

"Nebuchadnezzar's Infomercial"

Daniel 4

1. Nebuchadnezzar's Honest Confession

- a) Sanctions 3.29 Zechariah 4.6
- b) Security vs. 4,36 Psalm 20.7,8
- c) Sincerity v. 8 Isaiah 29.13

2. Daniel's Solemn Mission

- a) Strategic 2.48 Philippians 2.15,16
- b) Misunderstood v. 9 Mark 12.24
- c) Caring v. 19 Romans 9.2
- d) Bold v. 27 Ephesians 4.15

3. God's Gracious Intervention

- a) Ordains vs. 2,17 Isaiah 37.26
- b) Announces v. 25 Psalm 68.11
- c) Accomplishes vs. 28-33 Isaiah 44.26
 - i) Resists Proud v.30 James 4.6
 - ii) Exalts Humble vs. 17,36

①

"Nebuchadnezzar's Infomercial"
Daniel 4

INFOMERCIAL - paid TV program to promote a product
HOOKED ON PHONICS - TONY ROBINSON - VEG - O - MATIC

POLITICAL REALM - Ross Perot and his Flipcharts
Today - Boast + Promise → NEB - WHAT HE DID WRONG
NEB - NOT AN ECONOMIC PLAN OR FOREIGN POLICY - RIGHT WITH GOD

NOT STATE OF THE WORLD - STATE OF HIS SOUL

TESTIMONY - HOW GOD PRESSED HOME HIS DEMANDS ON NEB

through Dream - Interpretation - Fulfillment

CONTRA - 1. Nebuchadnezzar's Honest Confession

DEBATE - WHETHER OR NOT A POLITICIAN ADMITS HIS MISTAKES

a) Sanctions TRIED TO FORCE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP THE GOD OF S,M,A

READ 3.29

Persona ^{ROMIC} FILLED WITH RELIGIOUS ZEAL - ^{yes} A PERSON CAN FORGET GOD

SAUL OF TARSUS - a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee..as for zeal,
persecuting the church...I consider them rubbish, that I may gain
Christ" Philippians 3.5-8

MANY ATTEMPTS IN HISTORY TO FORCE CONVERSIONS

CHARLAMAGNE - those he conquered CHOICE - Baptized or Beheaded

MANY ACCEPTED BAPTISM - THOUGH NOT CONVERTED - WEAKENED CHURCH

SAME WITH OUR CHILDREN - EAGER TO PLEASE PARENTS - GET OFF BACK

OUTWARD CONFORMITY - NO INWARD REALITY - CREATE PHARISEES

Zech 4.6 "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit"
says the Lord Almighty

SPIRIT WORKS THROUGH THE WORD IN GOD'S TIME

Rate 1) Speak Word 2) Live Out 3) Pray
≠ SCOLD & MAG

Confession - FALSE SECURITY

b) Security IN THE WRONG PLACE

vs. 4 "at home in my palace contented and prosperous"

v. 4 MORE THAN JUST A BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT - CONFESSION

SOURCE OF HIS TROUBLE - WHERE HE WENT WRONG

LIKE NEB - SOME SUCCESS - BUSINESS, SCHOOL, HOME
ACHIEVEMENT BASED ON SOME INNER RIGHTNESS IN OUR LIVES - NOT GOD

St. Augustine "God wants to give us something, but cannot,
because our hands are full - there's nowhere for him to put it"

CONTENTMENT WRONG?? PROSPERITY WRONG??

WRONG - WAS NOT SUBMITTED TO GOD - HEART OF PRIDE

UNIQUE DEFENSE OF ISRAEL

Psalms 20.7 "Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

GLORY RESTORED v. 36

CONFESION - FALSE SINCERITY

c) Sincerity DIVIDED LOYALTY - GOD WAS NOT TRULY LORD

v. 8 "after the name of my god"

WAS HIS GOD YAHWEH OR BEL?? - DEPENDED ON SITUATION??

DESPITE POSITIVE GROWTH - OLD PAGANISM REMAINED - PULLING BACK

Isaiah 29.13 "The Lord says: These people come near me with their
mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from
me."

2. Daniel's Solemn Mission

a) Strategic POSITION OF SERVICE FOR GOD

READ 2.48

MORE AFRAID FOR THE WORLD THAN OF THE WORLD

POSITION OF PROMINENCE - PRIME MINISTER - FAITHFULNESS

GOD NEEDED SOMEONE TO BE THERE TO REACH NEB

NO OTHER PERSON CAN FULFILL THE STRATEGIC ROLE GOD GAVE YOU

SOCIETY: DESPISE BEING "JUST A MOTHER" - DECLINE OF SOCIETY 1 X 1

Andy Warhol - "Everyone will be famous for 15 minutes" WANNA-BE's

b) Misunderstood

v. 9 "Chief of the magicians, I know that the spirit of the holy gods is in you"

OH YOU ARE SO NICE / YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD PERSON

WELL MEANING - SINCERE - SINCERELY WRONG

Teacher HHS - Perceptive Students - ALL RELIGIONS ARE THE SAME

NAME DANIEL "God is Judge" / BELTESHAZZAR "May Bel protect"

