

Daniel 4.18-27

The Gospel for Every Man

If you are FEELING some DÉJÀ VU – You Should! – 2nd Sunday in Daniel 4
 Clear Theme of Daniel 4 is Great PLAN of God: Most High God is Sovereign
 King Neb of Babylon – Opens & Closes Daniel 4 with PROCLAMATION!

v. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

Testimony of Most Powerful Man on Planet >> “God of Every Man” OURS
 Our Sovereign God has ORDAINED both END AND the Means of his Purpose
 END > People will Bow before Him in Praise > MEANS – Sharing Gospel

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. Romans 1.16

DANIEL & BOYS Familiar with Words from PROPHET ISAIAH

I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” Isaiah 6.8

Having HEARD God’s Invitation – they said “We’re IN!”

WHY Study entitled: *“Standing Strong for the True God in a Foreign Land”*

Because THEY STOOD – God’s Name GLORIFIED – People were SAVED

As we Meet as Small Group of Christians in Massive City in Gigantic County

Go back to Daniel 4 – Now look at MEANS > **“The Gospel for Every Man”**

Daniel’s Ex. share > Gospel to our Presidents, Parents, Professors, all People

Xtian 16 > Youth Gp Zealous Evangelists, incl Svendsen Boys, HERE this Year
Several Local Pastors > TOO Radical! Thought we were Too YOUNG!

“You must EARN the RIGHT to be HEARD!” > Maybe BECAUSE
Stood on Tables Canteens / Central Squares Campuses > Open Air Preaching

We Convinced NOT NEED Earn Anything > but Classmates Needed to HEAR
People are WATCHING US...they will SEE Us before they HEAR US...!

1. Consistency - We are Witnesses

EVENTS in Daniel 4 – like Daniel 2 – TRIGGERED by DREAM of King Neb.
vs. 5-7 I saw a dream that made me afraid. As I lay in bed the fancies and the
visions of my head alarmed me. So I made a decree that all the wise men of
Babylon should be brought before me, that they might make known to me the
interpretation of the dream. Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans,
and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make
known to me its interpretation.

King’s DREAM really a NIGHTMARE > ALARMING, made him AFRAID

INVITES Babylonian Dream Team to give him some ANSWERS

4th Neb Story Daniel – Each show Babylonian BRAINS @ Bozos, Bumbleheads

Futility is often brother to power...all the paid pagan professionals could not
interpret the dream. Dale Ralph Davis

DREAM TEAM delivers a NIGHTMARE Performance

When the whole Babylonian Team Strike’s Out – Neb calls Hebrew HITTER

vs. 6-8 At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after
the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him
the dream, saying, “O Belteshazzar, chief of the magicians, because I know that
the spirit of the holy gods is in you and that no mystery is too difficult for you,
tell me the visions of my dream that I saw and their interpretation.

v. 18 ... O Belteshazzar...you are able

WHY does Neb WAIT So Long to INVITE Only ADULT in the ROOM?

Neb ADMIRER Dan for 30 or 40 years Now? > Call Daniel was to Call GOD

Squeeze Daniel, Scripture Pops Out > Steadily Points to God /Powerful Compass

DREAM must have been SO BAD – Neb must GIVE IN – Call MAN of GOD

See Today in LOVE / HATE Relationship People have with CHRISTIANS

Many HONEST Unbelievers ADMIT Bible True, Xtians Noble > ADMIRER

But those in DARKNESS HATE the Light > EXPOSES, ACCUSES, REBUKES

Next Week see Neb's SON...

Daniel was brought in before the king. The king answered and said to Daniel, "You are that Daniel, one of the exiles of Judah, whom the king my father brought from Judah. I have heard of you that the spirit of the gods is in you, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom are found in you...I have heard that you can give interpretations and solve problems." Daniel 5.13-16

For LONG Time Daniel – in Words of Paul – “living letter known & read by all”

DANIEL > POLITICIAN remained PURE / Near KINGS stayed CLEAN

Not sure HOW MANY years he SERVED Empire of Babylon – 40 or 50 years??

EMPERORS DIED and were REMOVED but Daniel REMAINED Faithful

Yes – He SERVED Babylon – BUT His MASTER was LORD GOD of ISRAEL

Jesus SENDS Church IN to the WORLD – but says NOT OF the World

Only way CHURCH can Change World is by Remaining DIFFERENT From It

RISEN Jesus gave SPIRIT to Church to BE His Witnesses...

Jesus: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
Acts 1.8

NOT say ‘DO’ Witnessing but BE Witness – 24/7 – like song “It is WHO I AM”

Cannot PROMISE World will LIKE You for being LIKE JESUS

Just OPPOSITE --- Jesus says they will HATE You, like they HATED Him

We’re NAMED after Him: Little Christ’s! > CONSISTENT CHRISTIANS!

2. Compassion – Truth and Love

WHEN Daniel came to REVEAL Dream, he was Like Neb....

v. 19 Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him.

