

The Salvation of Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 4

Part 4

Introduction: Tonight, as we return to our study of Daniel we have come to Daniel's interpretation of the king's dream. The king had a dream in which he saw a rather large tree that provided for many people and creatures. Then an angel came from heaven and announced that it was to be cut down. But the stump and the roots were to be left, and he was to be driven out into the field with the beasts of the earth as he would be given the heart of a beast. This would come upon the king, and it would last for 7 times which was 7 years.

Notice Daniel 4:13-16

As we then go into Daniel 4:17 we were permitted to see the purpose behind all of this falling upon the king.

Notice Daniel 4:17

All of this was to glorify God as man would see that it is God who rules the events of the world and not man. It is God who places man where He wants him to be in this world. People think that they are in control of their lives and that they can build their own kingdoms. But the Truth is that God places us where He desires for us to be and it is God that gives us the intellect and the talents to do what we do. In verse 17 we are told that it is God who rules in the kingdom of men.

I want to take this thought and make it more personal for our lives. Wherever we are in our lives as believers we are there for a purpose. Therefore, we are to conduct our lives as unto the Lord for you are serving Him where you are at.

Colossians 3:23-24

²³ *And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;*

²⁴ *Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*

With this thought we must also consider how we are to serve in the place God has us.

Philippians 2:14-15

¹⁴ *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

¹⁵ *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*

Let us now get to our study for this evening.

➤ **Daniel Interprets the Dream**

Notice Daniel 4:18

The king had been made afraid by the dream, but he wanted to know the meaning of the dream.

Application:

This characteristic of the king is commendable. He did not know the meaning of the dream, but he suspected that it was not good and at the same time he desired to know the Truth. For a person to come to the place where they can say, "I want the Truth of God's Word even if it turns my world upside down and even if it cuts deeply. I just need to know what God has for me." This is a great place for each of us to come to.

John 8:31-32

³¹ *Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

³² *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

There are many times in which the Word of God cuts across the grain in our lives. But it is always for the best. It may be to open our eyes to a danger that we are headed for. It may be to redirect our steps into someone's life that needs to hear the Gospel. It may be to convict us of sin that we have allowed to get into our lives. We should always desire to know more of the Truth so that we will be more like our Savior. The Word of God is one of the chisels God uses to chip away the imperfections in our lives. When we do not submit to the Word then God will use the experiences of life to chip away the imperfections. This we shall see in the life of Nebuchadnezzar.

Notice Daniel 4:19

Daniel was very troubled as God revealed the dream to him. At the end of the verse Daniel said, "My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to

thine enemies." What is he saying here? It could read like this, *"My lord, if only the dream applied to those who hate you and its interpretation to your adversaries!"*

Daniel had grown to be good friends with the king. When he understood the interpretation of the dream, he was heartbroken to think of what the king was headed for. This certainly helps us to see the humanity of Daniel.

Application:

The questions for us here are, "How do we answer people when they ask hard questions? Do we tell them the Truth?"

Ephesians 4:15

¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

We are exhorted to speak the Truth in love even when it is not what our audience desires to hear. We are not called to soften the Truth as many do. We are called to speak the Truth even if our audience is set against it. They may resist but we must have faith in the promise of God.

Isaiah 55:10-11

¹⁰ For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Notice Daniel 4:20-26

Daniel was straight forward with the interpretation. He held nothing back.

Notice Daniel 4:27

Here is a verse that we need to look at closely. The king had been told what was going to come upon him and it was a state of insanity for 7 years. Then we come to this verse, and we see that the king was standing at a crossroads. The king was given a way of escape. If he would humble himself and break away from his sins this would not come upon him. We

must see that Daniel cared enough to confront the king. This could have brought several consequences for Daniel. Notice the statement concerning Daniel's courage.

"Daniel needed real courage to inform his royal master that his rule was marred by the sin of oppression and callousness toward the poor and disadvantaged among his people. Daniel's candor might have cost him his high office or even his life."

Getting back to the verse; this is what we considered last week. God gives warnings before He brings judgment. There have been many who could have escaped the judgment or the discipline of God if only they had heeded the warnings which God had sent.

1 Corinthians 11:28-32

²⁸ *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.*

²⁹ *For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.*

³⁰ *For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.*

³¹ *For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*

³² *But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.*

If we judge ourselves and deal with the sin in our lives, then God will not exercise discipline upon us. Daniel gave the interpretation to the king and then he told him if he repented of his sin, he could avoid the judgment that was coming.

➤ The Fulfillment of the Judgment

Notice Daniel 4:28

This verse tells us right away that Nebuchadnezzar ignored the warning and he rejected the way of escape. For this reason, that which God reveal in the dream came upon him.

Application:

Let us understand that when God gives a warning and it is ignored the judgment will fall just as He had foretold.

Hebrews 6:13-19

¹³ For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself,

¹⁴ Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

¹⁶ For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

¹⁷ Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

¹⁹ Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;

Numbers 23:19

¹⁹ God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Zechariah 1:6

⁶ But my words and my statutes, which I commanded my servants the prophets, did they not take hold of your fathers? and they returned and said, Like as the LORD of hosts thought to do unto us, according to our ways, and according to our doings, so hath he dealt with us.

God is true to His Word. We saw this in our study of 2 Kings on Sunday mornings. In 2 Kings 7:1 God spoke through Elisha and said the famine would end in 24 hours and that is exactly what had happened. Let us notice another prophecy that had been foretold hundreds of years before the event.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

The Word "wounded" in verse 5 means "to be pierced through with a fatal blow" and this is a reference to Jesus' crucifixion.

Zechariah 12:10

¹⁰ And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

The reference to the crucifixion is very interesting because this means of execution had not been thought of in Isaiah and Zechariah's day. They stoned or hanged people. So, hundreds of years in advance God said Jesus would be pierced though with a fatal blow and that is exactly what happened.

Conclusion:

When God gives a warning let us be quick to heed to His Word. We can be sure when God says there will be consequences for disobedience that He will be true to His Word.