

Living in Babylon

LESSONS FROM DANIEL

Sunday, October 15 » Pastor Josiah Kagin

Message Title: Thriving

Message Text: Daniel 4

Introduction: Have you ever given up on some hope, dream or vision too early? You threw in the towel right before the breakthrough. Only to realize through hind sight that you missed out on a God-sized opportunity. Daniel and his three friends were taken hostage from Israel to the land of Babylon. They were from a royal family and so they were made eunuchs and made to serve King Nebuchadnezzar. They were unmovable in their convictions, committed to their faith, and steadfast in their worship of God alone. Because of this, God was able to bless and use them in a powerful way. They did not just survive in Babylon, but thrived as followers of God. Let's see how Daniel did not give up on King Nebuchadnezzar and how God used him to influence the king to trust and acknowledge the God of heaven!

Galatians 6:9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

1. God was _____ in His Life (1-18)

Nebuchadnezzar was an unbroken man.

A. Nebuchadnezzar _____ God (1-3)

AN INTRODUCTION TO HIS CONVERSION

Daniel 4:1-3 Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. 2 I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me. 3 How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

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sermon notes



NOTE—People can have an emotional response to the works of God without a heart change.

See Daniel 3:28-29

1 Corinthians 1:18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

B. Nebuchadnezzar was _____ by God (4-18)

Daniel 4:4-5 I Nebuchadnezzar was at rest in mine house, and flourishing in my palace: 5 I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

HIS SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING (6-9)

Daniel 4:6-7 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. 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.

HIS DREAM (10-17)

NOTE—God uses the troubling circumstances of life to cause men to look to Him.

2. Daniel was _____ in His Life (8, 19-33)

God had Daniel in Nebuchadnezzar's life for a purpose.

A. Daniel was _____ (8)

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 was a *constant recurring bright* character in the life of this STILL pagan king.

YEARS DANIEL HAS BEEN IN BABYLON: _____ YEARS

Chapter 1—605 BC

Chapter 3— 580 BC

Chapter 4—570 BC

B. Daniel was _____ (19)

NOTE—Daniel had been hurt by Nebuchadnezzar.

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.

NOTE — Daniel's response was not one of glee, but heartfelt compassion and concern.

DEFINITION—ASTONIED: to be appalled; being struck with dread, fear, or consternation.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

C. Daniel was _____ (20-27)

1 Corinthians 4:2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

THE DREAM INTERPRETED (20-26) — BECOMING A BEAST

NOTE—possibly zoanthropy; an illness observed in modern times where a person thinks of himself as an animal and acts like one.

THE INVITATION (27) — TURN TO GOD

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.

3. Nebuchadnezzar was _____ (34-37)

A. He Turned from _____ to God (34-36)

HE LOOKED TO GOD (34)

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:

HE RECOGNIZED THE SUPREMACY OF GOD (35)

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?

GOD RESTORED HIS KINGDOM AS PROMISED (36)

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.

B. He _____ of the Change (37)

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.

Conclusion—Questions to Consider

Are you surviving or thriving in the place God has allowed you to be in the season of life?

Is there someone you have given up on in your own heart that you should seek to reconnect with and influence toward Christ with love and concern?



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