

1-17-21 Lessons From Daniel

Intro: We are living in difficult times. There are a lot of people that are very discouraged about the political state of our country. The spiritual climate of our day is at an all time low. Carnality abounds in the church. It is hard to tell the Christians apart from the non Christians. The music is no different, God's people are dressing like the world, acting like the world, talking like the world. We are seeing a disdain for God's Word like never before. Everywhere I turn I see people are discouraged, especially as rumors of corruption abound, and everyone thinks that our politicians have just gone into wholesale corruption.

We have just had an election and the outcome was called into question, and it doesn't take a genius to know something was not right about how they were handled. We have come out of a year of lockdowns and quarantines, and the New Year does not seem to bring anything that seems hopeful on the horizon. In light of this many are wondering where our Lord and God is in all of this. This morning I submit that He is still on the throne and working in the affairs of men and is very much in control.

In light of the current upheavals and confusion that are taking place in this world, I thought it good to look at the book of Daniel for some enlightenment and encouragement. Through Daniel's testimony we can gain insight about the power of God to work, even in a heathen Paganistic controlled society.

So many people wonder, can anything good come from the current crisis we see taking place in America today? Many people had hoped that maybe with a new leader like Donald Trump there could be a change in Washington DC. After all, did he not campaign on the platform that he was going to drain the swamp? But instead it seems the swamp has drained him. Have we ever seen a president being censored and attacked like him? If a President could be censored and treated with such disdain, we have a lot of people wondering if they are safe in this country.

But there is hope. I say God is still on the throne.

I think in the book of Daniel we read about a time in the history of the nation of Israel that things were even bleaker than what we are facing today.

This was a day when Kings ruled, and if you had a good king things went well, if you had a wicked and abusive king things did not go well. Also, common people had no say as to who would be king. There was no voting or even a hope for a say in government.

Daniel was living in such a day. He was taken captive made a eunuch in the courts of Nebuchadnezzar, and was a servant to the state.

Daniel 1:7 Unto whom the **prince of the eunuchs** gave names: for he gave unto Daniel the name of Beltshazzar; and to Hananiah, of Shadrach; and to Mishael, of Meshach; and to Azariah, of Abed-nego.

Notice Melzar was the prince of the eunuchs. So it seems Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were made eunuchs.

Daniel only had but a few friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, who became known as Meshach, Shadrach and Abed-nego. These were the only church he had. Talk about a small church. Daniel was all alone except for these 3 friends who also loved the Lord.

So many people think they need a large church to keep their young people faithful to the Lord. You don't need a large group. You just need a group of dedicated believers. In young Daniel's case there were only four of them in their little group.

I. DANIEL PURPOSED IN HIS HEART NOT TO BE DEFILED BY THE WORLD!

IN THEIR YOUTH THEY WERE ELEVATED BECAUSE OF GOD'S BLESSING ON THEIR OBEDIENCE TO THEIR GOD.

The book of Daniel starts out with the account of their obedience to God in very difficult and spiritually hostile times. We read in Daniel 1:8 and following:

Daniel 1:8 But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank: therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Daniel 1:9 Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

Daniel 1:10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

Daniel 1:11 Then said Daniel to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah,

Daniel 1:12 Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

Daniel 1:13 Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

Daniel 1:14 So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

Daniel 1:15 And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

Daniel 1:16 Thus Melzar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

Daniel 1:17 As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

Daniel 1:18 Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 1:19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah**: therefore stood they before the king.

Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Now I think we can gain some encouragement from this account:

1. IT IS POSSIBLE IN THE MIDST OF A HEATHEN WORLD TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO GOD.

I think as we see the corruption around us, the political correctness, the breaking down of the morality of a nation. The senseless killing of the unborn, the neutral gender mentality, the disdain for authority, the breakdown of the family. In the midst of all this I say to you:

IT IS POSSIBLE TO LIVE FOR GOD AND PROSPER AND BE BLESSED OF GOD IN THE DAYS THAT WE LIVE!

No matter how bad it gets there will still be opportunities to serve God and be faithful to God!

2. Don't expect others to join you. You may need to go it alone.

Daniel 1:10 And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

Who were the children of your sort that Melzar is making reference to?

Maybe these were other captives that were taken from Israel, who were compromising. Others who went along with the program. Probably many others from nations around the world who saw no problem eating and drinking the defiled food, no doubt offerings to idols, and strong drink that would corrupt good morals.

I recall taking a job when I was first saved, and working with some men who went to our church who when pay day came, they would drink beer with the boss and the rest of crew.