ALARMED – TERRIFIED: Same word used v. 5 Neb, BOTH Men AFRAID

Daniel NOT Afraid OF Neb or his Dream > Was Afraid FOR him > Face God

Even tho Neb had done TERRIBLE things to DANIEL’S People of JUDAH

Daniel had COMPASSION for him – LOYAL to a King who served IDOLS

Obedied command of PAUL to Ephesians “SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE”

v. 19 “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries”

Even tho this Babylonian King – Destroyed his Homeland and Killed his People

DANIEL shows NO VINDICTIVENESS > Shows Kindness & COMPASSION

He does NOT FEAR for his OWN LIFE but for Coming Judgment on King

Daniel has been Consistently RESPECTFUL before the Court

Even tho TRICKED, ATTACKED, Thrown in FURNACE, LION’S DEN

Easy to LOVE to PREACH – NOT as Easy to LOVE those you PREACH To!
 IF do NOT Love People you PREACH to they will NOT Likely LISTEN to You

v. 24 DANIEL QUOTED SAYING --- “my lord the king”

Language of the COURT > ALSO words of COURTESY and KINDNESS
 REASON Babylon leaders KEPT Daniel, Not Like his Opinions – LIKED HIM!

He would TELL THEM the TRUTH – Whether wanted to HEAR it or NOT!

v. 27 Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you...that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

Perhaps as he sees FOOLISH Son of Neb as Young Prince > Wants Neb to Live!

Gospel of Luke BUILDS in Tension as Jesus MOVES to Jerusalem

When HE FINALLY sees the City where He will SUFFER to SAVE

And when he drew near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, “Would that you, even you, had known on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes.
 Luke 19.41,42

Daniel told NEB God’s Truth CLEARLY & Reasonably before he Understood It
 When Neb entered FAMILY of God by FAITH he Already had Trusted Brother
 Christian Faith is CORPORATE Experience > Need One Another for SUPPORT

3. Courage – We Must Speak

vs. 22,23 it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him’

Dan's LOVE is TOUGH Love/ Tough Love Talks /FAITH comes by HEARING
PLAN Not from Watchers/Angels any CREATURE, Decree of CREATOR God

The purpose of this experience is to bring the king to the knowledge of the truth
that God, as the Most High, is sovereign in His providential dealings with men.

E.J. Young

BUT Neb does NOT have any OPEN Day-Time Appointments for GOD

So God had to SPEAK to this BUSY Man at NIGHT in his DREAMS

Dream like WARNING SHOT across Neb's BOW – Greater Power NEAR

God sometimes presses in upon our hearts the likely outcome of our present
course...someone further along the same path we are headed down and we catch
a glimpse of what we may look like ten or twenty years from now...sometimes a
glimpse of the depravity of your own heart...your secret thoughts, you see the
seeds of sin within yourself. It is a shot across your bow, a chance to humble
yourself and bow before the Lord while there is still time Iain Duguid

Daniel was HONORED to Speak to the King, but HELPLESS to know Dreams!

But LIKE Young SAMUEL Dared to Speak to High Priest ELI,

DANIEL found COURAGE to Speak BOLDLY and FULLY to King NEB

vs. 22 it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong: YOU are the MAN!

Nathan before King David / Elijah before Ahab / John the Baptist before Herod

Like Prophet NATHAN Turns Portrait around to Show King, YOU are the Man

Daniel comes into COURT: NOT with Advice about the STATE > but his SOUL

v. 27 Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your
sins...

No EASY path for Neb DELIVERANCE – BREAK with Sin / BELIEVE Savior

Like PAUL – Chief of SINNERS put self on SAME LEVEL as ALL PEOPLE

DANIEL does Not Claim SUPERIOR Status before God

A less courageous man than Daniel would have blunted the edge with which God was trying to pierce the heart in order to begin the healing process. The message could easily and comfortably have been dissolved into generalities that left a good momentary impression but in the end accomplished nothing definite.

Ronald Wallace

ADVANTAGE we have All those we Speak to MADE Image of God

THINK, SPEAK, REASON – Part of Being His CREATION in His WORLD

Great Privilege given to Neb. Special MESSAGE of WARNING from God

Huge GIFT for God to REVEAL His Word to You

Special Messenger / DANIEL, Small Group Leader, Preacher, Caring Friend

Don't HARDEN your HEART – Receive GIFT as God Himself Speaking to You

4. Clarity – Faithfully handle Word

v. 18 This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.”

Neb. KNEW Something Special about Daniel, Ch 2 – Told DREAM & Interpret.

Name of Neb's god > But SPIRIT did NOT COME from his god

Babylonian Wise Men who FOLLOWED Neb's god > NOT Speak TRUTH

They did NOT Know FUTURE > God gave Daniel Exceeding WISDOM

HOLY God – Different, UNLIKE any we've Ever Seen, UNIQUE God of Daniel

Daniel MODELED what Jesus prayed in John 17 – IN World, but not OF World

AND he was SENT INTO World > Declare ONLY TRUE GOD and SAVIOR

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2.15

v. 24 this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king,

Daniel did MORE than give CORRECT Interpretation of DREAM

Daniel BOLDLY told King he MUST RESPOND and REPENT before God

v. 27 Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

“Do Right” > Familiar warning of HEBREW Prophets > Call for JUSTICE
CARE for the OPPRESSED is Key Piece of True RIGHTEOUSNESS

For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.
Galatians 6.3

The greatest sin of all is that we take glory to ourselves instead of giving credit to God. When we do well we think it is our achievement. When we do badly we think it is somebody else’s fault.
James Boice

DANIEL could NOT Promise Neb his Kingdom would Endure – OR his LIFE!
Neb may be TOWERING Tree > Soon EATING Grass in the FOREST

DANIEL came to Neb like God spoke to His WAYWARD People....

