the Hebrew language

The Babylonian name for their god

Upon my bed this is what I saw;
there was a tree at the centre of the earth,
and its height was great.
The tree grew great and strong,
its top reached to heaven,
and it was visible to the ends of the whole earth.
Its foliage was beautiful,
its fruit abundant,
and it provided food for all.
The animals of the field found shade under it,
the birds of the air nested in its branches,
and from it all living beings were fed (10-12).

- ‘I continued looking, in the visions of my head as I lay in bed, and there was a holy watcher, coming down from heaven. He cried aloud and said:

“Cut down the tree and chop off its branches,
strip off its foliage and scatter its fruit.
Let the animals flee from beneath it
and the birds from its branches.
But leave its stump and roots in the ground,
with a band of iron and bronze,
in the tender grass of the field (13-15).

Let **him** be bathed with the dew of heaven,
and let **his** lot be with the animals of the field
in the grass of the earth.

Let **his** mind be changed from that of a human,
and let the mind of an animal be given to **him**

And let seven times pass over **him**

The sentence is rendered by decree of **the watchers**

the decision is given by order of **the holy ones,**

in order that all who live may know

that **the Most High** is **sovereign** over **the kingdom of mortals;**

he gives it to whom he will

and sets over it the lowliest of human beings” (15-17)

REQUEST FOR UNDERSTANDING

- ‘This is the dream that I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw.
- Now you, Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation, since all the wise men of my kingdom are unable to tell me the interpretation.
- You are able, however, for you are endowed with a spirit of the holy gods (18).

DANIEL HESITATES

- Then Daniel, who was called Belteshazzar, was severely distressed for a while. His thoughts terrified him.
- The king said,
 - ‘Belteshazzar, do not let the **dream** or the interpretation terrify you.’
- Belteshazzar answered,
 - ‘My lord, may the **dream** be for those who hate you, and its interpretation for your enemies!’

► The tree that you saw, which grew great and strong, so that its top reached to heaven and was visible to the end of the whole earth, whose foliage was beautiful and its fruit abundant, and which provided food for all, under which animals of the field lived, and in whose branches the birds of the air had nests — it is you, O king!

You have grown great and strong.

Your greatness has increased and reaches to heaven, and your sovereignty to the ends of the earth.

(20-22)

- And whereas the king saw a holy watcher coming down from heaven and saying,
 - “Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave its stump and roots in the ground, with a band of iron and bronze, in the grass of the field; and let him be bathed with the dew of heaven, and let his lot be with the animals of the field, until seven times pass over him”—this is the interpretation, O king and it is a decree of the Most High that has come upon my lord the king:

(23-24)

- You shall be driven away from human society, and your dwelling shall be with the wild animals. You shall be made to eat grass like oxen, you shall be bathed with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over you until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals, and gives it to whom he will.
- As it was commanded to leave the stump and roots of the tree your kingdom shall be re-established for you from the time that you learn that Heaven is sovereign (25-26).

DANIEL'S ADVICE

- Therefore, **O king,** may my counsel be acceptable to **you**
 - atone for **your sins** with righteousness,
 - and **your iniquities** with mercy to the oppressed,
 - so that **your** prosperity may be prolonged' (27).

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8

DREAM FULFILLED

- All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.
- At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, and the king said,
 - ‘Is this not magnificent Babylon, which I have built as a royal capital by my mighty power and for my glorious majesty?’
- While the words were still in the king’s mouth, a voice came from heaven:

(28-31)

JUDGEMENT DECLARED

➤ 'O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared:

➤ The kingdom has departed from you

➤ You shall be driven away from human society, and your dwelling shall be with the animals of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like oxen, and seven times shall pass over you until you have learned that the Most High has sovereignty over the kingdom of mortals and gives it to whom he will' (31-32).

JUDGEMENT DELIVERED

- **Immediately** the sentence was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar.
- He was driven away from human society, ate grass like oxen, and his body was bathed with the dew of heaven, until his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers and his nails became like birds' claws (33).

COMING TO HIS SENSES

- When that period was over, I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me.

I blessed the Most High,
and praised and honoured the one who lives for ever.
For his sovereignty is an everlasting sovereignty,
and his kingdom endures from generation to generation.
All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and he does what he wills with the host of heaven
and the inhabitants of the earth.
There is no one who can stay his hand
or say to him, 'What are you doing?'

(34-35)

REGAINING THE KINGDOM

- At that time my reason returned to me; and my majesty and splendour were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom. My counsellors and my lords sought me out, I was re-established over my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honour the King of heaven,

for all his works are truth,
and his ways are justice;
and he is able to bring low
those who walk in pride.

(36-37)

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S BLESSING

I **blessed** **the Most High**,
and **praised** and **honoured** **the one who lives for ever**.
For **his** **sovereignty** is an everlasting sovereignty,
and **his** **kingdom** endures from generation to generation.

