

Lesson 48 Book of Daniel 5-20-2001

1. Last week I finished the exegesis of Daniel chapter three. When time ran out I was giving you several summary points learned from the experience of the “Three Amigos.”
2. Before resuming to our summary points, I want to remind give you an expanded translation of Dan 3:24-30:

Dan 3:24 After King Nebuchadnezzar arrived from the Palace, he looked into the furnace and was astounded; what he saw caused him to leap to his feet; the King turned to his chief of staff, "Didn't we throw all three men into the fire and were not their hands and feet tied?" One of his cabinet members answered, "Certainly, O king."

Dan 3:25 King Nebuchadnezzar then said: Look, I see four men unbound; in fact they are all four walking around in the furnace; there are flames leaping all around them but they seem to be unharmed and the fourth man looks like a son of one of our gods.

Dan 3:26 After the furnace had cooled down somewhat, Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the furnace and spoke: "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, servants of the most high God, come out and come here. Then the three came out of the furnace."

Dan 3:27 The members of King Nebuchadnezzar's cabinet, together with the heads of the various provinces who had come to Babylon to worship the image, they all crowded around Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They saw that there were no burns on their bodies and furthermore they were amazed that the fire had not even singed a single hair of their head; their robes were not even scorched, and each Potentate was astounded that the young men had no smell from the fire on them.

Dan 3:28 Nebuchadnezzar then lifted up his hands toward heaven and shouted, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied my command; these men were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own."

Dan 3:29 The King walked slowly back to the reviewing stand where he pronounced the following decree: "anyone who says anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego shall be cut into pieces and their houses will be reduced to rubble, for there is no other god who can save in this way."

Dan 3:30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to positions of high office in his administration.

Now let's review several of the lessons learned from chapter three.

1. Daniel Chapter three reveals the pernicious activities of religion.
2. God cannot be reduced to material substance; therefore, nothing made by man is worthy of worship.
3. Neither pride nor the abuse of regal power could change the course of human history.

4. Governmental interference with human volition in spiritual matters is anti-Biblical and does not constitute a legitimate function of government.
5. Ecumenical religion is not tolerated under God's protocol.
6. God never honors compromise even if it feels good.
7. As believers we should never be foolish enough to retaliate against our personal enemies. Remember "the battle and vengeance is the Lord's."
8. Daniel Chapter three reveals the pernicious activities of religion.
9. God cannot be reduced to material substance; therefore, nothing made by man is worthy of worship.
10. Neither pride nor the abuse of power can change the course of human history.
11. Governmental interference with human volition in spiritual matters is anti-Biblical and does not constitute a legitimate function of government.
12. Response to ecumenical religion is not ordered under the divine institutions which God has ordained.
13. God never honors compromise.
14. A believer should never be foolish enough to retaliate against his personal enemies. Remember "the battle is the Lord's."
15. In time of pressure and suffering the presence of doctrine in the soul is imperative.
16. Happiness comes from doctrine in the soul and not from materialistic possessions or power.
17. God protected the faithful believers of Daniel's day when they faced persecution and death.
18. God protects His people. He will always protect His own.
19. Daniel Chapter three has a special application for His people Israel during their special trial under the Antichrist.
- 19.1 Nebuchadnezzar is a picture of the False Prophet who sets up an image to be worshipped in the false temple (Rev 13:11-15).

Rev 13:11 Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns (he comes like a religious "sweety" and acts later like a dragon) like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.

Rev 13:12 He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

Rev 13:13 And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.

Rev 13:14 Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

Rev 13:15 He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

19.2 The image which Nebuchadnezzar sets up foreshadows the image of the abomination of the desolation of the Tribulation.

Dan 11:31 "His armed forces will rise up to desecrate the temple fortress and will abolish the daily sacrifice. Then they will set up the abomination that causes desolation.

Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel - let the reader understand--

19.3 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego depict a believing Israel in the Tribulation--a cadre of true Jews who, like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego will be delivered by the Christ at His second coming (Zec 14:1-9; Mat 24:9-26).

