

Daniel, along with Ezekiel, was a prophet of the captivity. He had been carried to Babylon, by Nebuchadnezzar in the first deportation in the year 607 B.C. He was of royal princely descent, probably through the bloodline of King Hezekiah. **Is. 39:5-7** *“Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the LORD. And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.”*

One of the great truths in the book is the sovereignty of God. **Dan. 4:17** *“This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men.”*

The reason of their captivity was apostasy. They, like the northern ten tribes before them, had disobeyed and departed from the Lord Who bought them. The record of their transgressions can be found in part in the prophecies of Isaiah and Jeremiah. Isaiah prophesied about 150 years prior to the captivity. Is it possible that we may have to go back that far to really find what our problem is? I am afraid we’ve slipped a long way in that period of time. Let’s look at what I believe to be some real signs of apostasy.

I. Their Sin Was Not Being Dealt With: Is. 1:2-5 *“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: **but Israel doth not know**, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, **children that are corrupters**: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. **Why should ye be stricken any more? (Dealt with or chastised.)** Ye will revolt*

more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.” (The mind and the heart.)

A. Sin Must Be Acknowledged: Psa. 32:5 *“I acknowledged my sin, and mine iniquity have I not hid.” I Jn. 1:8* *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”*

B. Sin Must Be Confessed: I Jn. 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

C. Sin Must Be Forsaken: Pro. 28:13 *“He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.” V. 14b* *“...but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.”*

NOTE: Evidence of forgiven sin is victory over that sin.

II. The Scriptures Were Lightly Esteemed: Jer. 36:23

Prophecy concerning the captivity was read by Jehudi in the hearing of King Jehoikim: *“And it came to pass, that when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, he cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth.”*

A. Their Authority: (Is lightly esteemed.) **v. 24** *“Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.”*

B. Their Admonition: (Was lightly esteemed.)

1. God’s Will was revealed (captivity.)
2. Their responsibility was understood: (yield)

C. Their Availability

III. The Sanctuary Was Polluted: II Chron. 36:14

“Moreover all the chief of the priests, and the people, transgressed very much after all the abominations of the

heathen; and polluted the house of the LORD which he had hallowed in Jerusalem.”

Def. “polluted” – To be foul, especially in a ceremony

A. They Were Not Using It For It’s Consecrated

Purpose:

1. Worship
2. Praise
3. Prayer
4. Preaching

Read II Chron. 36:15-16

I want to preach today on the thought, “**A Plan That Backfired.**” It was the plan of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, to take these four Hebrew young men and teach them in the worldly learning of Babylon and the tongue (street language) of the Chaldeans. He wished to change their language, their customs, and their religion. **But his plan backfired.** Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat. And Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, later refused to bow to the idol that the king set up, in the plain of Dura. (His music.)

I believe this is exactly what the devil would like to do to you and I. He would like nothing better than to destroy our Christian heritage, tear down our Spiritual values, and rob us of Christ’s blessings in our life. But by the Grace of God, I want to be like these Hebrews, and determine in my heart that although I am in their world, I intend to serve the Lord with all my heart, body and soul.

I want to look at Nebuchadnezzar’s plan and expose it. Possibly the devil is using the same scheme on some of us, in an effort to destroy our families and testimony.

I. He Wanted To Alienate their Affections From the Lord: (The devil will attempt to accomplish this by muscle or deceit.)

NOTE: The devil knows he can never prevent God from loving us, but he can, by crafty devices, turn our hearts away from God: **Rom. 8:35-39**

A. By Driving Them From Their Homeland: (Canaan – They took Daniel out of Canaan, but they couldn’t get Canaan out of Daniel.)

Psa. 137:1-4 *“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, **we wept**, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive **required** of us **a song**; and they*

that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing as one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD'S song in a strange land?"

B. By Disassociating Them From Their God:

NOTE: By cutting off every remembrance they had of the Lord:

1. By Changing Their Names:

a. Daniel: (God Is My Judge) to Belteshazzar (Bel's Prince)

2. Hananiah: (Beloved of the Lord) to Shadrach (Illumined by the Sun God)

3. Mishael: (Who Is As God) to Meshach (Who is like Venus)

4. Azariah: (The Lord Is My Help) to Abed-nego (The servant of nego)

C. By A Deficiency In Spiritual Graces:

NOTE: This was to be accomplished by occupying their time with his affairs, thus robbing them of time with the Lord.

(It Backfired.)

II. He Appointed Them A Worldly Diet: v. 5 *"And the king appointed them a daily provision of the King's meat, and of the wine which he drank:"* (The devil will see to it that we get a daily portion of his food.) (Living on devil's food.)

A. He Wanted To Change Their Appearance: v. 12-13

"Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat: and as thou seest, deal with thy servants."

B. He Wanted To Change Their Authority: v. 4

"...and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace,"

C. He Wanted To Change Their Acquaintances:
1. By Cutting Them Off From The Brethren:
(But His Plan Backfired)

III. Approached Them With Great Honor:

NOTE: They were offered a position in the King's courts, thus making no difference between the **King of Israel** or the **King of Babylon**.

A. Their Position Was Honorable: Illus. – Moses –
Heb. 11:24 *“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.”*

B. Their Palace Was Honorable: (Looking for a city.)

C. Their Praise Was Honorable: (But it was the praises of men, not of God:

Jn. 12:42,43 *“Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”*

(His Plan Failed) These four Hebrews remained faithful to their God: and were eventually honored by the worldly wise as well:

Dan. 1:8,12 Power In The Pulse

I want to preach tonight on the thought, “Power In The Pulse.” Daniel and his three companions have been brought into captivity. They are living in as much of a worldly environment as a man can. They bear heathen names, they are being educated in heathen ways, and they are eating heathen food. They are in the world, but they are not of the world. You can give a man a title, or change his name; but that cannot change his nature. Changing a man’s culture won’t necessarily change his character. **Daniel had no power to prevent his captivity, but he knew also that he could be defiled only by his own behavior.**

Daniel had made a request to the prince of eunuchs that he might not defile himself. Notice verse nine, *“Now God had brought Daniel into favour and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.”* It is marvelous how the Lord works on both ends if we use a little common sense and courtesy. **God can and often does control the hearts of men for our good. Pro. 16:7** *“When a man’s ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.”*

Let me remind us right here that Daniel is a teenager. Be assured young people, it matters tremendously how you make decisions in your teens. You are making decisions that will shape and control your life for the future.

One more thing very quickly and I’ll get to the message. I see here a demonstration of both the **Grace** and the **Power** of God. Daniel and his companions were enjoying the provisions of divine Grace while the Babylonians were commencing to see a demonstration of Divine Power. By **only eating pulse**, “God’s diet,” Daniel and his friends would exceed all other in knowledge, and skill and learning and wisdom. (What can we liken pulse to in spiritual application?)

