

Corona Chronicle.

West Worthing Evangelical Church. Rugby Road.

Being Church during lockdown.

Sunday March 7th

Every Knee Shall Bow Part 2 *Exploring the Book of Daniel Please read Daniel 2*

2 Daniel's Response

The execution squad arrives, vv13-16 Note Daniel's approach – he discovers the problem, delays the decree, - and where does he go from there? Doesn't get out his dream charts, and Chaldean scrolls, neither sit and think desperately. Goes to his friends and what do they do? Pool joint brain power? No! v 10. He and they know they have to depend on God! So look closer **(a) What Daniel prayed** v 10 the key-note is "mercy". Daniel knew only God could deliver but didn't know what God's will might be so casts himself on mercy – no claims, no deserving, no other ground. And that is the one way we can ever approach God – not because he owes us anything, not because we've earned the right. That approach is a dead end. We are dependent on God's mercy alone - and wonderfully God is **rich** in mercy, he **delights** to be merciful – the irrefutable proof is in the Lord Jesus Christ, his coming life, death and resurrection (see Ephesians 2:4-5). **(b) What Daniel learnt.** God answered their prayers and Daniel's experience of God was enlarged and enriched: vv 20-22 he celebrates the wisdom of God allied with his power (wisdom and might v 20) to achieve and fulfil; v22 he knows - everything is clear as day to him (including our fears and concerns). His absolute authority v21(a) puts tyrants, dictators, rulers in their place! Ultimately they will answer to him.

(c) How Daniel responded - v 23. With thanksgiving and worship – what else?! Apply to our situations, our own need of God, what is going on in our world –what is our reaction? Where else would you want the authority to be?

So Daniel goes back before this eager king v 26 but Daniel makes clear where the credit lies! v28

3. God's Revelation vv31-45 What is God showing by this statue? **(a) The course of history** The image represents Babylonia, Medo-Persia, Greece, the Roman empire and every attempt men make by any means to keep the empire together. (One school of prophecy takes the reference to the toes, v41-42, to be a reference to ten kingdoms existing in the days before Christ's return, thus separating this and the fifth kingdom from the rest and relegating to the end of time. This effectively misunderstands the significance of this fourth empire and the stone. Verses 41-42 are simply emphasizing the diversity, strength and weakness in the fourth kingdom.

(of the coming of our Saviour; his obscure, humble birth seemed like a mere pebble on the face of history that day. But the ripples spread: his public ministry – teaching; and life, death and resurrection, ascension, the spread of Christianity across the world, and its continuing to grow, Revelation 11:15. This is where history is heading, this is what it's all about! This will be the end!

c) The certainty of history This is no pipe dream nor even a possibility but an assured fact v44 “never be destroyed ...nor left to another people... stand for ever”. This gives encouragement and strength; whatever happens now, however long it takes, this the reality. What do you think keeps our persecuted brethren going?! Puts vigour and determination and purpose into living in an uncertain and bewildered world because history is in the hand of our God.

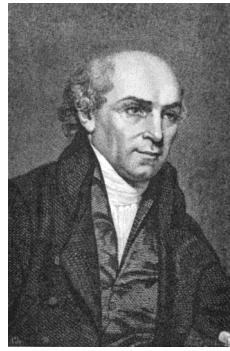
4. Nebuchadnezzar’s reaction.

Worshipped Daniel?! No doubt gave homage as God’s representative; he recognized God to be taken account of, to respect but not as the **only** God – after all this is a pagan’s first encounter! And content to know **his** own time and empire secure. Not think beyond that. He is not led to submission, to wholehearted following of this God. Typical human reaction; what about **us**? Faced with problem, fear, illness we pray - but afterwards? What is our reaction to the Lord of history, the Lord who makes himself known, who calls us to enter that eternal kingdom now? Do we recognize our need of that Saviour, the Stone who brings in God’s eternal kingdom, a kingdom which welcomes those who face up to their own failures and see their need of Jesus’ forgiveness and cleansing through his atoning death?

But do we grasp too the big lesson which will either bring us something to worry about or which will give us balance and hope and serenity in whatever circumstances we may be. Christian, have you got it? God has set up his kingdom, he is enlarging it day by day, and nothing can stop its final consummation. Doesn’t that thrill you, put fire in your belly and encourage you to love and serve this God, no matter what?