Zec 14:1 A day of the LORD is coming when your plunder will be divided among you.

Zec 14:2 I will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it; the city will be captured, the houses ransacked, and the women raped. Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city.

Zec 14:3 Then the LORD will go out and fight against those nations, as he fights in the day of battle.

Zec 14:4 On that day his feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, and the Mount of Olives will be split in two from east to west, forming a great valley, with half of the mountain moving north and half moving south.

Zec 14:5 You will flee by my mountain valley, for it will extend to Azel. You will flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Then the LORD my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.

Zec 14:6 On that day there will be no light, no cold or frost.

Zec 14:7 It will be a unique day, without daytime or nighttime--a day known to the LORD. When evening comes, there will be light.

Zec 14:8 On that day living water will flow out from Jerusalem, half to the eastern sea and half to the western sea, in summer and in winter.

Zec 14:9 The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name.

Mat 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

Mat 24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

Mat 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

Mat 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

Mat 24:13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Mat 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand--

Mat 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. . .

Mat 24:29 "Immediately after the distress of those days "'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.'

Mat 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

Mat 24:31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.

19.4 The furnace foreshadows the Tribulation period.

19.5 The fourth Person in the furnace--the Son of God is analogous to Jesus Christ at the Second Advent.

19.6 Just as He came to the furnace He will come to the earth to deliver all the believers of the Tribulation.

19.6.1 He also walks with us and sustains us during our fiery trials; recall trials and tribulations in time are inevitable and are to be expected.

20. Now let's see what we can learn from Daniel chapter four:

Introduction:

1. At the end of Daniel Chapters two and three Nebuchadnezzar had observed the power of the God of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego ...

Dan 2:47 The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery."

Dan 3:28 Then Nebuchadnezzar said, "Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king's command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God.

Dan 3:29 Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way."

2. Although the king had heard the message of salvation he rejected the gift of eternal life! How faithful is God. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen ... God never fails mankind!

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

3. After the point of God consciousness every normal individual has an opportunity to become a child of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

3.1 Some make the transition easily others have to be brought low before they look beyond themselves.

Tit 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

Joh 1:8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

Joh 1:9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

4. Nebuchadnezzar's salvation came only after the temporary loss of his kingdom and his sanity! Daniel Chapter four is actually a tract written by this king after his restoration to power.

4.1 He describes the depths to which he sank before he accepted Christ as his Savior.

5. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 4:1.

Dan 4:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king, unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you.

1. The king" is at this point the regenerate ruler of the Chaldean Empire. Since the tract was written after he was saved it is a retrospective exposition.

2. Notice that Nebuchadnezzar wanted everyone to know about his salvation, so he addressed the message "unto all people [racial], nations [geographical], and languages [linguistic]" in his far flung empire.

3. When a person trusts Christ as Savior and has the assurance of eternal security, he should be ready to share this information with others.

3.1 Remember your own conversion! You should think of your salvation as your most valuable possession in the world!

4. Not only should this provide us with tremendous enthusiasm but further it enables us to cut through the barrage of ridicule, sarcasm, or any obstacle we may encounter when witnessing for Christ.

4.1 This is not to say that we will always feel absolutely comfortable in witnessing; quite the contrary given the nature of what we are doing and where we are doing it.

5. Every born again believer should want to follow in Nebuchadnezzar's footsteps by sharing the Gospel with others but only when God the Holy Spirit provides the opportunity.

6. The salutation ends with "Peace be multiplied unto you." "Peace" [SHALOM] was the standard greeting of the Ancient East, but this phrase said more than a simple "hello."

6.1 The phrase "Be multiplied" is the Piel imperfect of SHANAH and is much stronger than "peace be with you."

7. "Peace be multiplied" represents a placid, stabilized condition under all circumstances, and means that peace which is made available to every believer, sufficient to meet every problem in life.

7.1 The trick is however, it only comes to those who elect to positively receive our Lord's love overtures.

8. After Nebuchadnezzar was saved he understood that the only way blessing could be multiplied in the human race was through the plan of God.

End Lesson Taught 5-20-2001