

Daniel 26 – Fear Leading to Life or Death?

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Daniel 5:5-9

Power of Two: Contrasting the Two Natures

Old (Sin) Nature

- Worships constantly: Satan
- Walks in Darkness and Death: Sins
- Animalistic unreasoning nature
- Asebeia: Ungodly in everything
- Luciferianism: Gnostic Pantheisms
- Covetousness: Behind all idolatry
- Nabonidus – Belshazzar
- Fear of Death: Prime motivator

New (Saved) Nature

- Worships constantly: Christ-Satan
- Can walk in Light and Life: May sin
- God's reasonable nature possible
- Eusebeia: Godliness possible
- God in Christ alone
- Love: God's Love undergirds all
- Nebuchadnezzar – Belteshazzar
- Fear of the Lord: Begins Salvation

Fear of Death or Fear of the Lord: "...subject to...slavery" PH 2:14-15

Belshazzar: Bel Protect King



Fear – Darkness – Death

Belteshazzar: Moral Treasure



Fear – Light – Life

Understanding the Concept: Fear of Death vs Fear of the Lord



- What is Fear? Scientists of psychology seek to dispel the burden of guilt so one can live free; yet, everyone faces fear daily regardless therefore, one must understand source of fear and its implications: Saved and Lost
 - One context points to reverence, awe or worship; embedded in the Fear of the Lord phraseology (1:21-15)
 - Another context points to fear, terror and is the polar opposite of awe; God is a terror to those whom He will judge (1:15-18)
 - That which can be known of God, He exists and there comes a judgment is evident though rejected by the Lost (1:18-25; 16:1-2)
 - Christ's eternal kingdom puts an end to the final enemy: Death, whom even Satan fears though he brought death to himself, demons and mankind (1:25; 15:24-30)

Fear of Death: Primary Motivator of the Lost

- Lost deny the basis of their motivation: fear of death for they know the Second Death is coming (Guilt) (1:20; 2:24-26; 10:1-13; 14:18; 20:11-12)
 - Demons know the reality of Christ and tremble in **fear** (16:6-7; 17:2-15)
 - Satan, the god of this world, knows his time is short and rages on the earth to forestall his fate but to no avail: Latter Days (16:10-17; 20:4-6; 18; 12; 17; 20:1-12)
 - Cain (Given by God) hated Abel (Worthless One) because God respected Abel while rejecting Cain's life offering: Saved shows their rejection of God to be a lie (5:4; 8:1-12)
 - Fear of death drives Lost to hate everyone who is of God, even to Messiah who came to die for sin: contrasts difference: Lost-Kill; Christ-Dies to save (16:10-12; 18; 18:4-6)
 - They remain entrenched in their idolatry and hope to prevent Christ establishing His Kingdom; even to becoming Posthuman (16:21-4; 18; 17:1-12)


Fear {Worship} of the Lord: Way of Salvation and Maturity in Christ

- For those who are called, Saved, God reveals Himself and they cry out, "Abba, Daddy" (1:21-15; 16:10-12; 20:4-6; 17:1-12)
 - God not a terror to His people but saves them; they are stand firm (16:10-12; 17:1-12)
 - There is only one God; His people are not to worship idols (covetousness) who neither see nor hear for in doing so they worship Satan (18:20-1; 4; 26; 32-13; 18; 20; 17:37-42; 1:24; 10:20-21; 24; 8:18)
 - Worship of the Lord is beginning of true wisdom (16:11; 10:17; 1:14-6)
 - Justice flows from worship of God to reject pride and arrogance of self; maturity (1:24; 10:17; 17:1-12)
 - God's indwelling Spirit casts out fear (16:14-15)
 - God's underlying motivation is Love, not of self but for those whom He created even to the sacrifice of His Son for their salvation though sinners (1:24; 12:4-12)



Fear of Death vs Fear of the Lord: Immature Believers Balancing Act

- Saul is the quintessential person exemplifying an unstable believer, torn between world and God; decreases with maturation
 - Saul represents the immature believer who does not strengthen his, her, ability to discern good (God) from evil (sin); he, or she, remains unstable, two-souled (1Sa 18:25)
 - Saul **feared** the people, source of his rule in his mind; thus, he pleased them rather than God whom he was to worship with obedience (1Sa 15)
 - Saul, tormented by his two-souled position and lack of repentance, was easy prey for demonic oppression (Depression) eased by godly psalms; David (1Sa 18:29-30)
 - Saul's constant unsteadiness **increased** his guilt, when confronted by his enemies he sought Samuel's help from a necromancer; not God – His death assured (1Sa 28)
 - These believers are torn between: Flesh – Faith; World – Christ; tormented in spirit **they** feel disenfranchised themselves from both; Truly alone, or so they think (2Th 1:10-12)