I. Knowledge He Already Possessed: Hos. 4:6 *“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.”*

A. Knowledge of the Savior: II Tim 1:12 “...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.”

1. Do You Know The Christ Of The Cross; Or Do You Only Know About The Cross?

B. Knowledge Of The Scriptures: II Tim 3:14,15 “*But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and has been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou has known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*”

I Tim. 4:13 “*Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.*”

II Tim. 2:15 “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

C. Knowledge Of The Situation: II Tim. 3:1-5 “**This know** also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

D. Knowledge Of The Sacrifice:

NOTE: Daniel knew that the portion of meat on the king's table would first be dedicated to some heathen god in sacrifice, so to share in such a feast would mean sharing in honoring the god in whose name the animal was sacrificed.

1. The Claiming Of The Sacrifice Is

Acknowledgement Of Our Guilt: Lev. 5:3,5,6 “*Or if he touch the uncleanness of man, whatsoever uncleanness it be*

*that a man shall be defiled withal, and it be hid from him; when he **knoweth** of it, then he shall be guilty. And it shall be, when he shall be **guilty** in one of these things, that he shall **confess** that he hath sinned in that thing: And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD for his sin which he hath sinned,”*

2. But Cleansing Purges Our Conscience: Heb.

9:14 *“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

I want to preach tonight on the thought, “One Great Gift.” Verse seventeen says, *“As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom.”* Please notice that God gave them these great virtues.

Ja. 1:17 says, *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”*

These several Godly gifts I would like to mention by way of introduction.

1. The Gift Of Faith: Eph. 2:8 *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:”*

2. The Gift Of Life: Rom. 6:23 *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

3. The Gift Of The Comforter: Lk. 11:13 *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”*

I’m sure there are many gifts we could mention. But I want to draw our thought from the text, and the situation that Daniel and his companions are in.

According to verse four, the King of Babylon was looking for those *“children in whom was no blemish, but well favored, and skillful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the King’s palace,”* and in verse seventeen, God gave them these things. Daniel’s wisdom and knowledge did not come from the teaching of the Chaldeans, but from the ability God gave him to learn.

Now I want to say, that God can give you and I the ability today to do great things.

Phil: 4:13 *“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”*

I. The Ability To Study: v. 4 *“...and whom they may teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans.”*

A. If A Person Is Going To Learn Anything (here it was a language), He Is Going To Have To Study:

1. Study Takes Time
2. Study Is Wearisome to the Flesh
3. To Study, We Must apply Ourselves:

II Tim. 2:15 *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”*

- a. Our Textbook is the Bible
- b. Our Teacher is the Holy Spirit
- c. Our Test is in Trials, Tribulations and

Temptations

II. The Ability To Stand:

A. Before the King: v. 4

Illus: Abraham and Sodom: Gen. 18:22 *“And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD.”*

1. As Intercessor: (Praying to the righteous of Sodom)

- a. Pray for those on your lists

III. The Ability To See: v. 17 *“...and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”*

A. Spiritual Discernment: Heb. 5:14 *“But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by*

reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

Def: “Discern:” To separate thoroughly; to withdraw from

B. Spiritual Discretion:

Def: That discernment which enables a person to judge critically of what is correct and proper, united with caution.

Prov. 2:11 *“Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee.”*

1. This Should Be Our Prayer:

Psa. 119:18 *“Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.”*

IV. The Ability To Set: (To rest in Christ.)

A. I find nowhere that Daniel lost his peace nor the confidence he possessed in Christ:

V. The Ability To Shine: v. 20 *“And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm”*

A. Ten Days Testing v. 12, Ten Time Better, v. 20

I want to preach tonight on the thought, “**Continuing In The Will of God.**” The Bible says, “Daniel continued.” The word means to come to pass, or to be accomplished. Daniel found himself in the will of God for his life; and was yielded to its perfect accomplishment. He simply continued doing what God called him to do, and where the Lord called him to do it. He perfectly fulfilled God’s purpose in his life.

The Lord’s will is not some mysterious thing that He hides from a person, and causes us to become frustrated in seeking for it. But it is something that is made very obvious, and brings the greatest joy to our life and the richest of God’s blessings.

Daniel found the will of God by providence. He did not ask to be carried into Babylon. But once there, he could do nothing to reverse the situation. I believe that often the will of God may be somewhat unpleasant and in seeking something easier, we find ourselves out of the will of God and in trouble.

Daniel, finding himself in this situation, did exactly what Paul, in **Romans 12:2**, instructs you and I to do today. “*Present your body a living sacrifice, that we may prove what is the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.*”

Now there are a couple of Biblical truths that we know are God’s will for each of us.

1. It is God’s Will That We Be Saved:

II Pet. 3:9 “*The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*”

2. It is God’s Will That We Be Sanctified:

I Thess. 4:3 “*For this is the will of God, even your sanctification,*”

To continue in the will of God, we must-----

I. Reckon Ourselves Dead Unto Sin:

Rom. 6:10,11 *“For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”*

Def: Reckon: To take inventory, estimate, to conclude:

NOTE: We must come to the conclusion that we are saved, there is no more pleasure in sin for us; and we intend to live the rest of our life to God’s Glory.

Def: Dead: a corpse

Def: Indeed: Affirmation or concession

NOTE: Please notice the word “unto.” It gives the idea of motion or movement. So the conclusion of the verse is, that we are to make no movement whatever towards sin.

NOTE: Notice the word “alive unto God:” The word means to be quick. So there is to be no motion toward sin, but we are to move quickly unto or toward God.

A. We Must Shun Sin: Illus. – Joseph

Pro. 6:16-19 *“These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.”*

B. We Must Seek The Lord: Psa. 27:8 *“When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek.”*

C. We Must Stand In Grace: Rom. 5:2 *“By whom also we have access by faith into their grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the Glory of God.”*

Def: Stand: To abide or continue

II. We Must Run The Race Before Us:

Heb. 12:1,2 *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

A. The Cloud Of Witnesses: (a note is always above)
Those who have preceded us as a witness:

B. The Course We Follow: (No race can be run without distinct boundaries.)

1. The Starting Line and The Finish Line

C. The Cross We Must Bear: (We cannot carry the cross if we stay loaded down with weights and sin.)

D. The Crown To Be Won: (Set down at the right hand of the throne of God.)

I Cor. 9:24 *“Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.”*

Dan. 2:1

What In The World Will It Take To Make You Happy?

The second chapter of Daniel is possibly one of the most famous chapters in the Bible because of the amazing prophecy it reveals. **Dr. H. A. Ironside said, “I suppose it contains the most complete and yet the most simple prophetic picture that we have in all the word of God.”**

With the overthrow of Jerusalem, Nebuchadnezzar had been elevated to the lofty position of the world’s greatest ruler. But his **power** did not bring him happiness and peace of mind. But a dream from God troubled him greatly. His thought was how long will I continue to hold this **position of power**. As king, he possessed great wealth, but even this did not seem to provide happiness.

Power, wealth, and possessions do not in themselves produce peace of mind. Laxity and luxury are not conducive to tranquility. He who reaches for power and possessions in this life is never satisfied. The man of the world who has his portion in this life only is living for a world that is passing away, so that his assets actually become his burden.”

Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and its prophecy concerned the future. He saw no stability and so was trouble. His eyes were opened to events he could not control, depriving him of peace of mind.

According to **Phil. 4:7**, there is a peace of God, which passeth all understanding, and it shall **keep** your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.

- Def. “keep:”**
- 1.** To be a watcher in advance:
 - 2.** To mount Guard as a sentinel:
 - 3.** To Post spies at gates:
 - 4.** To hem in and Protect:

We can have happiness and peace of mind only when:

I. Our Future Is Secure: (Saved) Glory!

A. When The Saviour Is Possessed:

Psa. 27:1 *"The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident."*

B. When The Scriptures Are Pondered: Rom 8:28

"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." **(He is the reason they work in such manner.)**

"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified."

(Ponder that in your heart.)

Illus.: Mary

C. When The Spirit Is Prevailing:

Gal. 5:17 *"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law."* (Not condemned.)

I Jn. 4:4 *"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."*

II. Our Faith Is Operative: (Dead faith offers no security nor peace of mind.)

Heb. 10:38 *"Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him."*

1. How can we be happy with ourself when the Lord is not happy with us?

A. Faith Overcomes The World: I Jn. 5:4

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

Def. “overcome:” To conquer or have victory over.

B. Faith Overthrows Strongholds:

Heb. 11:30 *“By faith the walls of Jericho fell down, after they were compassed about seven days.”*

II Cor. 10:4 *“(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;”*

III. Our Family Life Is Satisfying:

A. Our Mate Must Be Compatible:

(Illus: Jacob, Leah, Rachel)

Gen. 29:28 *“And Jacob did so, and fulfilled her week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife also. And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years.”*

B. Our Maturity Must Be Considered:

1. A Happy Home must be worked at:
2. Most marriages struggle in early years:
3. Understand the consequences of separation or divorce:
4. Let the word of God be our guide in decision making:
5. Strive to make our mate happy:

C. Our Marriage Must Be Complete:

I. Cor. 7:3 *“Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife. Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.”*

Dan. 2:1 Making Your Dream Come True

I want to preach today on the thought, “**Making Your Dream Come True.**” Before the scriptures were canonized, the Lord used various ways to communicate to mankind. One of those ways was by dreams. Here in our text, the Lord is using a dream to send a message to Nebuchadnezzar.

In verse forty-five, Daniel says, “...*the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is **certain**, and the interpretation thereof **sure**.*”

Our God has the power to give our heart great spiritual desires, and bring those desires to pass.

Psa. 37:4 “*Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.*”

Nebuchadnezzar’s dream was a vision of future empires and world government and in these first thirteen verses, the word is used in different form **thirteen times**. Now thirteen is the number of **rebellion**. This tells me that the world in its governmental structure stands in rebellion to the authority of God. But, if you read the entire chapter the word is used seventeen times. **Seventeen is the number of Spiritual power and perfection and we read in verse forty-four, “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed:”** The LORD can give you a dream and make it come true.

By way of introduction, I want to mention three classic dreams in the bible. **In Gen. 28, Jacob is at Bethel.** “*And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed: And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold,*

I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.”

In Gen. 37: *“And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed: For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.”*

In Mt. 2 *“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt; and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.”*

A. In all of these dreams, we find something being preserved:

1. In Jacob’s dream at Bethel, God’s covenant with His people was preserved.
2. In Joseph’s dream, God’s children are preserved.
3. In Joseph’s dream (Mary’s Husband), the cross is preserved.

Pro. 29:18 says, *“Where there is no vision, the people perish:”*

Psa. 37:4 says, *“Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.”*

a. Without a dream, without a goal, without a desire, without ambition and drive your spiritual life will perish. (Have a dream and watch the LORD make it come true.)

I. A Family Dream:

A. Seeing the Family Saved:

B. Seeing the Family Stay Together: (A family that prays together, stays together.)

C. Seeing the Family Serving Together:

NOTE: The Lord can preserve your family.

II. A Fishing Dream: Mt. 4:18,19 *“And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”*

A. Fish With Bait

1. Love – 2. Grace – 3. Forgiveness – 4. Judgment – 5. Death – 6. Righteousness – 7. Calvary

B. Fish On The Bottom: I Tim. 1:15 *“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.”*

C. Fish For The Big One: (Have it mounted.)

NOTE: We are trophies of His Grace.

III. A Farewell Dream: (Say Good-Bye to some things.)

A. Farewell To Smooth Knees and Easy Living:

B. Farewell To Worldly Ways and Wicked Thoughts:

C. Farewell To An Empty, Aimless Life:

D. Farewell To A Hopeless Past:

E. Farewell To Dead, Dry Worship:

IV. A Faithful Dream: II Tim. 4:7 *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”*

A. Live Faithful

B. Die Faithful

God Can Make Your Dream Come True!

Dan. 2:14-30

Understanding The Secrets Of God

I want to preach today on the thought, “Understanding The Secrets of God.” Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, had dreamed a dream that awakened him and left him greatly troubled. The king had no understanding of the dream, nor did he remember the dream itself. That which distressed Nebuchadnezzar greatly was hidden in the secret place of the most High God.

He called for the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and Chaldeans, but none were able to show him the dream, nor its interpretation. This so enraged the king that he made a decree that all the wise men of Babylon should be slain and their houses made a dunghill. This number included Daniel and his three companions.

Verse seventeen says, *“Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision.”*

I want to interject two things right here. The dream itself concerns the times of Gentiles, and the world powers during those times. He begins with the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Grecian Empire, and finally the Roman Empire. The final world ruler will be the anti-christ and the revised Roman Empire, represented by the feet of iron and clay.

The second thing is the word “secret.” It is mentioned nine times in this chapter. Nine is the number of judgment, finality and completion. The Gentile world powers will come to completion and finality when the Kingdom of God is set up on earth and the Lord Jesus rules and reigns with a rod of iron.

There will be a stone cut out of the mountain without hands that shall break in pieces this final world empire.

Now this secret was hidden away in the heart of God, but was revealed to Daniel and his companions. What was it that they possessed that the wise men of Babylon lacked?

I. Personal Relationship To Christ

(The magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and Chaldeans had no relationship to the source of the dream.)

A. They Knew Where To Look, But Had No Knowledge Of God: v. 11 *“...and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”*

B. Without Knowledge Of Him, There Can Be No Understanding Of His Secrets:

II Cor. 2:11 *“For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.”* (Read v. 22)

v. 10 *“But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit.”*

v. 14 *“But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God:”*

II. Persistent Faith In God

(Daniel went straight to the secret's source.) v. 17-18

A. They Sought God By Faith: Heb. 11:6 *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”*

B. They Believed Him For The Answer

C. They Were Rewarded: (v. 48) *“Then the king made Daniel a great man...”* **(v. 49)** *“Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.”*

III. Prayerful Attitude Of Heart: vs. 17, 18 *“Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret;”*

A. It Was By Prayer That Paul Learned The Outcome Of The Storm in Acts 27:

B. The LORD Revealed To Joshua His Plan To Destroy Jericho By Prayer:

C. By Prayer, The LORD Made Known To David His Victory Over Those Who Had Destroyed Ziglag:

IV. Prudence In The Affairs Of Life:

(Prudence implies caution in deliberating and consulting on the most suitable means to accomplish valuable purposes.)