Look I was raised in a bar, and was a bartender. I did not live a sheltered life. But when I got saved I knew that I needed to separate from the drinking and carousing of this

world. So I would eat my lunch all by myself. The other guys who went to the church made fun of me for it. So not everyone of your sort, or so called Christians, are going to separate themselves to godliness. You need to stand alone. Those two fellows who went along with the drinking and carousing, both of them are not walking with the Lord today.

I see so many people getting offended by people who claim to be Christians who are inconsistent. Daniel was taken captive with a lot of people from his nation but only Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael were standing alone and maintaining a godly testimony. Get your eyes off of others. Learn to stand alone for God. I don't think it is any different in the day that we live. Think of Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Elijah and so many others. The Bible says,

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Who resisted and opposed Jesus, the Romans or people of his own sort, the Jews? Jesus received more heartache from his own people than the heathens around Him!

Paul wrote about his afflictions and listed false brethren as one of the many trials he had to endure,

II Corinthians 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

Just because others compromise, does not give you a license to compromise.

We are going to see things get worse and worse. Iniquity will abound. Jesus predicted that because of the falling away in the last days the love of many shall wax cold.

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

More and more people claim to be Christians, but they act like the world, they talk like the world, they go along with the world. Why are you surprised? There were only 4 consecrated Israelites who were taken captive and in captivity with Daniel at the time. No one else do we read about! Their circle was very very small!

3. *God rewarded Daniel and his three friends for the faithfulness.*

Daniel 1:19 And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah: therefore stood they before the king.

Daniel 1:20 And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

Daniel 1:21 And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

Stand alone for God.

Obey your God.

Do what is right.

In time you will reap what you sow!

In the midst of an ungodly generation, we have more opportunities to live for God!

Don't talk like the world.

Don't be enticed by the devices of the world.

Don't live like the world.

Daniel refused to be defiled by the meat and the drink of the Babylonians. Maybe some of the food was against the dietary laws, and / or, these were offered to the god of the Babylonians, through consecration and sacrifices.

II. DANIEL TRUSTED GOD FOR DELIVERANCE AND WISDOM (He Sought God For Answers).

GOD ELEVATED DANIEL IN NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S PAGAN COURT TO REVEAL GOD'S PLAN.

1. GOD USES NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM TO BRING CRISES AND TO ELEVATE DANIEL.

In the process of time, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, and he commanded the wise men to interpret and make known his dream.

Daniel 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

Daniel 2:2 Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

Daniel 2:3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

Daniel 2:4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

Daniel 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.

Imagine someone saying to you, tell me what I dreamt last night.
If you can't I will have you killed.

The wise men complained, and said, that this was an unrealistic request.
This angered Nebuchadnezzar and Nebuchadnezzar was going to have all the wise men killed.

Daniel 2:12 For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

Daniel 2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

Daniel 2:15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

Daniel 2:16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

Daniel 2:18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

The question I would ask is why is it that Daniel did not even know about this until the captain of the guard sought him out to kill him?

The reason why was, I think Daniel was not part of the elite. He wasn't part of the in crowd. He was separated from them and associated pretty much only with Meshach, Shadrach and Abed-nego.

2. DANIEL BELIEVED THAT WITH HIS GOD ALL THINGS WERE POSSIBLE.

Daniel 2:16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

He by faith believed God was able to tell him the dream! Do we serve a different God today? Our God is still able to help and bring glory to Himself. We need to believe in Him!

Daniel 2:19 Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

Daniel 2:21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

Daniel 2:22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Daniel 2:23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

3. DANIEL REVEALS TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR THE WHOLE TIME TABLE OF THE GENTILE KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD.

So he goes to the King:

A MAN'S GIFTS WILL MAKE ROOM FOR HIM.

Daniel 2:26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

Daniel 2:27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

Daniel 2:28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Daniel 2:29 As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

Daniel 2:30 But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

Daniel 2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

Daniel 2:32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

Daniel 2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

Daniel 2:34 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.

Daniel 2:35 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.

Daniel 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Daniel 2:37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

Daniel 2:38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

Daniel 2:39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

Daniel 2:40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

Daniel 2:41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

Daniel 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

Daniel 2:43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Daniel 2:45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

This is a vision that reveals the whole history of the nations of the world from that time, even till today.

The head of Gold was Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon. It was the purest form of government. A king with absolute power.

The Arms and breast of Silver was the Media Persian Empire.

The thighs of brass was Greece.

Legs of Iron is Rome. Two legs, Rome was divided between the West and the East. Rome capital of west and Constantinople in the east.

In these last days, Rome has been divided into democratic states. The vestiges of Rome still lingers in our governments.

These countries, some are strong and some are weak. Like iron mixed with clay.

