

Daniel 2:46-49 –Results of the Revelation of Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream

Calvin, TSK, HebrewLexicon, Hebrew Bible, Poole, Trapp, Geneva, Gill, Henry, Clarke,

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: As we examine Daniel’s prophecy, keep in mind that this was part of the God’s grand scheme of punishing his covenant people, and yet, giving them hope through prophecy of their return to Jerusalem and of the coming of Messiah. If you miss this, you miss the boat. If you simply see God’s power to preserve men while eating sparse foods, or God’s power to reveal a man’s thoughts, or God’s power to preserve men in fire – without the context of his love for his people and their redemption, you will not be able to get the full benefits of this book and you won’t praise God as you ought. Today, give attention to God’s Words regarding the results of the revelation that God gave of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.

Our headings are: Nebuchadnezzar’s Adoration崇拜of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar’s Acknowledgment of Elohim, Daniel’s Ascension上升with Influence, and Daniel’s Assistance of his Friends.

Our goals are: That you will see effect the Word of God has on those inside and outside of his church, and that you will learn to read, meditate on沉思, and believe God’s Words as his child through Christ.

Nebuchadnezzar’s Adoration -of Daniel

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

1. Nebuchadnezzar had given Daniel and his friends’ food, clothes, a comfortable place to live, a quality education, and everything they owned. So one would have expected that the king would have become angry to hear that his glorious kingdom would be destroyed by a weaker kingdom. And one might have expected that he would have thrown Daniel and his friends in prison. That was how Eastern kings often treated the bearer of bad news. But sovereign God worked in Nebuchadnezzar and he responded quite differently. Verse 46 literally said that he fell down and worshipped before Daniel. Nebuchadnezzar even ordered a sacrifice to Daniel and incense be burned him. He treated Daniel as some kind of lesser God who could receive worship. The king worshipped his slave.

2. Why did Daniel not stop the king from worshipping him? Answer: Daniel could not stop the king. He was a servant...and not in any position to do otherwise. More, he had already told the king that it was his God, not he, who had revealed the dream and its meaning. The truth is, there are times when you cannot control what people do or say. If you hear someone take the Lord’s name in vain and say: “O, My God,” are you always able to stop them? No. It depends on the circumstances. If you are at a wedding and someone is making a speech you may not. Furthermore, it isn’t always wise to demand that someone obeys God’s law...knowing that that person has not had a spiritual heart change yet. That is legalism. You aim for the heart change *then* obedience. Of course there are times when you may warn others not to sin against God...especially a Christian brother or sister, like the angel said to John: “Don’t worship me.” (Revelation 22:8-9) Also Paul and Barnabas, with indignation, 愤怒warned people not to worship them. But in those situations it was reasonable to speak up.

Acts 14:11 Now when the people saw what Paul had done, they raised their voices, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" 12 And Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. 13 Then the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of their city, brought oxen and garlands花环to the gates, intending to sacrifice with the multitudes. 14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard this, they tore their clothes and ran in among the multitude, crying out 15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them,

No doubt if Daniel had a choice he would have refused the worship and the incense赞美and sacrifice that were offered to him. Daniel understood clearly who was to be worshipped...and he knew that bad worship was one of the reasons for the Babylonian captivity. Daniel had also showed his love for his God by refusing to eat defiled玷污meat.

Daniel 6:10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.

And I know you remember his prayer earlier in this chapter. What a humbling prayer before the God of gods!

3. Consider 3 things from Nebuchadnezzar worshipping Daniel.

a. His worshipping Daniel was sinful, but symbolic of what the world would do to Jesus Christ whom Daniel represented. The Word of God will bring the world to its knees before Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

b. His worshipping Daniel was symbolic of the way the world will serve Christians as well. God told Moses that he was like a god to Pharaoh. (Exodus 7:1) Now Daniel was like a god to Nebuchadnezzar.

Isaiah 49:23 Kings shall be your foster fathers, And their queens your nursing mothers; They shall bow down to you with their faces to the earth, And lick up the dust of your feet. Then you will know that I am the LORD, For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me."

c. His sinful worship would have caused Babylonians to rethink and re-examine their own religious beliefs after seeing their king worshipping someone else. They would know there was a greater God than theirs.

Nebuchadnezzar's Acknowledgment of Elohim

47 The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly **your God is the God of gods**, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, **since you could reveal** this secret."

1. Nebuchadnezzar made a stunning acknowledgement that his god – Bel, Baal – was not the greatest God, but the God of his Hebrew servant was the greatest, a God who communicated with his people, unlike his dumb idols. This meant that Marduk, Ishtar, and Shamesh, other famous Babylonian gods, were also nothing compared to Elohim.

2. Sadly, Nebuchadnezzar did not say: My God is the God of gods ...the Lord of Kings...and the Revealer of secrets." We wished that he had. He made an empty acknowledgment. Note 4 things.

a. By acknowledging that God of heaven was the God of gods, he was condemning himself. For if the God of heaven were the true God, why was he still worshipping Bel (Baal)? John Calvin said: When God is God, you throw all idols away. And we are sure that Nebuchadnezzar's confession was not truly genuine, especially when we consider what happened shortly after this. This is so common in our culture where there is much fake Christianity.