A. He Investigated The Matter Prudently:

(With counsel and wisdom) **v. 14** *“Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king’s guard,”*

B. He sought The Lord Prudently: (In verse 17, Daniel sought the help and wisdom from friends.)

Pro. 8:12 *“I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.”*

Pro. 12:16 *“A fool’s wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.”*

Pro. 12:23 *“A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of a fool proclaimeth foolishness.”*

IV. Praise The Lord For His Light: v. 20

“Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His:”

A. Praised Him For His Revelation, Power, Providence, Authority

Dan. 2:31-35 One Nation Without God

I want to preach tonight on the thought, “One Nation Without God.” (**Mention the Judge and his decision concerning the pledge of allegiance to the flag.**) In these verses we find the disclosure of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. The Lord had revealed it unto Daniel; “Some believe that Daniel had dreamed the exact same dream.” Daniel here makes it known to the King of Babylon.

The dream deals with the times of the Gentiles and the world empires during those times. Their earthly power is culminated when the stone cut out of the mountain without man’s hand destroys the final world power and sets up His own personal Kingdom on earth.

I want us to notice the elements that their image consists of. The head of gold, his breast and arms are silver, his belly and thighs are brass; his legs are iron and the feet, part of iron and part of clay. Please notice the descending values of these metals. There is a great difference in the value of gold when compared to that of iron and clay. This tells me there is a decline in human values. The world isn’t getting better, but rather continues to grow worse. And America is no longer a nation built on God and living under God, (not under God’s authority and rule) but it’s a nation without God. This should break our heart and drive us to our knees in prayer. But the mentality of America is that if we can hang out a sign that says, **“God Bless America,”** that He will wink at our sin.

There has been such a moral and a spiritual decline in our country that our hearts should be humbled. But America is living in the fast lane and enjoying the party life. And for the most part, she’s without God. No God in the country and no God in the church. What are the evidences of this?

I. Sin Is Abounding: Mt. 24:12 *“And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.”*

A. Abortion: (The worldly practice of Pharaoh in his efforts to extinguish the Hebrews.)

B. Homosexuality: Rom. 1:28 *“And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient.”*

C. Drunkenness: Pro. 21:1 *“Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.”*

D. Pleasures: II Tim. 3:4 *“Lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.”*

1. Sports

2. Hollywood

E. Adultery, Fornication, Divorce, Murder, Idolatry

II. Spiritual Apathy: (All nations that forget God)

A. We Have Forgotten Our Redeemer: Deut. 6:10-12
“And it shall be, when the Lord thy God shall have brought thee into the land which He swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give thee great and goodly cities, which thou buildest not, and houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not; when thou shalt have eaten and be full; then beware lest thou forget thy Lord, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.”

1. Define Forget: To mislay, as make oblivious:

a. In Their Prosperity They Had Forgotten Where They Laid God Down:

B. We Have Forgotten Our Cleansing:
II Pet. 1:9 *“But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.”*

1. Slipping back to those old things we once had victory over.

C. We Have Forgotten What We Have Learned: Deut. 4:9 *“Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thine heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons;”*

D. We Have Forgotten Our Resting Place: Jer. 50:6 *“My people hath been lost sheep: their shepherds have caused them to go astray, they have turned them away on the mountains: they have gone from mountain to hill, they have forgotten their resting place.”*

1. Only Used Once In The Bible; The Number of God: Our Resting Place

III. Satanic Deception: Rev. 20:7-8 *“And when the thousand years are expired, satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, God and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.”*

Dan. 3:23-25 The Lord's Way In The Furnace

In these verses Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego have been cast into a furnace of fire. They're there because of their faithfulness to the Lord and their refusal to bow to Nebuchadnezzar's worldly idol. They were simply obeying the Mosaic Law found in **Ex. 20:3,5** ***"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them."***

I'm thankful the Lord has His way in the furnace. He knows how to put a man there, why he is there, and how to deliver him again.

1. David Was Put In The Furnace For Punitive Reasons:

II Sam. 12:10 *"Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife."*

2. Job Was Put In The Furnace For Proving: Job 42:5,6 *"I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear; but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes."*

3. Paul Was Put In The Furnace For Preventive Reasons:

II Cor. 12:7 *"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of revelation, there was given unto me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure."*

A. That Messenger Reminded Him Of What He Was:

B. The Only Way To Combat Pride Is To See What We Are:

4. Peter Was Put In The Furnace To Reveal A

Partnership: I Pet. 4:12,13 *"All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."*

Def: "Laid:" To Come Between:

MESSAGE

I. The Folly Of Nebuchadnezzar:

A. To Unify His Kingdom By Using Religion:

NOTE: Nebuchadnezzar was a Political ruler trying to bring his kingdom under his rule through idol worship:

1. Notice verse Five and Fifteen, the word worship:
2. He creates an image of himself as an object of state worship.

a. This is humanism at it's highest: **Man's attempt to deify himself: (The spirit of Babylon)**

b. In verse One we have the measurements of the image: sixty cubits high, and six cubits wide: The two together equal **sixty-six (66)**. According to verse Five, there are six musical instruments. Put these three together and you get **(666)**.

B. To Undermine The Word of God:

1. By forcing God's people to compromise: **(Fall down and worship.)**

II. The Faith Of The Hebrews: v. 17 *"If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O King."*

A. Their Defiance: v. 18 *"But if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."*

B. Their Defense:

1. They presented their bodies a living sacrifice.

Rom. 12:1, & v. 28

2. The presence of Christ in the fire: **v. 24,25**

C. Their Deliverance: v. 26 *"Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, came forth of the midst of the fire."*

III. The Fortitude (Courage) Of The Hebrews: v. 18 *"But if not, be it known unto thee, O King, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."*

IV. The Finish Of The Hebrews: v. 30 *"Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, in the province of Babylon."*

Prov. 16:18 *“Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”*

Prov. 13:10 *“Only by pride cometh contention, but with the well advised is wisdom.”*

Prov. 11:2 *“When pride cometh, then cometh shame, but with the lowly is wisdom.”*

I Pet. 5:5 *“God resisteth the proud, and giveth Grace to the humble.”*

1. He Was At Rest And Flourishing: v. 4

A. The Lord Divinely Interrupted:

Dan. 4:37 From Pride To Praise

Here in chapter four we have the second dream of Nebuchadnezzar, followed by his strange and unusual conversion. Here is a man, who for seven years, possessed the heart of beast, ate grass like an ox; and his hair grew like the feathers of an eagle. This was all done because his stubborn and rebellious pride refused to humble itself under the mighty hand of God. **(Read verses 10-17)**

In its primary interpretation the King's dream predicted the fall of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian Empire. But prophetically it speaks of the ecumenical outreach of Babylonianism and Gentile power in the last days, and its final overthrow.