Belshazzar's Fear Increases: Judgment is Coming

- Understanding the difference between fear of God as judge and worship of God only from those who are saved; we can now understand what is occurring in our text
 - Belshazzar and his nobles are worshiping their idols using the instruments pointing to God's coming sacrifice for sin; Rejecting God's grace
 - They live in fear, are motivated by fear and understand their judgment is right; it will not tarry (Da 2:21-23)
 - Belshazzar does not call on Marduk out of love; he seeks to mitigate the coming Persian judgment hoping Marduk will support him over the Persians; however, the Marduk neither sees nor hears (Da 4:28)
 - Wine is an offering, but dulls the guilt of one's rejection of God; it is reserved for those who are perishing, those in bitter distress; reserved for Belshazzar (Da 2:23-25)



The Fingers Write: Appearance of Holiness Reveals Fear

- Appearance of the fingers projects the holiness of God, possibly by an angel though Bible is not specific
 - Nearly anytime preincarnate Christ or angels appear man suddenly understands his sinfulness as contrasted with God's holiness (Da 4:17, 19-24)
 - Lost would hide from God as their utter sinfulness is revealed (Da 4:17, 19, 22-23)
 - God, angels, strengthens His people (Da 10:4, 11, 19, 21-22)
 - Thus, Belshazzar is fear struck at this manifestation of God
 - Writing is read but not understood, so Belshazzar calls for those who are supposed to be able to decipher the will of the gods
 - Belshazzar believes people motivated by riches and titles; he offers symbols of wealth, purple robe; wealth, gold chain; and power, third ruler (Da 2:13-17)

Fear of Death Opposes Worship of Love: Fear Demands Control

- Belshazzar's fear greatly increased when wise men cannot deduce the meaning of the words: God's mind cannot be perceived by man (2:28)
- Persian army had conquered all lands previously under Babylonian control
- Nabonidus is either not coming to the rescue or come and was soundly defeated; depending on which historical account one choses
- There is some evidence that even Marduk's priests may have assisted the Persians as well as some of the more powerful citizens to insure their survival
- Belshazzar's control had shrunk basically to the palace such that his only recourse was to bribe Marduk for help; position of desperation (If-Then Bribe)
- God nor Satan can be bribed; God is always in control and Satan demands to be the only one in control; man is irrelevant; Only choice is worship God (2:28-29, 32)

Failure of Self Breeds Greater Fear

- When Babylonian's wise men cannot fathom the meaning of the words Belshazzar's, and his nobles', fear increases
- Whereas worship of God (Fear of the Lord) casts out fear; impending judgment breeds fear (2:4-18)
- Belshazzar has tried every avenue open to him to prevent the coming judgment of the Kingdom and himself without repentance to God
- No amount of wine bravado or ostentatiousness can forestall what God has already decreed (2:47)
- The more he tries to appear strong and fearless, the more he advertises his weakness and fearfulness
- God would not leave Belshazzar without an explanation but would give him another opportunity to repent; such is God's mercy and grace (2:48, 50)

Which Governs Your Life: Fear of Judgment – Fear of the Lord?

- Christians are a true dichotomy since we have both the New Nature of Christ and the body of Sinful Flesh (2:83-10; 10:13-16-17; 20:2-17)
- Immature, like Saul, do not exercise their nature (Mature) to discern good from evil and thus are torn between the world and Christ; Hagizo Process
- Immature seek to know what actions are or are not approved; they base their peace on actions, not from Godly worship
- Those who seek compromise with the world live in fear of judgment for they know they will give an account to Christ (2:20-19; 20:5-10)
- If you grow in God's word and practice discernment based on His word, then you will mature in Christ (10:13-16)
- Those who live in worship of Christ eschew evil and though their body betrays them, in their mind they remain committed to Christ in humility (2:24; 26:1-4)
Let your reasonableness be known to everyone.
The Lord is of hand (2:43-7)