

Thursday Morning Group 2021: The Book of Daniel

Program:

11. Introduction and Daniel 1: Despite appearances God is in control
12. Daniel 2 & 3: The Wisdom of Faith
13. Daniel 4 & 5: God of Nations
14. Daniel 6 and Matthew's Passion Narrative: Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament
15. Daniel 7: The One like a Son of Man

Daniel 5: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of a Tree

4:1-3 Something has happened to Nebuchadnezzar!

4:4-5 Prospering - A play on words

4:6-7 A problem we've encountered before

4:8 Daniel to the rescue

Beltshazzar – after the name of my god

In whom is the spirit of the holy gods (remember 2:11?)

4:9-12 A vision of a tree

Ezekiel 31

Dan 2:37-38

4:13-17 The vision of the "watcher"

What is a watcher?

Chop down the tree

Leave the stump (Isa 11:1)

Bands of iron and bronze

Humiliated like an animal

It all has a purpose

4:18 The wise men of my kingdom

The spirit of the holy gods is in you

4:19-27 The interpretation

4:19 It's not good news!

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4:20-22 Just what he wants to hear

4:23-25 Not what he wants to hear

4:26 A important lesson to learn

4:27 One last chance

4:28-33 Chance not taken!

4:34-37 Restoration

Lifting his eyes to heaven

He does as he wills

Reason returned to me, as did glory and the kingdom

The King of Heaven

Pointing is upward (the beginning of wisdom)

Who can say, "What have you done?"

My counselors and my lords sought me

I was established in my kingdom

Pointing us forward (Dan 7)

his dominion is an everlasting dominion

...on earth as it is in heaven

Daniel 5: The writing is on the wall

Belshazzar – who is he

As is clear from the extra-biblical records, it was actually Nabonidus (ca. 556-539 B.C.) who was king of Babylon at this time. However, Nabonidus spent long periods of time at Teima, and during those times Belshazzar his son was de facto king of Babylon. This arrangement may help to explain why later in this chapter Belshazzar promises that the successful interpreter of the handwriting on the wall will be made third ruler in the kingdom. If Belshazzar was in effect second ruler in the kingdom, this would be the highest honor he could grant. (NET study notes)

5:1-4 A BIG mistake

5:1 A lack of wisdom

Proverbs – the beginning of wisdom

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- the end of wisdom: "It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, or for rulers to take strong drink, lest they drink and forget what has been decreed and pervert the rights of all the afflicted. (Pro 31:4-5)

5:2-4 No fear of the Lord

5:2 Vessels of gold and silver that Nebuchadnezzar had taken

5:3 the golden vessels that had been taken out of the temple

5:4 praise the gods of gold and silver

5:5-6 The immediate response

his limbs gave way (ESV) his legs became weak (NIV) the joints of his loins were loosed (KJV)

5:7-9 Back to the same dead end

5:10-12 Mum to the rescue!

The second thing of wisdom (Prov 1:8)

5:13-16 Flattering words and empty promises

5:17-28 Daniel's response and interpretation

5:17 Daniel doesn't suffer fools

5:18-21 A little family history

5:22-23 You should have known better

5:24-28 The writing is on the wall

5:25 MENE, MENE, TEKEL, and PARSIN

5:26 Numbered

5:27 Weighed

5:28 Divided

5:29-31 Wisdom that outlasts an empire