But ultimately there will be a stone that will destroy them all.

That stone is Jesus Christ when he returns he will destroy the armies of the world at Armageddon.

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Now be sure of this. God is working this all out and we can see it with our very eyes. As much as we love our country, I am sorry to say that this country is part of this world system. When Donald Trump became president and tried to make our nation independent of this new world order, you see how the powers that be, by hook or crook did all they could to destroy him. Only president to be impeached twice. The media non stop had nothing good to say about him. The high tech gurus smeared him non stop. Why? This world is bent on giving power to the man of sin, or the Antichrist. We are still in that corrupt Roman world system, and all these powers are against the Lord of Heaven. Yet He rules in the affairs of men and will bring everything to pass so that one day His Kingdom will come to earth.

So Daniel was used to show the head of Gold that it is God that rules in the affairs of men.

Even as much as we don't like what we are seeing take place in this world, still God is not being caught by surprise. He had not lost control of matters. All these things are working out for His purpose.

Notice: How God is able to humble even the proud leaders of this world.

4. GOD HUMBLER NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND ELEVATES DANIEL.

Daniel 2:46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

Daniel 2:47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

Daniel 2:48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:49 Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

III. DANIEL BECAME GOD'S AMBASSADOR TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND LED NEBUCHADNEZZAR TO THE LORD:

1. NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAS ANOTHER DREAM:

Daniel 4:4 I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace:

Daniel 4:5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

Daniel 4:6 Therefore made I a decree to bring in all the wise men of Babylon before me, that they might make known unto me the interpretation of the dream.

Daniel 4:7 Then came in the magicians, the astrologers, the Chaldeans, and the soothsayers: and I told the dream before them; but they did not make known unto me the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 4:8 But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,

Daniel 4:9 O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.

Daniel 4:10 Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great.

Daniel 4:11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

Daniel 4:12 The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

Daniel 4:13 I saw in the visions of my head upon my bed, and, behold, a watcher and an holy one came down from heaven;

Daniel 4:14 He cried aloud, and said thus, Hew down the tree, and cut off his branches, shake off his leaves, and scatter his fruit: let the beasts get away from under it, and the fowls from his branches:

Daniel 4:15 Nevertheless leave the stump of his roots in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts in the grass of the earth:

Daniel 4:16 Let his heart be changed from man's, and let a beast's heart be given unto him; and let seven times pass over him.

Daniel 4:17 This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.

Daniel 4:18 This dream I king Nebuchadnezzar have seen. Now thou, O Belteshazzar, declare the interpretation thereof, forasmuch as all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known unto me the interpretation: but thou art able; for the spirit of the holy gods is in thee.

Here is the dream and Nebuchadnezzar seeks Daniel to give the interpretation.

1. THE LORD GIVES NEBUCHADNEZZAR A WARNING.

Note, as witnesses for God we need to have the boldness to be messengers of warning to this world. Nebuchadnezzar's dream was a warning. Unless God works in the hearts of men, they cannot be saved. But when God works we need to be there to interpret what God is doing!

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

And how does He draw them? He usually does by bringing trials into his life. Nebuchadnezzar had to be humbled. So we all need to be humbled to be saved.

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Notice God tells Nebuchadnezzar that the most high ruleth in the Kingdom of men, and giveth it to whosoever He will. And setteth up over it the basest of men.

What is a base person? Definition of a base person:

Basest (of a person or a person's actions or feelings) without moral principles; ignoble.

The definition of basest is having the least morals or being of the lowest class.

An example of basest used as an adjective is in the phrase "the basest character in the play" which means the most corrupt character in the play.

What a statement to come out of the mouth of Nebuchadnezzar!

God as much as tells Nebuchadnezzar that He sets up over the affairs of men the basest of men. That means him! So if you look throughout history very few godly men have ruled. We live in a world of sinners and those in authority are sinners and base.

Nebuchadnezzar thought highly of himself, and the Lord told him that it is He who rules.

This is the warning that Nebuchadnezzar is given. God was setting himself against his pride and arrogance.

2. Notice men always seek a worldly way to solve their problems.

He called the magicians and the sorcerers to solve his dream.
He tried the solutions of the world first.

The World does not have the answers.

It is times of crisis that God elevates his leaders to the task. In this case Daniel.

What America needs is a Daniel, a Jeremiah, and Elijah, a John the Baptist!

A servant of God alone can interpret what is going on in a Biblical manner. The so called scientists of this world cannot! Will we trust in science or will we trust in God?