Genuine COMPASSION for Pagan King does Not Want him to PERISH

Daniel CONVINCED > Wisest Thing Neb could do BOW DOWN before God

The church in African needs such a prophetic voice today. In the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, Archbishop Desmond Tutu was such a voice. In the days of Idi Amin in Uganda, the late Archbishop Janani Luwum provided such a voice.
Tokunboh Adeyemo

5. Christ – God Must Save

DANIEL Risked HIGH POSITION & his LIFE! To be Loyal Messenger for God
TRANSFORMING Power of Word – Seed of Truth planted in Neb.

v. 27 “...that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”

ONLY Sure thing we KNOW about TOMORROW is it BELONGS to God

Most Important Question about Tomorrow > DO YOU belong to God??

MESSIANIC Promises of OT – Earthy PHYSICAL Descriptions

Vineyards – Flocks – Houses – Gardens – Harvests – Old Age > Abundance

Neb said NO – REJECTED the Word of Daniel & Witness of the Dream

God of the TEN PLAGUES does not take NO for an ANSWER

POTTER does not REJECT this Clay, just RE-WORKS it for His Own GLORY

We get TIRED of RUNNING – God will always have a SECOND WIND

Neb REMEMBER Word of Daniel even MORE than YEAR after SPOKEN

NO Expiration Date – Still carries POWER of God for SALVATION!

Luke Short ‘trapped’ forced listen to sermon of John Flavel Dartmouth, England.

not a short sermon! Luke was 15 years old. He did not come back Church again

Luke later sailed to New England and lived there to the ripe old age of 100.

strong in body, full of years, but something was missing.

Luke thought Words of the old Puritan Flavel’s sermon he heard 85 years earlier!

Luke believed on the Jesus Flavel preached & at age of 100 had a new birth.

Sermon had a long shelf-life, before time and beyond time.

WORD grew until FINALLY Compelled Him to BOW Down to True GOD
 Living Word transformed NEB from PRIDE in Self to PRAISE of the Savior

We may WANT Friends & Family to REPENT more Quickly, God WILL WIN!

IF Neb – Most Powerful man on Planet – brought LOW before God

Be CERTAIN NO Person can RESIST Him, All will Bow Knee & Confess Jesus

NEB Never MORE POWERFUL than when he was ON HIS KNEES before God
 v. 34 I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His
 dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to
 generation.

Neb. finds his True GLORY in SUBMISSION to True and Living God

NOW have GOSPEL RICHES from God Supplies All NEEDS in Jesus

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in
 Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places Ephesians 1.3

Taking us ETERNAL Kingdom where BUFFET Line make Cruise Ships Jealous

Daniel spoke w/ Great INTEGRITY, Loyal Servant, Holy Life, Loving Concern

When God Opened Door > Daniel READY to Speak to Heart of Neb.

Are you PREPARED for that Day? Do your UNBELIEVING Friends & Family

See Your INTEGRITY, LOVE for Them, your CONSISTENCY in Christ??

NOT Perfect but are you HONEST??

ADMIT you are Sinner, you FAIL and FAIL – Trust the BLOOD of Christ!

HE is the SAVIOR – He is the RIGHTEOUS One!

According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1.3-9

¹⁸ This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, saw. And you, O Belteshazzar, tell me the interpretation, because all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make known to me the interpretation, but you are able, for the spirit of the holy gods is in you.” ¹⁹ Then Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, was dismayed for a while, and his thoughts alarmed him. The king answered and said, “Belteshazzar, let not the dream or the interpretation alarm you.” Belteshazzar answered and said, “My lord, may the dream be for those who hate you and its interpretation for your enemies! ²⁰ The tree you saw, which grew and became strong, so that its top reached to heaven, and it was visible to the end of the whole earth,²¹ whose leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, and in which was food for all, under which beasts of the field found shade, and in whose branches the birds of the heavens lived— ²² it is you, O king, who have grown and become strong. Your greatness has grown and reaches to heaven, and your dominion to the ends of the earth. ²³ And because the king saw a watcher, a holy one, coming down from heaven and saying, ‘Chop down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump of its roots in the earth, bound with a band of iron and bronze, in the tender grass of the field, and let him be wet with the dew of heaven, and let his portion be with the beasts of the field, till seven periods of time pass over him,’ ²⁴ this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, ²⁵ that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. ²⁶ And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules. ²⁷ Therefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you: break off your sins by practicing righteousness, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the oppressed, that there may perhaps be a lengthening of your prosperity.”