The main purpose of Daniel is to present the times of the Gentiles, tracing the course of human government from the days of the Kingdom of Babylon to our Lord's second coming.

The seven years of Nebuchadnezzar's experience reflects, in type at least, another seven-year period yet in the future. It is that seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy in Chapter 9:24-27. It speaks of the tribulation period when the anti-christ, the last Gentile world power, will control all the nations of the earth. This is that period of time between the rapture of the church and the Lord's second coming. The ecumenical Babylon of the last days, under the anti-christ, will control all the buying and selling as well as control all religious activity.

But what I want to preach on today is the conversion of this royal monarch. **It took one of the most solemn and sobering judgments God has ever pronounced to bring this man from his lofty heights of pride to a humble place of praise.**

I. The Witness Of Man:

A. The Determination Of Daniel: 1:8 *“But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat, nor with the wine which he drank.”*

1. It Was A Heart Experience:

B. The Dream That Was Interpreted: 2:47 *“The king answered unto Daniel and said, of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of lords, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.”*

C. The Deliverance Of Shadrach, Meshach, And Abed-Nego: 3:24-25 *“Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counselors, Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O King. He answered and said, lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”*

II. The Warning From Heaven: 4:23 *“And whereas the king saw a watcher and an holy one coming down from Heaven, and saying, Hew the three down, and destroy it; yet leave the stump of the roots thereof in the earth, even with a band of iron and brass, in the tender grass of the field; and let it be wet with the dew of Heaven and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven times pass over him;”*

A. The Warning Was An Act Of Grace: 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 tranquility.”*

1. Break Off Thy Sins: (To miss the mark)

2. Break Off Thy Iniquities: (To make crooked or perverse)

a. What were these sins that brought about such pride: **(He was trying to appease God; after every witness the Lord gave him; he recognized and glorified God with his lips, but refused to trust Him with his life.)**

III. The Wonderful Conversion: 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 honored Him that liveth for ever and ever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His Kingdom is from generation to generation.”*

The Brazen Serpent: Look and Live: Num. 21:8

A. He Looked To The Right Person: (v. 34 *lifted up mine eyes toward Heaven*) **Is. 45:22** *“Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is none else.”*

B. He Left Worldly Reasoning: (mine understanding returned unto me) **Is. 1:18** *“**Come** now, and let us reason **together**, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”*

C. He Lowered (Humbled) His Heart: (v. 35 *“All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing”*)

IV. The Worship He Offered: v. 37

A. Praise Him:

- 1. For His Mercy given:**
- 2. For His Manifold Grace**

B. Extol:

- 1. Lift Up:**

C. Honour:

Dan. 5:1-31 The Consequence Of Sin

I want to preach today on the thought, **“The Consequence of Sin.”** There’s an old saying that sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.

Sin has its pleasure, **Heb. 11:25**, but it also has its wages. **Rom 6:26** And the price one will have to pay just doesn’t appear to be worth the season of pleasure. I believe we see the reality of **Proverbs 29:1** in the life of Belshazzar. ***“He that being often reprov’d hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.”***

In this chapter we find the last night of Nebuchadnezzar’s powerful kingdom, represented by the head of gold of chapter two. Belshazzar, the grandson of Nebuchadnezzar, has made a great feast. Him and those lords under his authority are drunk with wine, wherein is excess. The drunken feast would have been bad enough, but to make things worse, the king orders his servants to bring the golden and silver vessels that were taken from the house of God in Jerusalem.

We might say this was the straw that broke the camel’s back. For the king sees the fingers of a man’s hand and He writes these words on the wall. **MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN.”** **God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.**

It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But this was the consequence of Belshazzar’s sin. For these fingers that had written on the wall were not the fingers of mortal man. **These fingers** had written the law of Moses on Sinai. **They had written on the ground in John 8** and brought deliverance to a harlot. They were the fingers of God.

Let's look briefly at the sins of Belshazzar and then the consequence that followed.

1. He Desecrated The Holy Vessels Of God: v. 2, 3

a. Once a vessel is sprinkled with blood and anointed by oil, it is made holy, and becomes sanctified, or, set apart, only for the service of God: **Lev. 8:10-12** *"And Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was therein, and sanctified them. And he sprinkled thereof upon the altar seven times, and anointed the altar and all his vessels, both the laver and his foot, to sanctify them. And he poured of the anointing oil upon Aaron's head, and anointed him, to sanctify him."* **(Even The Veil) TO GET TO GOD**

2. He Was Deceived By Pride: (Daniel reminds Belshazzar of the pride of Nebuchadnezzar and the consequences that followed: And says in verse 22: *"And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thy knewest all this."*

Pro. 16:18 *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."*

a. Because of Pride, He Refused to Glorify God: v. 23
"And the God, in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are thy ways, hast thou not glorified."

Rom. 1:21 *"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools."*

b. God Gave Them Up: God Gave Them Over:

3. He Deified Idols: (Any object to which we give what is due alone to God!) **(He elevated the creature to Deity) v. 4**
"They drank wine, and praised the gods of gold, and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood, and of stone."

a. Six Earthen Items Were Deified:

b. Six The Number of Man

c. They Were Praised Or Adored: (Belshazzar gave his affection and love to that which had been created by man.)

Rom. 1:25 *“Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for evermore. Amen.”*

4. Divine Light Was Rejected: v. 22 (Daniel reminded him of Nebuchadnezzar) *“And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this.”*

A. When Light Is finally Rejected By A Lost Man, The Consequence Is Great: (The parable of the rich fool in **Luke 12**) *“But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee.”*

Illus: Esau: Heb. 12:17 *“For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected; for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.”*

Dan. 6:10 Open Windows of the Heart

I want to preach today on the thought, “Open Windows of the Heart.” The sixth chapter of Daniel closes out the historical events in the life of this great prophet. From chapter seven on we see primarily the prophetic aspect of the book.

As chapter six commences, we find Daniel promoted in the Kingdom of Darius the Mede. He is no longer the young man of chapter one. But, he has now reached the age of eighty or ninety years. The king has set three presidents over the kingdom and Daniel is preferred above the others. The reason for that is readily found in verse three, “Because an excellent spirit was in him.”

Because of the favor Daniel found in the eyes of both the Lord and Darius, it caused these presidents and princes of the kingdom to be filled with ENVY and JEALOUSY. Therefore, they sought an occasion against Daniel, but found nothing they could charge him with except the law of his god.

So these men begin to plot against Daniel that they might destroy him. They just used a falsehood in verse seven. They lied to the king by telling him that all the presidents and princes were in agreement on making a decree that prevent anyone from asking a petition from any God or man, except the king. Then they flattered the king by elevating him to equal ground with Deity.

Darius, having been lied to and flattered with praise, signs the decree. And Daniel, knowing the writing was signed, went into his house and his windows being opened in his chamber toward Jerusalem, kneeled down and prayed three times a day and gave thanks as at other times.