1Timothy 6:20 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

Paul calls it opposition of science. So called, because true science will not and cannot contradict God and God's word. God is the one who set up the laws of science. We live in a world that says they believe in science and these same people would have us believe $2 + 2 = 5$ This is their laws of economics, and voting.

3. BUT AT LAST HE CALLED ON DANIEL.

Daniel 4:8 But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,

Daniel 4:9 O Belteshazzar, master of the magicians, because I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in thee, and no secret troubleth thee, tell me the visions of my dream that I have seen, and the interpretation thereof.

Why did he not call Daniel first!

Men don't seek God first. That is their last resort after everything else fails!

So it is, people come to the Lord only when they have exhausted all their resources.

4. NEBUCHADNEZZAR DREAM.

Daniel 4:10 Thus were the visions of mine head in my bed; I saw, and behold, a tree in the midst of the earth, and the height thereof was great.

Daniel 4:11 The tree grew, and was strong, and the height thereof reached unto heaven, and the sight thereof to the end of all the earth:

Daniel 4:12 The leaves thereof were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all: the beasts of the field had shadow under it, and the fowls of the heaven dwelt in the boughs thereof, and all flesh was fed of it.

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IV. EVIDENCE OF DANIELS SINCERE CARE FOR HIS AUTHORITY.

1. Evidence of his concern:

Daniel 4:19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was astonished for one hour, and his thoughts troubled him. The king spake, and said, Belteshazzar, let not the dream, or the interpretation thereof, trouble thee. Belteshazzar answered and said, My lord, the dream be to them that hate thee, and the interpretation thereof to thine enemies.

Daniel was sincerely troubled. Imagine, Daniel took one whole hour before he answered.

The Bible teaches that we should obey our Masters and serve them as unto the Lord.

Colossians 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God:

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

Colossians 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Loyalty to those who God has placed over you is a noble thing.

Daniel had this loyalty towards Nebuchadnezzar.

This is a principle of Authority. We should serve those who God has placed over us as we would serve the Lord.

V. DANIEL SHARES GOD'S WARNING AND PREDICTIONS:

1. God knows not only what we are doing, but He knows what we will do.

He knows the beginning and the end.

God deals with us on this basis. Time means nothing to God.

Psalms 19:12 Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Psalms 19:13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

2. God often will give a warning to people about something they may be going to do that will cause their hurt and the hurt of others.

Cain was warned before he killed his brother.

Balaam was warned about not giving advice to Balak.

Ahab was warned he was going to die in battle.

Hezekiah was warned about the Babylonians.

So now Nebuchadnezzar is warned of God's impending judgment on his pride!

Daniel 4:20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth;

Daniel 4:21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation:

Daniel 4:22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

Daniel 4:23 And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from heaven, and saying, Hew the tree down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;

Daniel 4:24 This is the interpretation, O king, and this is the decree of the most High, which is come upon my lord the king:

Daniel 4:25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

Daniel 4:26 And whereas they commanded to leave the stump of the tree roots; thy kingdom shall be sure unto thee, after that thou shalt have known that the heavens do rule.

1. *Daniel Predicts A Humbling Experience for Nebuchadnezzar. God is going to humble him.*

For some people it takes a lot to humble them.

I think our bureaucrats need a wake up call and a humbling experience. They think they are on a roll and nothing can stop them. What America needs to see is God's divine intercession, and mark it down, it will come.

What is sad, is that our nation has been sent a strong delusion, and instead of seeing God's hand of judgment we are always reasoning away everything with our so called "SCIENTIFIC" explanations. God brings a natural disaster and our leaders cry out, CLIMATE CHANGE, CLIMATE CHANGE. We need more regulations, stricter environmental laws, more carbon regulations! Every crisis is a grab for more bureaucracy. Look how the government has used this covid pandemic to change voting laws and manipulate the vote. Why do we not fall on our knees and cry out to God instead of looking to the government for solutions? America for a bowl of soup is selling its birthright.

Youtube removes our video suggesting that covid is a wake up call to cry out to God for eternal salvation. The world says how dare you use our virus for spiritual benefits. We own the virus, we own any right to a cure. Hands off, Christian.

When God brings physical hardships in our lives because of age or sickness there are two possible reactions:

- A. *Many people as they get sick either get irritable and bitter.***
- B. *Or some get humbled and get a sweet spirit of humility.***

God even told Paul he needed sickness in his life for spiritual character and virtues that it could bring:

II Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

2. *This affliction was a divine intervention in Nebuchadnezzar's life to knock him off his high horse.*

This happened to Paul the apostle.
It happened to Manasseh.
It had to happen to each of us for us to get saved.

Most people have to hit bottom before they come to know the Lord.

