

# The Corona Chronicle.

Being Church in Partial lockdown.

Sunday April 25th

West Worthing Evangelical Church. Rugby Road

[www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk](http://www.westworthingevangelical.co.uk)

**Every Knee Shall Bow**

***Exploring the Book of Daniel***



***Please read Chapter 4***

Reading this account the nursery rhyme Humpty Dumpty comes to mind because here we come across a Humpty Dumpty prototype. He is Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon and he certainly had a great fall which no human agency could retrieve. And it all starts with another dream.

**1. What Nebuchadnezzar dreamed.** Why was Nebuchadnezzar so perturbed, agitated? In Babylonian literature a tree often represented the king so maybe he made the connection and feared that it wouldn't be good news! He calls in his special advisers but they are totally unable to explain the dream. Finally, Daniel comes on the scene. Why wasn't he called before? Nebuchadnezzar delayed probably because of his fears that God was speaking to him and only turned to God when there was no other way. That's fallen human nature for you!

Daniel's interpretation was devastating news for the king but we need to notice here:

**(a) God's goodness in warning Nebuchadnezzar.** In the light of the king's character and behaviour you might think God would write him off. But God's goodness is seen as now he unsettles the man with this dream.

This should make us think. Are we aware of God's goodness to us, for example, our life, health, loved ones, homes, abilities, protection? But more, are we aware of his goodness in warning us, alerting us to our need of him? It comes by many ways: the gospel, the witness of Christians by their lives, attitudes and words. These are ways God reaches out to us – how many years have we ignored his overtures?

Nebuchadnezzar  
had the sense to  
be disturbed  
about it and to  
find out more.  
Do we?

But God is not restricted to those ways –with Nebuchadnezzar he uses this dream to unsettle him and start him questioning. Sometimes things occur that pull us up short, raise questions in our minds, disturb our self-contentment, we seek meaning in life e.g. Covid-19? What do we do about these occasions, for they are God's goodness in warning us. Nebuchadnezzar had the sense to be disturbed about it and to find out more. Do we?

*(b) Daniel's concern for Nebuchadnezzar. v19* What marks out Daniel's compassion as genuine is that he didn't like delivering a message of judgement but he did it all the same. And then he gave the king wise counsel *v27*. This is a fine example of a servant of God speaking truth to power. How we need in our day a church so con-

cerned for God and for people it speaks truth to power as we see corrupt governments in many lands, and governments, including in the west and our own country, which ignore too often moral and ethical aspects of their legislation; governments which pursue policies governed only by secular values.





















**But what about ourselves if we call ourselves Christians? What marks out our attitude to the people we know and have contact with? Is it compassion: a compassion that, whatever their life-style and attitude to God and his good news may be, means we still seek to faithfully share with them the truth of their need, God's warnings and God's love available in Jesus?**


**Dennis Read**



I compare the troubles which we have to undergo in the course of the year to a great bundle of sticks, far too large for us to lift. But God does not require us to carry the whole at once. He mercifully unties the bundle, and gives us first one stick, which we are to carry today, and then another, which we are to carry tomorrow, and so on. This we might easily manage, if we would only take the burden appointed for us each day; but we choose to increase our troubles by carrying yesterday's stick over again today, and adding tomorrow's burden to our load, before we are required to bear it." ~ John Newton

If you can crack the code, you will read what Jesus said to the disciples and to us.

 =A	 =B	 =C	 =D	 =E
 =G	 =H	 =I	 =L	 =M
 =N	 =O	 =P	 =R	 =S
 =T	 =U	 =V	 =W	 =Y

 is a symbol that means a space between words



# Hymns Readings and Prayers

## Hymn

**1 At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,  
Every tongue confess Him King of glory now;  
This the Father's pleasure, that we call Him Lord,  
Who from the beginning was the mighty Word.**

**2 At His voice creation sprang at once to sight,  
All the angel faces, all the hosts of light;  
Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,  
All the heavenly orders, in their great array.**

**3 Humbled for a season, to receive a name  
From the lips of sinners unto whom He came;  
Faithfully He bore it spotless to the last,  
Brought it back victorious when from death He passed.**

**4 Bore it up triumphant with its human light,  
Through all ranks of creatures to the central height;  
To the eternal Godhead, to the Father's throne,  
Filled it with the glory of His triumph won.**

**5 Name Him, Christians, name Him, with love strong as death,  
But with awe and wonder, and with bated breath;  
He is God the Saviour, He is Christ the Lord,  
Ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.**

**6 In your hearts enthrone Him; there let Him subdue  
All that is not holy, all that is not true;  
Crown Him as your captain in temptation's hour,  
Let His will enfold you in its light and power.**

**7 With His Father's glory Jesus comes again,  
Angel hosts attend Him and announce His reign;  
For all wreaths of empire meet upon His brow,  
And our hearts confess Him King of glory now.**

Jubilate Hymns version of 'At the name of Jesus',

Caroline M Noel (1817 - 1877)

© Jubilate Hymns Ltd

## Bible Reading

Daniel 4. Long reading for our limited space!

Prayers

O Lord,  
prepare us for all the events of this day,  
for we do not know what a day may bring forth.  
Give us to stand complete in Your whole will;  
to deny ourselves,  
to take up our cross daily,  
and to follow Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Matthew Henry

Lord, have mercy upon us. O forgive us our sins against You and against one another. Our father in heaven, You have taught us in Your word that the prayer of a righteous person has great power. As it is working, so Father, knowing that You have heard our confession of sin and have bought us through the righteous blood of Christ our advocate. Before you we ask now that You would hear our prayers, Lord.

We pray for our government, we ask that You would give them knowledge, wisdom, and virtue.

Of this church, we ask that You help the leaders to make wise and prudent decisions.

Help us to have clarity of mind and vision. Give us patience and wisdom and bestow upon us unity in Christ as we seek to serve.

Lord we pray as a nation we may learn from this past year of Pandemic. For everything there is a time for every purpose under heaven, Lord, you have chastened us, let us not forget You still love us and we can put our trust in You whatever the circumstance may be.

Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three Persons, One God, we give You thanks and praise.