Please notice he did not have to open the windows. They were already opened. We, as god’s people, need to maintain a constant attitude of prayer. We shouldn’t wait until disaster strikes before we try to pray. Daniel’s prayer time was already open. He prayed and thanked God as he did aforetime.

How can we insure that we maintain open communication with the Lord?

I. There Must Be A Right Relationship Established: Lk. 11:11-13 *"If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will ye for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: How much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?"*

A. Must Be A Son

B. Must Abide In The Scriptures: Jn. 15:7 *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."*

II. There Must Be A Readiness Of The Will: Psa. 55:17 *"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and He shall hear my voice."*

A. Desire

B. Determination

III. There Must Be A Revelation Of God's Power: (We must recognize His abilities.)

A. In Ch. 1 Daniel Saw God Sustain By Grace

B. In Ch. 2 Daniel Saw God Answer Prayer And Provide Wisdom

C. In Ch. 3 Daniel Saw God Deliver His Three Companions From The Fiery Furnace

D. In Ch. 4 Daniel Saw The Judgment of God On King Nebuchadnezzar

E. In Ch. 5 Daniel Saw God Set Down One King And Set Up Another

IV. There Must Be A Resolve To Live By Faith: I Chron. 6:38 *"If they return to thee with all their heart and withal their soul in the land of their captivity, whether they have carried them captives, and pray toward their land, which thou gavest unto their father, and toward the city which thou hast chosen, and toward the house which I have built for thy name: Then*

hear from Heaven, even from thy dwelling place, their prayer and their supplication, and maintain their cause, and forgive thy people which have sinned against thee.”

Heb. 11:6 *“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.”*

V. There Must Be A Renouncing Of The Flesh: Mt. 26:40

*“And He cometh unto his disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, what, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**”*

Dan. 6:16-28 A Tale Of Three Kings

I want to preach today on the thought, “A Tale Of Three Kings.” In the early verses of this chapter, there’s been a plot against the prophet Daniel. Those who ruled under him in the kingdom have sought to find an occasion against him that he might be put to death. They did this by convincing the King Darius to sign a decree that no petition or prayer should be made to any man or God except him. **(They must have spied on Daniel.)**

Daniel was faithful, both to the Lord and King Darius. In verse ten Daniel continues to pray and seek the Lord as in the past. This is in no wise rebellion toward the king nor his commandment. Daniel was simply practicing a faith he had followed all his life.

(I Refuse To Capitulate)

Daniel’s faithfulness finds him in a den of lions. V. 16 ***“Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions.”*** The Bible doesn’t say how many lions there were, but the plural would indicate that there was more than one.

But standing in the shadows was a lion that could not be seen with the human eye. John, on the isle of Patmos, saw this Lion in **Rev. 5:5** ***“And one of the elders saith unto me, weep not; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, The Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and loose the seven seals thereof.”***

And that Lion was there to shut the mouths of the others. He prevailed and He shall always prevail. Let me mention a few things about the Kings and we’ll be finished.

I. The King Of Babylon: (Laboured to keep Daniel out of the Den of Lions.) (But he realized too late that he had been deceived and used by his subordinates.) **v. 14** ***“And he laboured until the going down of the sun to deliver him.”***

A. His Faith. V. 16 *“Then the King commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the King spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.”*

1. There’s Faith Then, There’s Faith: (Never called God his God.)

2. It’s one thing to believe God will deliver others, but it’s another thing to experience it ourselves.)

B. His Fasting: v. 18 *“Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting.”*

1. He had more to lose than Daniel: his honor and reputation of being a wise king was at stake.

C. His Fury: (Daniel being delivered, he now commands Daniel’s accusers, with their wives and children, be cast into the den of lions.

v. 24 *“And the king commanded, and they brought those men who had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces **or ever they came at the bottom of the pit.**”*

1. This may be a picture of the day when lost sinners will be cast into the bottomless pit!

II. The King Of Beasts: (Lions are known as the King of Beasts.)

A. Satan Is Likened To A Lion: I Pet. 5:8 *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about seeking whom he may devour.”*

1. The Bible in Hebrews **11:33** speaks of these who by faith “stopped the mouths of lions.”

a. Samson: Jud. 14:5 (at the vineyards of Timnath)

b. David: I Sam. 16:34

c. Daniel: Dan. 6:22

(God Will Shut the Mouth of the Lion For Us Also)

2. He’s our Adversary

3. He's our Accuser

III. The King Of Glory (Battle) In Psalm 24 (Read) The Lord Is Called The King Of Glory At Least Five Times:

A. Delivered Daniel:

1. By Shutting the Lions' Mouths: (The word "shut" simply means to surrender: when Jesus arrived the white flag went up.

Dan. 7:9, 10, 13, 14, 18, 22

(Then Came) The Judgment

I want to preach tonight on the thought, “Then Came The Judgment.” We read the scripture, “then came the morning,” and we rejoice over that truth. But there’s also coming a day of Judgment. For most people the word judgment always seems to be a negative thought. But for those of us who know the Lord, we can be very optimistic.

With this chapter begins the second major division of the book of Daniel. This second half of the book consists of a series of visions, all of them given to Daniel, and all of them interpreted. These visions contain remarkable prophecies covering the period of the times of the Gentiles and the great tribulation period.

The vision of these, “four great beasts,” are four kings who come up out of the sea, which is the masses or multitude of people. They correspond to the four metals of the image in chapter two, and represent the kingdoms of **Babylon, Media-Persia, Greece and Rome.**

But the vision of chapter two and chapter seven depict the world under human government. However, chapter two is from the human standpoint, while chapter seven is the Divine view. Worldlings see human government on exhibition of great human prowess. **But God sees it as brutal, terrible, selfish and power hungry. And will eventually destroy itself. (All Beasts)**

I must add this by way of introduction. The four winds striving upon the great sea in verse two represent the confusion and conflict in human government, which are brought about by satanic forces.

But in verse nine, “Daniel beheld until the thrones were cast down, and the throne of the ancient of days is set up.” At this time we’ll see the fulfillment of **Rev. 11:15 “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in Heaven, saying, the Kingdoms of this world are become the**

Kingdoms of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever."

I. The Sovereign Judgment of God:

NOTE: Please notice verse ten. There are two separate groups present: Those who minister to Him and those who stand before Him. The latter are those who stand before the great Judgment Bar of Almighty God. **(Read Rev. 20:11-15)**

A. His Eternality: (And the Ancient of days did sit)

Psa. 93:2 *"Thy throne is established of old: Thou art from Everlasting."*

Lk. 10:18 *"And He said unto them, I beheld satan as lightning fall from Heaven."* (He's been around a while.)

1. He's Acquainted With Man's Ways: Psa. 139:3

"Thou compassed my path, and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways."

2. He's Aware of Man's Whereabouts: Psa. 139:8

"If I ascend into Heaven, thou art there: If I make my bed in hell, behold, Thou art there."

