

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Part 9

Introduction: Last week in our study we looked at the final lesson on the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. God had revealed to Daniel the dream and the meaning. Daniel then made it known to the king. The image in the dream pictured the Times of the Gentiles. The different metals represented the different Gentile kingdoms which would rule over the Jewish people until the time when Jesus returns and sets up His Kingdom. His Kingdom will not be of this world nor is it brought about by man for it is a Kingdom not made with hands. When Jesus Kingdom is set up it will suddenly strike and destroy all the Gentile kingdoms. It will not slowly overtake the Gentile governments of the world, but it will suddenly strike and destroy the ungodly kingdoms.

Daniel 2:34-35

³⁴ Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

³⁵ Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

As we now move on in the passage we will see the response of the king.

Daniel Honored

Notice Daniel 2:46

The king was truly overwhelmed by Daniel's ability to tell the dream and to interpret the dream. We will get to the king's worship of Daniel in a moment, but there is a picture here that we need to see. Nebuchadnezzar is the head of gold, so he represents all the Gentile nations in the Times of the Gentiles. Therefore, as he falls prostrate before Daniel, he then is a picture of how the Gentile world will one day bow the knee to the True King as He sets up His Kingdom.

Jeremiah 3:16-17

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land, in those days, saith the LORD, they shall say no more, The ark of the covenant of the LORD: neither shall it come to mind: neither shall they remember it; neither shall they visit it; neither shall that be done any more.

¹⁷ At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.

Zechariah 14:16

¹⁶ And it shall come to pass, that every one that is left of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the LORD of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles.

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Notice Daniel 2:46 again.

Many people want to criticize Daniel here because they say he is accepting worship that is to be given to God. But as we move onto the next verse, we see that the True worship is given to God.

Notice Daniel 2:47

The king makes some very significant declarations here.

1. God is a God of gods.

The king sees God as being greater than all the Babylonian gods.

2. Lord of kings.

Here Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges that Daniel's God is sovereign over the kings of the world.

Proverbs 8:15-16

¹⁵ *By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.*

¹⁶ *By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.*

3. Revealer of secrets.

This is a statement referring to the omniscience of God meaning that He is all knowing.

Now as we read the words of Nebuchadnezzar it would appear as though the king has had a change of heart and maybe he has become a believer. But that is not the case. There has been a seed planted and for that we must not miss the importance of Daniel's faithful walk in this chapter. It is because of Daniel's relationship with his God and Daniel's faith in the True God that his life has made such an impact on the king.

Application:

Here once again we see the importance of our walk with the Lord in the midst of this corrupt world that we live in. We are to speak the Truth into the lives of the unsaved that we know but we must not miss the fact that if they are going to believe our message our lives must manifest what we proclaim. The world is full of people who preach one thing and then live a life completely contrary to their words. There is no need for any more hypocrites in our society. There is a need for people of integrity. There is a need for believers to live what they say they believe. This is what will get the attention of the lost.

Titus 2:7-8

⁷ *In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,*

⁸ *Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.*

1 Peter 3:15-17

¹⁵ *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

¹⁶ Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

¹⁷ For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

There is another application which is more personal that I had heard this week. As fathers it is so important that we live in a way in which our children and our grandchildren can the character of God within us.

Matthew 6:9

⁹ After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

I show you this verse just as a reminder that God is our Father. If our children are going to have the correct perspective of God, they must see His character within us. Children will consider God to be like their earthly father so we must live lives that are honoring to God so that our children will have the correct perspective about God in their childhood years.

➤ Daniel's Promotion

Notice Daniel 2:48

Daniel was promoted and it was for the purpose of God. Notice the statement from the Jewish Study Bible.

"In God's providence, Daniel is promoted to a position of great authority with the ability to ensure the Jews arriving in Babylon in subsequent deportations will be treated fairly. We see another parallel between Joseph and Daniel—both were promoted to positions of power while remaining faithful in their service to God."

God could have simply promoted Daniel by putting the thought in the mind of the king, but that was not the plan of God. God would allow Daniel and his friends to face a death sentence and then deliver them through the interpretation of the dream.

Application:

Let us be reminded that God's ways are not our ways. Every uncomfortable situation that we face in our lives is used by God to accomplish His purpose. Situations such as this which

Daniel and his friends went through are recorded for us to learn from in order that our faith becomes stronger.

1 Peter 1:3-8

³ *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

⁴ *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

⁵ *Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

⁶ *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

⁷ *That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

⁸ *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

Notice Daniel 2:49

Daniel did not forget about his companions. They too were promoted but Daniel sat in the gate of the city. This was the political center of the city. It is believed that Daniel was second in command under the king and he controlled access to the king.

Conclusion/Lessons from the chapter:

1. Turn to God when faced with challenges.

Daniel and his friends did not attempt to escape the situation with their own wisdom but instead they looked to the Lord.

2. Trust God to place us where He wants us to be.

Daniel and his friends were promoted to honorable positions but neither of them did anything to manipulate those above them in order to get the promotions. Instead, they were focused upon their relationship with their God.

Notice the words of Garland.

"These young men understood that those who know and obey God need not worry about worldly issues of advancement. Instead, they can rest in God knowing He is responsible for their future and the way He intends to use them."

The bottom line is that we are to just serve the Lord and He will place us where He desires for us to be a light for Him.

3. There is no need for the believer to fear death.

It is interesting in this text that Daniel and his friends were under the sentence of death, but we do not see any panic in them at all. They were willing to accept whatever was appointed to them.

Notice the words of Dean.

"Temporal suffering did not challenge [Daniel]. And that brings up a point, and that is I'm amazed at how few Christians have ever seriously faced the reality of their own death. I'm amazed how many Christians have never faced the reality of the death of their children, and until you are so occupied with the reality of an eternal relationship with God and its implications, and that physical death is simply walking through a door from time into eternity, until you come to grips with that you will never be able to live for God because if you're not willing to die for the eternal truths of Scripture, then you will not be able to live for the eternal truths of Scripture because you'll be too consumed and constricted by your fears about a loss of life."

4. The power of group prayer.

It is a privilege to have friends to pray with. We need friends who will unite with us in prayer. Daniel had friends to pray with. Esther had friends to pray with.

Matthew 18:19

¹⁹ *Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.*