

Worshiping a Sovereign God in a Sin-Sick World
Studies in the Book of Daniel
Cornerstone Church
Winter, Spring, Summer 2015

Serving a Sovereign God in a Sin-Sick World
Daniel Chapters 1-6

Today's Message: A God-Sized Contest Between the Devil's Sorcery and
God's Sovereignty, Daniel 2:1-30

Daniel Chapter 2:1-30

Introduction

The Sum of all fears

- Painful death
- Economic collapse
- Loss of spouse or child
- Loss of love and security

(Mark 13:9-13 ESV) “But be on your guard. For they will deliver you over to councils, and you will be beaten in synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them. And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations. And when they bring you to trial and deliver you over, do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. And brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death. And you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

(Matthew 10:28-33 ESV) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

Nebuchadnezzar's fearsome threat

Daniel 2:1-11

- Nebuchadnezzar's heart was pounding – the dream frightened him.
- Nebuchadnezzar would not reveal the dream to test the advisors.
- If they could not reveal his dream they would be torn limb from limb and their houses razed and made into manure piles!
- If they could reveal it to him they would be greatly rewarded.
- Rightly they concluded that no man on earth had that power.
- Their gods do not live on earth (but Daniel's God does!)

Daniel's calm and relaxed response

Daniel 2:12-16

- Daniel is informed he is about to die
- He calmly asks why,
- Boldly enters the king's presence to request a temporary stay of the executions
- ***Why could Daniel be so calm and collected? Here is a 17 year old Hebrew interacting with a cold-hearted ruthless king and general.
 - Daniel had faith that God is all-powerful.
 - Daniel knew God in an intimately personal way
 - Daniel treasured God's glory more than his own life.
 - Daniel had been trained by godly parents to face death with victorious dignity and hope.

God reveals to Daniel the dream He had sent to Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel 2:17-23

- Daniel knew there is power in prayer – he called an all-nighter prayer meeting.
- Daniel is thankful and returns thanks
 - “Blessed be” means that God is the ultimate “blesser” (giving blessings to men thereby improving their situation), therefore He must constantly be in a state of perpetual blessing (He has it all).
 - He changes times and seasons – just as God is in charge of the change of seasons, so is He in charge of the changes in politics
 - He gives wisdom to the wise (not fools) and knowledge to those who have understanding (seekers and searchers).
 - It is God who knows the secrets of men's hearts and reveals them to others.

Daniel saves the magi by revealing the dream

Daniel 2:24-30

- Arioch takes credit for finding Daniel
- Daniel boldly states that Satan cannot do what only God can do (Why did Daniel emphasize this point?)
- Daniel humbly gives the God in heaven (what does this imply?) credit for revealing the mystery of the dream.

No matter what we are facing, there is a God in heaven who can do all things. He can solve insoluble problems, supply needs, and provide strength for impossible tasks.