3. He's Atoned For Our sins: Rom. 5:11 *"And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement."* **(He was judged for us, therefore that judgment refused leaves man under condemnation.)**

B. His Purity: (Whose garment was white as snow.)

1. His Judgment Will Be Righteous: Rom. 2:4,5

"Or despisest thou the riches of His goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;" **(THE RECORD BOOKS Rev. 20)**

Gen. 19:25 *"Shall not the judge of all the earth do right."* **(Ill. Sodom)**

C. His Wisdom: (And the hair of His head like pure wool) (His wisdom misses nothing.)

1. His Judgment Will Be Revealing: Rom. 2:16 *"In that day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my Gospel."*

a. {Secrets} That which we've covered, concealed, and refused to confess:

Mt. 10:26 *"For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known."* (Ill. Achan)

D. His Method Of Judgment: (By Fire)

1. His throne was like a fiery flame:

a. The finality of judgment

b. The fury of judgment

c. The force of judgment

2. And His wheels as burning fire: (whirlwind)

3. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before

Him: (Issue) (Clearing the way)

NOTE: Nothing shall prevent it.

II Thess. 1:7,8 *"And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the Glory of His Power; when He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."*

Dan. 7:13-14 Thy Kingdom Come

I want to preach tonight on the thought, “Thy Kingdom Come.” That period of time when the Throne of God will be established on earth, and our Lord will rule supremely; after having put down all human rule and authority. Thy Kingdom Come should be the heart’s desire and {prayer} of every born-again child of God. In **Mt. 6:9,10** the Lord instructed His disciples to pray in this manner: “Our Father which art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, **Thy will be done** on earth, as it is in Heaven.”

When Christ’s dominion is established, strife will cease, and {peace} will run like a river throughout all lands.

Is. 11:6 *“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.”*

Is. 2:4 *“And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”*

When the royal diadem is placed upon the head of our Lord, shouts of {praise} shall be heard throughout all the land.

Is. 12:1-6 *“And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me. Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.*

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.”

Let me very briefly interpret the verses in our text. I don't claim total infallibility on my interpretation, but I feel confident that I have the mind of the Lord. **Verses 9 and 10** appear to be at the closing of the millennial reign and the white throne judgment of God. I believe **verse 11 coincides with Rev. 20:2,3** when the dragon, that old serpent the devil, and satan shall be bound in the bottomless pit for one thousand years.

Notice in Daniel 7:11 His body is destroyed, and given to the burning flame. I believe the body here is in reference to satan's earthly tabernacle, but when the thousand years are expired and he's loose from the pit, he will appear in his spirit form, and go out to deceive the nations. Verses thirteen and fourteen are the scenes in Heaven when our Lord is crowned Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

I. The Sovereign Ruler of The Kingdom: I. Tim. 6:14,15
"That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: which in his times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords."

A. He Is Worthy To Rule:

1. Because He Created Them: Rev. 4:11 *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

2. Because He Has Conquered All Enemies: I Cor. 15:24 *"Then cometh the end, when He shall have delivered up the Kingdom to God, even the Father; when He shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."*

a. He Has Conquered Death

b. He Has Conquered The Dragon

c. He Has Conquered The Darkness Of Sin

3. Because His Cross Purchased It: Dan. 2:44

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”

II. The Subjects Of The Kingdom: Dan. 7:14

A. They Serve Him: (A Servant’s Heart) Rev. 7:15

“Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple.”

B. They Sing to Him: Rev. 5:9 *“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals therefore: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed unto God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.”*

III. The Strength Of The Kingdom: v. 14 *“And His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.”*

Dan. 7:15-28 Then Came The Morning

I want to preach today on the thought, “Then Came The Morning.” “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” These verses deal with the consummation of Gentile world-power, their rule and authority. At this time the Lord will establish His throne and you and I, as Kings and Priests, shall rule with Him. **Please notice verse eighteen, “*But the saints of the most high shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.*”**

But we don’t enjoy that position at the present. We seem to be living under a dark cloud, to say the least. The man of sin, the son of perdition seems to have the upper hand against the saints of God. **Look at verse 21: “*I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them;*” Notice v. 25: “*And he shall speak great words against the most high, and shall wear out the saints of the most high.*” But the blessing is found in verse 22: “*Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most high: and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom.*”**

We may have to live in some dark days, but morning rays of sunlight shall again break the eastern sky. And if we’ll take time to pause and think, we’ll find many cases that we felt as though the sun would never shine again, **“But then came the morning.”**

- 1. When Morning Comes Darkness Has To Flee:**
- 2. When Morning Comes Evil Has No Place To Hide:**
- 3. When Morning Comes It Brings The Dew Of Heaven:**

I. The Morning Came When I Was Lost In The Darkness Of Sin: Ill: The Blind Man of Jn. 9:6,7 “*When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground, and made clay of spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with clay, and said unto him, Go wash in the Pool of Siloam, (which is by*

interpretation sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing."

A. He Was Blessed With Faith: v. 10,11 *"Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? He answered and said, a man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the Pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight."* **(He made it to the pool blind.) (He went by faith.)**

B. He Was Blessed With Fellowship: 35-38 *"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is He, Lord, that I might believe on Him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen Him (by faith at the pool) and it is He that talketh with thee. And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped Him."*

1. There Is No Fellowship With Him In Darkness:
I Jn. 1:6 *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness we lie, we lie and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanseth us from all sins."*

C. He Was Blessed With Friendship: v. 35 *"Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said unto him, Dost thou believe on the son of God?"*

II. The Morning Came When I Was Living In The Despondency of Sickness: (Ill. Myself 3 years ago) (Ill. The woman with the issue of blood in Mk. 5:25-34)

A. She Needed To Personally Touch Him: v. 28 *"For she said, If I may touch but His clothes, I shall be whole."*

- 1. No one else prayed for her.**
- 2. She was not anointed by some faith healer.**
- 3. She had no prayer cloth in her purse. (She had to touch Him.)**

Def. Touch: To attach oneself to: (Hold on to Jesus.)

B. He Has Power Sufficient To Heal: v. 30 “*And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that virtue had gone out of him, turned Him about in the press, and said, who touched my clothes?”*

C. Her Plague Was Made Whole: v. 34 “*And He said unto her, daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be made whole of thy plague.*”

1. She had lived under that plague for twelve years:
2. She had tried every person but the right person:
3. She had spent all she had, then found the cure was free:

THEN CAME THE MORNING

III. The Morning Came When Jesus' Body Lay Dead In The Sepulchre: Ill. Jesus Mk. 16:1-8

A. The Time of His Resurrection: v. 2 “*And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.*” (SON).

B. The Tomb Had Been Opened: v. 34 “*And they said among themselves, who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.*”

1. He Broke The Seal Of Death: (The Stone)

C. The Testimony Of His Disciples: v. 5-7 “*And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he said unto them, be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: He is risen: He is not here. Behold the place where they laid Him. But go your way, tell His disciples and Peter that He goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him as He said unto you.*”

Then Came the Morning

Dan. 9:2 The Attitude Of Prayer

I want to preach today on the thought, “The Attitude of Prayer.” I think we all could agree that Daniel was a man who believed in the power of prayer. It was in chapter six and verse ten that Daniel was found kneeling upon his knees three times a day, praying and thanking God. He was a captive in a foreign land, facing the consequence of the den of lions, and yet he prevailed in prayer.

