

1. Last week I finished Daniel chapter three and then exegeted Dan 4:1. When time ran out I was about to begin an analysis of Dan 4:2.

2. Before resuming, I want to give you an expanded translation of Daniel chapter one verse one:

Expanded Translation

Dan 4:1 I Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon to all members of the Kingdom; Peace and stability to you all!

1. The king is this point is a believer and the powerful ruler of the Chaldean Empire.

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. 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.

4. Now let's see what we can learn from Dan 4:2:

Dan 4:2 I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

1. Verse 2 states the purpose of the tract.

2. It is obvious that Nebuchadnezzar's soul reflected divine viewpoint as a result of his conversion, and his written testimony can be classified as a production of 'divine good.'

3. As an unbeliever, the king was capable only of human viewpoint and had demanded that his subjects participate in idolatry.

3.1 After he was saved and had learned some Bible doctrine, his attitude changed; and he recognized that man's freedom of choice should never be violated.

4. Nebuchadnezzar remembered his own misery before he accepted Christ as Savior. Although he had every material possession, still he was unhappy, always seeking a stimulus to compensate for the void in his life.

5. In contrast, he had seen three Jewish men who sought nothing more than freedom to worship their God; they were supremely happy, even while facing death!

5.1 "I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me" is perhaps better translated "it seemed good to me as King of Babylon that I should publish far and wide the manner of my miraculous conversion".

6. "The signs" refer to the dream and its implications as far as the impact of the Gospel was concerned. "The wonders" indicate the interpretation of the dream and the way it was fulfilled.

6.1 In other words, Nebuchadnezzar was saying, "I think it's about time that I reveal to you all the wonderful knowledge that has come to me concerning what God hath wrought.

7. Note that Nebuchadnezzar no longer took credit to himself but attributed these "signs and wonders" to "the high God."

7.1 He recognized the grace of God and wanted every person who read his tract to know that he had crossed over the line and trusted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior!

8. Under the principle of grace, God does all the work! Grace equals God's DOING and man's RECEIVING!

9. Under the principle of grace, man receives what God has provided.

10. Col. R. B. Thieme, Pastor of The Berachah Bible Church in Houston tells an interesting story about grace:

"The Spiritual Life class I attended in Seminary under Dr. Lewis S. Chafer provided the most fantastic illustration of grace I have ever seen. Dr. Chafer was a great teacher, and his examinations were thorough, but tough. Everyone had to study, study, study! When one of my friends saw the exam, he simply wrote his name in his "blue book" and turned it in in spite of the fact that for several days he had been living on "ammonia Cokes" while "boning up." I wrote four blue books full! When I turned in my exam, Dr. Chafer asked if I wanted to see my grade. I was pleased when he wrote "100" but as he laid my books on his desk, I saw the blank blue book of my friend. On it he posted in red, "100"! I pointed out this apparent error to Dr. Chafer, who, with a twinkle in his eye, said to me: "Look, what you write is your business. What I do about it is mine. You see, your grade doesn't depend on you, it depends on me!"

11. Col. Thieme went on to conclude: "From this I learned more about grace than I ever had before. He disciplines when we are out of line, but He never gives us what we deserve. If He did none of us would be around! You see, everything depends on God."

12. What a tremendous and wonderful change had taken place in Nebuchadnezzar's life!

12.1 The king took a long time but once he understood the principle of grace he made a historical record which stands available for all to read and that includes us today.

13. Before going forward with a study of verse three let me give you an expanded translation of verses one and two.

Dan 4:1 Nebuchadnezzar, the regenerate ruler of the Chaldean Empire, unto all the racial, geographical and linguistic divisions within Babylon, peace through the God of Israel, my God, be multiplied unto you.

Dan 4:2 As a result of my conversion, I thought it good to give my testimony and reveal the wonders that God the Father has bestowed upon me.

14. Now let's take a look at Dan 4:3.

Dan 4:3 How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

1. "How great are his signs" is an amplified reference to Nebuchadnezzar's dream which was an integral part of a divine revelation. "How mighty are his wonders" entails both the interpretation of the dream and the conversion of the king.

2. "His kingdom" draws attention to the future kingdom of the Messiah. Nebuchadnezzar had received information through Daniel concerning his own great empire and the rise and fall of other great powers; however, in his tract, he spoke not of earthly kingdoms but of an "everlasting kingdom," greater than any empire ever to be ruled by mere man.

3. In effect, Nebuchadnezzar stated that because of his relationship with the Lord he was part of that "everlasting kingdom. "Thus, the king repudiated both the image of gold which he had built and the kingdom he had attempted to perpetuate (Daniel chapter 3).

4. "His dominion" refers to the rule of the Lord Jesus Christ over born again believers. While this is the devil's world with Satan as its ruler (Eph. 2:2), God never loses control.

Eph 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

Eph 2:2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.

Psa 2:2 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.

Psa 2:3 "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters."

Psa 2:4 The One enthroned in heaven laughs; the Lord scoffs at them.

Psa 2:5 Then he rebukes them in his anger and terrifies them in his wrath...

5. As a matter of principle God never leaves Himself without a witness, even in times of greatest apostasy; there is never a time when He is not in control.

5.1 Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall; but regardless of the instability on the international scene or the pressures of life because we live in Satan's world, God's Word lives on forever.

Mat 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Isa 45:23 By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.

Isa 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Rom 14:11 It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'"

Rev 6:15 Then the kings of the earth, the princes, the generals, the rich, the mighty, and every slave and every free man hid in caves and among the rocks of the mountains.

Rev 6:16 They called to the mountains and the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"

Rev 6:17 For the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

6. This Word of God in the soul of Nebuchadnezzar, or any believer, is the means of inner peace, happiness, power and blessing!

End Lesson Taught 5-27-2001