Daniel 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was sixty cubits and its width six cubits. He set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

b. Nebuchadnezzar further acknowledged that God was the Lord of all kings... God was the supreme ruler of all nations. Wasn't he condemning himself again? He was implying that he should have ruled under God's directions, but he did not. Praise God that one day all rulers and nations will yield to the rule of the God of heaven.

Revelation 17:14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Revelations 19:16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.**

(See how the books of Daniel and Revelation are so closely related.) But why would Nebuchadnezzar say that Daniel's God was the Lord of kings? It is likely that he did because he was struck with awe 威 at Daniel's God and said what Daniel expected him to say. (Like when people make emotional promises to the dying...though they might not be able to keep them.) Sometimes, people this kind of statement because they want to appear to be pious.

c. Nebuchadnezzar confessed: "God is a revealer of secrets." Nebuchadnezzar was really saying that God knows and controls all things that will happen, and God reveals them to man as he wishes. Jehovah is a living and true God who speaks! Furthermore, God could reveal what would happen because he determined for them to happen. This is confirmed by many in the Bible. Consider one...

Isaiah 48: 5 Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; Before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, Lest you should say, 'My idol has done them, And my carved image and my molded image Have commanded them.'

There is no chance...or luck with the God of heaven.

d. The king's confession was a testimony of truth. The people of the land would have taken note. God had used a donkey to speak his word before, why couldn't he use a king... though a pagan 异教徒...or the dog next door?

3. On the contrary to Nebuchadnezzar, look at how Christians speak of our God...but we do so because we have God's Spirit working in us. We truly believe he is true God. And we say this because the Holy Spirit is working in us.

1 Timothy 6:15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

Revelation 17:14 "These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful."

Daniel's Ascension with Influence

48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.

1. The king raised Daniel to a high position of prominence 突出物 and he accepted it, but it was not for selfish gain – or

greed. He did it for the good of the Jewish people and for God's honor. After all, who would want to work to promote the good of a wicked king who refused to serve the living God, who destroyed God's temple and stole the holy things, and who spread God's people all over the world, breaking up covenant families? **Love for God and God's people moved Daniel to work for the good of the king.** But what blessing to the Jews! Daniel could travel every part where the Jews were to teach and encourage them with God's prophecies. And the **king gave Daniel many gifts**. Surely this would have included a large estate with a comfortable place to live. Would he not have used it for the comfort of his friends?

2. Daniel would be "rabbi." Daniel was going to be the teacher of the people. He would then have the opportunity (and access) based on his position, to be teacher of his people – the Jews- and to succor 帮助 them in their troubles. What a difference from the people in Amos' time with no pity.

Amos 6:6 Who drink wine from bowls, And anoint yourselves with the best ointments, But are not grieved for the affliction of Joseph.

Isn't this amazing that by God's revelation 启示录 that through Daniel the Jewish religion was now the most powerful religion in the whole world? (Even the king said so.) God used even his punishment to promote his glory and the good of his people. What a mighty God we serve!

Daniel's Assistance of his Friends

49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

1. Daniel was not selfish. He wanted his friends to be comfortable as well and made the petition to the king on their behalf. So he ran the risk of offending the king who has just appointed him to a high position. His motto was: If I perish, I perish, but I must work for the good of God's people.

Remember this man. But do you remember this man? How selfish he was!

Genesis 40:23 Yet the chief butler did not remember Joseph, but forgot him.

2. Yet you have to see that Daniel was thinking much more than for his and his friends' personal advantage. **He wanted his friends to be spread throughout the land so that they could work together for the good of the people of God- to teach and to succor them, as he was called to do.** He stayed near the king and central position, but they worked in different parts of the kingdom. They did this for the church of Jesus Christ – Just as Jesus said: Go into all the world and preach!

Conclusion:

Nebuchadnezzar worshipped – but he worshipped Daniel and then put Daniel's God as the first of many gods. Nebuchadnezzar was all show and no substance. Yet God used what he said to advance his kingdom cause. Daniel, on the other hand, after he was raised up by God to a place of prominence, aspired 渴望 to raise up his friends so that together they might help secure protection and blessing for God's kingdom.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: 1. See how God uses all things, even your sins, for your good. Reject luck and chance. Trust in the sovereign God. 2. Worship Jehovah God and serve him only... not just in words, but in heart as well. Don't worship him out of pressure...or for the purpose of pleasing friends and family. 3. Use the position into which God places you to advance his cause and advance the cause of your Christian brothers. You belong to the family and you are one blood through Jesus Christ...how can you act any differently? 4. Be on guard for false "Christians" – those with contradictory expressions – don't be close to them...don't marry them...don't take spiritual instruction from them.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, you have no hope unless you bow before Jehovah God who sent his Son to die for your sins. But you simply may not have a head agreement or a mouth agreement that Jesus came. You have to receive into your heart (through a faith that God gives you) the work of Jesus Christ.