All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing,
and **he** does what he wills with the host of heaven
and the inhabitants of the earth.

There is no one who can stay his hand
or say to **him**, 'What are **you** doing?'

RESPONSE TO THE KING OF HEAVEN

➤ Praise and Extol and Honour **the King of heaven,**

for all **his** works are truth,

and **his** ways are justice;

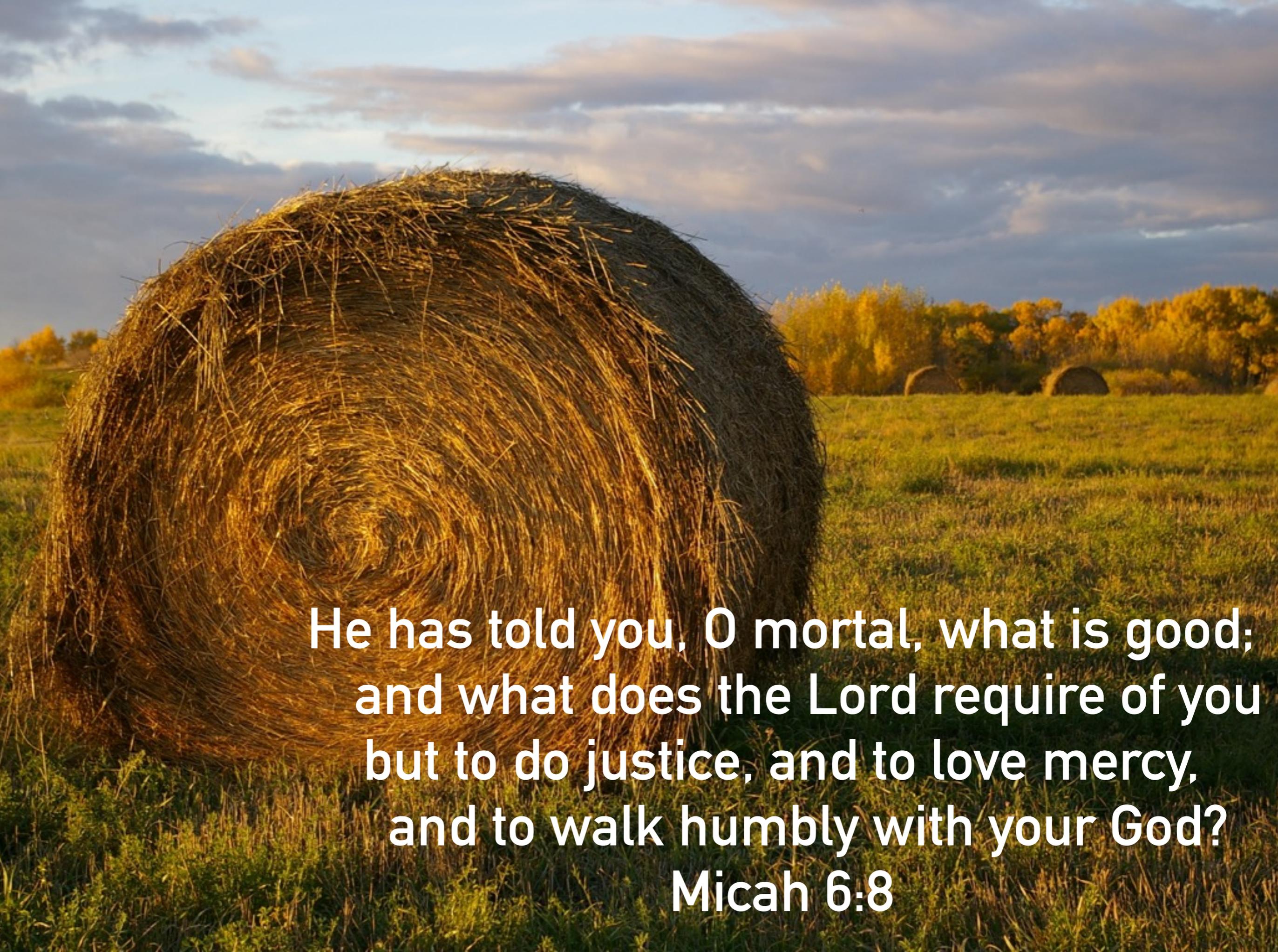
and **he** is able to bring low

those who walk in pride. (37)

➤ atone for your sins with righteousness,

➤ and your iniquities with mercy to the oppressed,

➤ so that your prosperity may be prolonged' (27).

A large, round hay bale is the central focus of the image, positioned in a grassy field. The scene is set during sunset or sunrise, with a sky filled with soft, golden light and scattered clouds. In the background, there are trees with yellowing leaves and two smaller hay bales. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and rural.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God?
Micah 6:8