VI. Note: Daniel's Sound Advice To Nebuchadnezzar:

Daniel 4:27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.

1. Break off your sins by righteousness. Turn to the Lord in righteousness. Do right.

What pleases God, doing what is right, obeying His commands.

2. Repent of your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor.

SOME SURE WAYS TO RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING AND MERCY IN OUR LIFE.
Through giving to others.

Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Proverbs 21:13 Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Proverbs 22:22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

Proverbs 22:23 For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

Proverbs 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Proverbs 29:14 The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

Deuteronomy 15:7 If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother:

Deuteronomy 15:8 But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth.

Deuteronomy 15:9 Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD against thee, and it be sin unto thee.

Deuteronomy 15:10 Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the LORD thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto.

Deuteronomy 15:11 For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.

Deuteronomy 15:12 And if thy brother, an Hebrew man, or an Hebrew woman, be sold unto thee, and serve thee six years; then in the seventh year thou shalt let him go free from thee.

Deuteronomy 15:13 And when thou sendest him out free from thee, thou shalt not let him go away empty:

Deuteronomy 15:14 Thou shalt furnish him liberally out of thy flock, and out of thy floor, and out of thy winepress: of that wherewith the LORD thy God hath blessed thee thou shalt give unto him.

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...and break off thy sins by righteousness; this advice carries in it a tacit charge of sins, and a reproof for them; which shows the faithfulness of Daniel: these sins probably, besides pride, intemperance, luxury, and uncleanness, were tyranny, rapine, violence, and oppression of his subjects, to which righteousness is opposed; and by which, that is, by a course and series of righteous living, by administering public justice, and giving to everyone their due, he is advised to break off his sinful course of life; to break off the yoke of his sins upon his neck; to cease from doing evil, and to learn to do well: and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; to his poor subjects, and especially to the poor captives the Jews, Daniel might chiefly bear upon his mind, whom the king had ill used, shown no compassion to, and had greatly distressed; but is now counseled to relieve their wants, and give generously to them out of the vast treasures he was master of.

VII. NOTE: NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S HUMILIATION FROM GOD:

Daniel 4:28 All this came upon the king Nebuchadnezzar.

Daniel 4:29 At the end of twelve months he walked in the palace of the kingdom of Babylon.

Daniel 4:30 The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty?

Daniel 4:31 While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken; The kingdom is departed from thee.

NOTE: How the Lord is long suffering to us. Judgment does not fall speedily it was 12 months after the dream and vision.

Ecclesiastes 8:11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

Daniel 4:32 And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, **until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.**

Daniel 4:33 The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar: and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws.

NOTE: Has anything changed? Who rules over the affairs of men? THE MOST HIGH! The vote of the people does not rule, the congress does not rule, the president does not rule, the senate does not rule. Only God rules! I think our leaders need to learn that lesson.

VIII. NEBUCHADNEZZAR IS HUMBLLED AND COMES TO KNOW THE LORD.

Daniel 4:34 And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honoured him that liveth for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation:

Daniel 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Daniel 4:36 At the same time my reason returned unto me; and for the glory of my kingdom, mine honour and brightness returned unto me; and my counsellors and my lords sought unto me; and I was established in my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added unto me.

Daniel 4:37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

God alone deserves all the glory and praise.

Conclusion:

What God has to put us through sometimes for us to repent and come to know the Lord.

God dealt with Nebuchadnezzar and he come to a knowledge of the Lord.

PRIDE IS OUR GREATEST FAILING.

Will we repent and come to know Him?

So in the midst of this Antichrist world, where we think things could not be worse, I say to you, at times in the history of mankind it has been worse or just as bad, and God's servants, though only a few, have prevailed. God is still on throne. God is in control, not the congress, not the senate, not the president, not the supreme court! Our God is given all power and authority, let us serve Him with more vigor and more delight!

We could get discouraged, we could become doubtful because of what we are seeing in the world around us, or we could trust in the same God who delivered Daniel so many times in his life.

What an opportunity to see God work. When the world is at it's darkest the gospel can shine at its brightest!

Will you stand alone?

Will you trust in God?

Will you believe in His greatness and power?

WILL YOU BE HIS AMBASSADOR IN TIMES OF CRISIS?

Our God is able.

He is still looking for a Daniel, a Hananiah, a Mishael, and Azariah, better known as Meshach Shadrach and Abed-nego!

Let us purpose in our hearts not to be defiled.

Let us purpose in our hearts to cry out to Him for deliverance.

Let us be an ambassadors for God to a world that needs to be humbled.

Even men proud leaders like Nebuchadnezzar can be saved! But only through God can this happen.