EVIL OF NAMES - ERODE DISTINCTIVE TESTIMONY OF GOD'S SERVANTS

NOT - YAHWEH JUDGED AND PROTECTED IN ISRAEL - BEL DOES IN BABYLON

BALANCE IN OUR INVOLMENT WITH THE WORLD

ONE EXTREME - ISOLATION

Failure to acknowledge that Christ sends is into the world

OTHER EXTREME - ADOPTION

DEVIL - "Show the world Christians can have fun just like the world does, that Christians are no different"

"the best way the Church can help the world is to remain different from it"

DANGER OF IMITATING ITS STANDARDS: SUCCESS, GROWTH, ENTERTAINMENT

Sadducees were VERY RELIGIOUS - yet Jesus said to them:

"Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?"
Mark 12.24

SHEEP-OWNER - COULD NOT GET THEM TO WALK UP RAMP INTO SLAUGHTER
TRAINED GOAT- NAMED JUDAS - LEAD THE WAY UP RAMP - SHEEP FOLLOW

JUDAS - WENT FREE - SHEEP WERE SLAUGHTERED

MAIN REASON FOR DRUGS, CRIME, IMMORALITY, - FOLLOW THE CROWD

c) Caring v. 19

NOT EASY TO SPEAK CONDEMNATION TO PAGAN KING

GOD TAKES NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF THE WICKED

Paul's concern for his fellow Jews:

"I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart" Rom 9.2

HUDSON TAYLOR - TOLD OF CHINESE PASTOR

TAUGHT NEW CONVERTS TO WITNESS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

MET MAN XTIAN - 3 MONTHS - HOW MANY HAVE YOU LEAD TO CHRIST??

NONE - STILL A LEARNER

"when does a candle begin to shine - when half used up?" WHEN LIT

d) Bold v. 27

REAL CONCERN SHOWN IN SPEAKING THE MESSAGE - WORD OF LIFE

"Speak the truth in love" Ephesians 4.15

NO GENERALITIES - SPECIFIC MESSAGE

Prophet Nathan to King David "You are the man"

3. God's Gracious Intervention

3 x's the phrase is repeated:

"the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes" vs. 17,25,32

NEB - THE HEAD OF GOLD - IMAGINED THAT HE RULED THE WORLD

AFTER MANY STRUGGLES - DEATH OF BOTH PARENTS - BRITISH SCHOLAR C.S. LEWIS: "I gave in and admitted that God was God"

a) Ordains vs. 2,17

"Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In the days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass..." Isaiah 37.26

GOD ALREADY KNOWS WHO WILL BE ELECTED PRES. ON TUESDAY

(5)

ROSS PEROT spending over 1 million dollars a day to become Pres.

Charles Evans Hughes was Gov. of NY, Justice of Supreme Court, Presidential Nominee, Secretary of State, and Chief Justice of Supreme Court - NEVER SOUGHT ANY OFFICE, NEVER SPENT ANY MONEY
THE OFFICE SOUGHT HIM

b) Announces GOD MAKES HIS WILL KNOWN

GOD'S WORD CAME ONE NIGHT IN A CLEAR, UNMISTAKABLE WAY - DREAM
ACT OF MERCY AND GRACE - DREAM AND INTERPRETATION

v. 24 "this is the interpretation of King..."

c) Accomplishes vs. 28-33 *Frightening - Shameful → Seven Years*

GIVEN AN ENTIRE YEAR TO RESPOND IN OBEDIENCE

"I am the Lord, who has made all things...who carries out the words of his servants and fulfills the predictions of his messengers"
Isaiah 44.24,26

HOW LONG WILL GOD GIVE YOU TO RESPOND??

Robert Ingersoll - FAMOUS ATHEIST - MESSAGE TO DISPROVE GOD
TOOK OUT WATCHED - PLACED ON TABLE - IF THERE IS GOD - 5 MINUTES
TO STRIKE ME DEAD - MINUTES PASSED - WOMEN FAINTED - NOTHING!!

Evangelist Joseph Parker

ETERNAL

"Do you think you can exhaust the patience of God in 5 minutes?"

i) Resists Proud ^{READ -} v. 30 *FOR MY GLORY*

GOD STANDS AGAINST THE HEAD OF GOLD

Jeremiah 18.1-10 - POTTER CAN DO WHAT HE CHOOSES WITH THE CLAY

"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand...If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict the disaster I had planned"

IF GOD CAN DO THIS TO BABYLON - HOW ABOUT USA?? HAILI?? US??

v. 35 "no one can hold back his hand"

INTENTION - TO RESTORE THROUGH REPENTANCE

ii) Exalts Humble

vs. 17 "Kingdoms of men...sets over them the lowliest of men"

v. 36 "my sanity was restored"

PRODIGAL SON CAME TO HIS SENSES -

W/OUT GOD YOU DON'T THINK STRAIGHT

MERCY - v. 26 Leave the STUMP of the Tree

B will BE RESTORED

Acknowledge that HEAVEN RULES -