There are three significant ninth chapters in the Old Testament, all of them containing a prayer of similar nature: Ezra 9, Nehemiah 9, and Daniel 9. In each instance, a servant of God was on his knees before the word of God, earnestly interceding for the people of God. The nation was in captivity, living in a time of upheaval and uncertainty, and these men were found on their knees and in the scriptures. Should not you and I today, with the spiritual condition of both church and country, be occupied in like manner?

This chapter is broken down into two main divisions: The Prayer and the Prophecy. This morning we’ll concern ourselves primarily with Daniel’s prayer.

I. The Promptings Of The Prayer: (What prompted Daniel to pray?) v. 2 *“In the first year of his reign, I Daniel understood by books the number of years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the Prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolation of Jerusalem.” V. 3* *“And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication,”*

A. The Scriptures: (Daniel’s secret lay in the right and regular use of the scriptures. Bible reading and prayer stand or fall together. If your prayer life is lacking, take up the word of God and give yourself to quiet and reflective reading.

1. The Revelation: (That He, “The Lord,” would accomplish seventy years in the desolation of Jerusalem.)

a. Daniel is now an old man. He had been in Babylon a long time. He saw the end and knew he may be going home. (Us today.)

B. The Salvation Of His People: (Their deliverance)

1. He knew they stood on the threshold of a new day.

II. The Pursuit Of Prayer: v. 3 *“And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting and sackcloth, and ashes:”*

A. With Deep Devotion And Intense Desire He Consciously Turned To God:

1. By faith in the promises of God he was drawn to the Holy of Holies.

a. He was praying in the Holy Ghost: Judge 20

b. He learned to pray and not faint: Lk. 18:1

c. He was praying always with prayer and supplication in the Spirit: Eph. 6:18

d. He did not ask amiss: Ja. 4:3

2. He set his face to seek God's.

III. The Penitence Of The Prayer: v. 3 *“And I set my face unto the Lord, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes.”*

A. Marked By Contrition: (Fasting, sackcloth, and ashes) **Psa. 34:18** *“The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”*

1. These were all outward marks of an internal condition:

a. Our spiritual poverty: **(The sackcloth)**

b. Undeserving of his blessings: **(Fasting)**

c. No sacrifice to give, but reminding us of the one he would make: **(Ashes)**

B. Marked By Confession: v. 4 *“And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made confession.”* **V. 5** *“We have sinned.”*

NOTE: If Daniel, who from his youth had purposed not to defile himself, needed to confess sin, how much more you and I?

1. He recognized and confessed that Israel's spiritual condition was preventing the Lord from blessing his people.

2. He saw himself through the eyes of God: **v. 5**

a. We have **sinned**; committed **iniquity**; done **wickedly**; **rebelled**; **departed** from His law.

NOTE: As Daniel meditated upon the Lord, with all His Glory and perfection, his own heart became dark against the pure, spotless, white background of a Holy God.

IV. The Petition Of His Prayer: (What was he seeking the Lord for?)

v. 17 *"Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake."*

A. Favor For The Sanctuary In Jerusalem:

1. There were no sacrifices being made:

2. No prayers being offered:

3. No worship of God:

B. That God May Be Glorified: (For the Lord's sake)

V. The Power In The Prayer: **v. 21** *"Yea, while I was yet speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation."*

A. He Touched Me:

1. The Time: (The evening oblation) **3:00 p.m. on the Ninth Hour:**

a. It was the ninth hour that Peter and John went up to the temple to pray: Acts 3:1

b. It was the ninth hour that Cornelius had his prayer answered: Acts 10:3

c. It was the ninth hour that the Lord yielded up the Ghost:

B. He Informed Me

Dan. 10:1-21 Three Touches of Grace

I want to preach today on the thought, “Three touches of Grace.” As this chapter begins, we find Daniel under a very heavy burden. According to verse two, he has been mourning for three weeks. He has refused food and drink, and has denied himself of all the luxuries of life that he has been accustomed to. **(Burdened over the spiritual poverty of Israel.)**

The old prophet is here in a state of fasting and prayer. He is seeking God’s face for understanding of Jeremiah’s seventieth week which ended the times of Gentiles and brought about the consummation of the reign of the anti-christ. **After twenty-one days of prayer, fasting, and supplication, Daniel is completely overwhelmed by what he sees. V. 5** There are different views as to who this man is. Some think it was an appearance of Christ while others believe it to be an angel. I believe it was Jesus, in His glorified, incarnate state.

Daniel was so overcome by this vision, that his comeliness was turned to corruption, and he retained no strength. At the sight of Christ, Daniel was very humbled. But in verse ten, a hand touched him. I don’t necessarily believe this touch was from the man Daniel saw in the vision. Because in verse thirteen the one that touched Daniel needed help from Michael to overcome the prince of Persia. And Jesus needs help from no one to conquer the power of satan.

Let me say again that Daniel’s vision had left him weak and without strength. But a hand of Grace touched him.

I. He Received A Touch Of Understanding: (v. 10 “*And, behold, an hand touched me*”) (v. 11 “*And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee.*”)

A. Understand His Word Of Love: (v. 11 “*A man greatly beloved*”)

1. Christ wants you to know He loves you: **Eph. 3:18,19** (“*That ye) may be able to comprehend with all saints*

what is the breath, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge:

2. Christ wants you to enjoy His love: **Eph. 3:19**
“That ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.”

B. Understand His Words Of Life: (v. 11 *“and stand upright”*)

1. It’s a holy life: (Stand upright)
2. It’s a happy life: (For unto thee am I now sent)
3. It’s an honourable life:
4. It’s a helpful life: (Thy words were heard)

II. He Received A Touch Of Utterance: v. 16 (*“and, behold, one like the similitude of the sons of men touched my lips”*) (*“Then I opened my mouth”*) (*“and spake”*)

A. To Speak To Christ: (*“And said unto Him that stood before me”*)

1. There was boldness to pray: (**Heb. 4:16** *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of Grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find Grace to help in time of need.”*)

B. To Spread The Gospel: (**Col. 4:2-4** *“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving; withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which also I am in bonds: that I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.”*)

NOTE: The first touch gave Daniel an understanding of God’s word; the second gave him the privilege of telling what he knew.

III. He Received A Touch Of Unction: (v. 18, 19 *“Then these came again and touched me one like the appearance of a man, and he strengthened me, and said, o man greatly beloved, fear not: Peace be unto thee, **be strong, yea, be strong.**”*)

NOTE: Daniel was the first made to understand the word, then the privilege to utter what he understood, and now the unction to empower the word.

III. Paul I Thess. 1:4,5 *“Knowing, brethren beloved, your election of God; For our Gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance.”*

A. His Authority Came From God: (The Lord is looking for a witness who will speak with Godly authority.)