Dennis R. Read



William Carey . The Cobbler from Northampton

Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert’ (Isaiah 43:19)

In 1792 William Carey, a former cobbler from Northampton, now the Minister of a church in Leicester, preached one of the most memorable sermons in Christian history: Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God. Within a year he was called to put his own sermon into practice when he sailed for Bengal, India. Living in poverty in Calcutta, he soon mastered the language and began translating the Bible into Bengali, setting up his own printing press to produce it.

In 1800 he moved to Serampore and devoted the rest of his life to Bible translation, evangelism, and social reform, editing and overseeing Bible translations in thirty-six languages. In 1834 he went to be with his Lord having lived by the very principles he had preached many years before. He is rightly called, ‘The father of Modern Missions.’

The year-long devastation and disruption and loss of life caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, and the damage caused in many places by unusual weather events such as flooding have brought home our powerlessness in the face of nature and the fragility of our own being. Hopefully, it will cause us to look beyond ourselves to God and instil within us a desire to know Him better. It is a good time to think about the things that we want to change. Some will affect our lifestyle and attitudes.

Many of us will resolve to address our relationship with God - spending more time in prayer, reading the Bible, and attending Church when we can. How can we succeed in this when so many of us have failed in the past? Maybe it is because we have relied too much on our own determination and will power – focussing upon ourselves instead of God. We can easily become disheartened when we fail to live up to the promises we have made

to God and to ourselves. In the above words from Isaiah, God is telling us what He will do. Our part is to accept His promise and expect Him to do it! What an exciting year we would have ahead if we could see these promises ‘spring forth’; trusting that He will make a road through these wilderness times. My prayer is that the only floods we would experience in the coming year will be those poured out in refreshing upon lives that seem so parched and dry!

Jim Winter

Bible Pathway Adventures

"My God sent His angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him..." (Daniel 6:22)



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 YHSSMBRNEBURHJSDMEAH
 RYRZSZTANXUERKYJHKTH
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DANIEL NEBUCHADNEZZAR JERUSALEM BABYLON
 LIONS MAGI FEAST GOLD KING HEBREW SOLDIERS
 DEN PRINCE RIVER DARIUS BELSHAZZAR
 STATUE DREAM ARMY GOD

Hymns Prayers and Bible Readings

1 Thessalonians call to worship

Brothers and sisters, we are loved by God **and chosen by the Lord Jesus.**

We have turned from idols **to serve the living and true God.**

We are approved by God **and entrusted with his gospel.**

Our hope and our joy **is to glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes.**

As we worship **may the Lord make our love increase, may he strengthen our hearts so we shall be blameless and holy.**

May God himself, the God of peace, **make us holy through and through.**

The one who calls us is faithful: **He will do it!**

Hymn

Glory be to God the Father,

Glory be to God the Son,

Glory be to God the Spirit,

Great Jehovah, Three in One!

Glory, glory, glory, glory,

While eternal ages run!

Glory be to Him Who loved us,

Washed us from each spot and stain!

Glory be to Him Who bought us,

Made us kings with Him to reign!

Glory, glory, glory, glory,

To the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels,

Glory to the church's King,

Glory to the King of nations!

Heaven and earth, your praises bring;

Glory, glory, glory, glory,

To the King of glory bring!

"Glory, blessing, praise eternal!"

Thus the choir of angels sings;

"Honour, riches, power, dominion!"

Thus its praise creation brings;

Glory, glory, glory, glory,

Glory to the King of kings!

Horatius Bonar

Bible Reading Daniel 3

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸ and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁹ Then the mystery was revealed to

Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. ²⁰ Daniel answered and said:

Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

²¹ He changes times and seasons;

he removes kings and sets up kings;

he gives wisdom to the wise

and knowledge to those who have understanding;

²² he reveals deep and hidden things;

he knows what is in the darkness,

and the light dwells with him.

²³ To you, O God of my fathers,

I give thanks and praise,

for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made

known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to

us the king's matter.²⁴ Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the

king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and

said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me

in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation."

²⁵ Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation."²⁶ The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?"²⁷ Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: ²⁹ To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. ³⁰ But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind."³¹ "You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. ³² The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

GIVING GLORY TO GOD *From 1 Chronicles 29*

Lord God, praise be to you for ever and ever: you are great and powerful, glorious, splendid and majestic; everything in heaven and earth is yours, and you are king, supreme ruler over all: all riches and wealth come from you; you rule everything by your strength and power; you alone are able to make anyone great and strong:

now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. Amen.