

## Worshipping 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

April 26, 2015

Today's Message: Treating Holy Things with Holy Respect

### Introduction & Review

#### Verse One

- Nebuchadnezzar lasted one year after God restored his sanity (reigned from 605 BC – 562 BC).
- Then his son Evil-Merodach (reigned from 562-560 BC) became king in his place until he was assassinated by a brother-in-law, Neriglissar
- Neriglissar reigned from 560-556 BC when he was ousted and his son, Labashi-Marduk ruled for 2 months.
- Labashi-Marduk was overthrown by Nabonidus who married Nitocris, a daughter of Nebuchadnezzar.
- Nabonidus wanted to worship the moon god and was not popular in Babylon with the priestly caste who worshipped mainly Marduk so he took the army and moved to Saudi Arabia and his stepson Belshazzar ruled as king in Babylon as a co-regent.
- The banquet was most likely a pep rally to boost morale since just a few days earlier, Darius the Mede had defeated Nabonidus's army and was now camped outside Babylon.
- Drinking wine was an understatement, they were soon going to be drunk and this was going to turn into a drunken orgy.

#### Verses Two - Four

- Taking the holy vessels from the temple in Jerusalem was bad enough but to use them now to "toast" the gods of Babylon was extremely insulting to God Almighty. It was blasphemous. It was like spitting in God's face.
- Most likely Belshazzar was bragging about how invincible Babylon was and how powerful his gods were compared to the gods of the enemies of Babylon.

#### Verses Five - Six

- This throne room/banquet hall was uncovered by a German archeologist by the name of Koldewey in March of 1899. It measured 170 feet by 59 feet and had gypsum covered walls.
- The "finger of God" began writing on the wall. This terrified the young and foolish king so much so he could not control his bodily functions.

#### Verses Seven – Nine

- The foolish king brought in the "B" team again to interpret the handwriting (This is where we get the phrase "The handwriting is on the wall" and later the phrase "his days are numbered").

- Belshazzar knew this was not a “Hallmark Greeting” but a dreaded omen of impending disaster.

#### Verses Ten – Twelve.

- Queen Nitocris remembered from her youth the episodes of miraculous revelations provided by Daniel's God (and most likely remembered fondly Daniel's care for her father Nebuchadnezzar while he was incapacitated).
- Daniel was now 80 years old and had been set aside by this young king as obsolete when he took over the reins of government and hired his own staff.

#### Applications

- Nebuchadnezzar failed to pass on to the next generation his devotion to Yahweh and his understanding that God is the only god. Do we fully understand the eternal consequences of this neglect.
- There are no sacred vessels of gold and silver under the New Covenant. Instead we are the sacred vessels.
  - The corporate church is today's sacred temple. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? (1 Corinthians 3:16 ESV)
  - Each individual Christian is a sacred vessel and part of that temple. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two will become one flesh.” But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:15-20 ESV), and:
  - For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality; that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust like the Gentiles who do not know God; that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you. For God has not called us for impurity, but in holiness. Therefore whoever disregards this, disregards not man but God, who gives his Holy Spirit to you. (1 Thessalonians 4:3-8 ESV)