

1. Last week I finished the analysis of Dan 4:21-23 and when time ran out I was reviewing the Doctrine of the Five Cycles of Discipline.

2. Before resuming that study, I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 4:1-23:

Dan 4:1 My name is Nebuchadnezzar, I am the ruler of the Chaldean Empire, recently I decided to become a Judaeo Christian. Unto all the racial, geographical and linguistic divisions in Babylon, peace 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 my Father has bestowed upon me.

Dan 4:3 How great are His revelations! How mighty is His salvation! God's kingdom is everlasting, and His rule extends to every generation.

Dan 4:4 I Nebuchadnezzar was enjoying a time of great prosperity in my palace; as King of the world's greatest empire. I thought I had it all.

Dan 4:5 Suddenly I had a horrifying dream; it was followed by several terrifying visions - I was greatly disturbed.

Dan 4:6 So I commanded that the wisest men of Babylon be brought before me to interpret the dream.

Dan 4:7 When the diviners, enchanters, astrologers and priest came before me, I told them what I dreamed, but they could not interpret its meaning.

Dan 4:8 Finally, my old friend Daniel appeared, this is the same Daniel whose Chaldean name was Belshazzar; I earlier named him after the name of my former heathen god. I repeated the dream to him; after which I said:

Dan 4:9 "Belshazzar, chief of the wise men, I know that the Spirit of God dwells in you and no mystery is too difficult for you; tell me the meaning of my dream and the visions which followed".

Dan 4:10 These were the visions in my mind: I saw a tree of great height in the center of the world.

Dan 4:11 It was large and strong, with its top touching the heavens, and it could be seen to the ends of the earth.

Dan 4:12 Its leaves were beautiful and its fruit abundant, providing food for all. Under it the wild beasts found shade; in its branches the birds of the air nested; all men ate of it.

Dan 4:13 In the vision I saw reconnaissance and judging angels come down from heaven and they cried out:

Dan 4:14 Cut down the tree and lop off its branches; strip off its leaves and scatter its fruit; let the animals flee its shade and the birds its branches.

Dan 4:15 But leave in the earth its stump and roots, bound with iron and brass in the grass of the field. Let him be bathed with the dew of heaven and then let him eat alongside the cattle in the fields; let him walk beside them and eat of the grass with them.

Dan 4:16 For seven years let this man lose the mind of a man and be possessed instead with the mind of an animal.

Dan 4:17 By the decree of the reconnaissance angels and the justice and love of God, this sentence is decided so that all who live may know that the Most High rules over the kingdom of men. He gives as He desires, and even sets over them the lowliest of men.

Dan 4:18 After Nebuchadnezzar had described all he dreamed he said, "Belshazzar, tell me its meaning. None of the wise men in my kingdom can tell me the meaning, you can, and I know this because the Spirit of God is in you".

Dan 4:19 Daniel was at first greatly perplexed, and he could not hide his concern. So the king said, "Belshazzar, don't be afraid to tell it like it is." Daniel then answered, "My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries!

Dan 4:20 For you see my King, the large, tall, strong tree which was visible to the entire earth;

Dan 4:21 the same tree with the beautiful foliage and abundant food, that same tree which provided not only prosperity for its citizens; even shade for their indigenous fauna and a pleasant place for the birds of the air;

Dan 4:22 You are that tree, O king, large and strong! Your majesty has become so great as to touch the heavens, and your rule extends over the known world. You have provided great prosperity for all your citizens.

Dan 4:23 In your dream "You saw a special angel from God, he delivered a message just for you "Cut down the tree and destroy it, but leave the stump in the field, bind it with iron and bronze, this is to be done while its roots are still in the ground". You, Oh King are that tree. The angel then said "Let Nebuchadnezzar be drenched with the dew of heaven; let him live in the field like a wild animal for seven years."

3. Last week when time ran out we were about to look at Deu 28:58-67 where a progression of steps leading to an ultimate discipline are outlined for Israel.

4. Before resuming new material I want to review some of that learned:

#### Doctrine of the Five Cycles of Discipline

1. The term "fifth cycle" was coined by R. B. Thieme to describe the last in a sequence of divine discipline imposed on a nation.

2. Negative volition toward God causes the national discipline.

3. As to whether there are exactly five cycles of discipline is certainly problematic, however, we do know there are definitely several warning steps culminating in a final stage characterized by military defeat, dispersion and demise of the national entity.

4. Nations like people receive discipline from God.

5. Nations like individuals are disciplined in time when they reject God. Hos 4:1-6

6. For individuals our doctrine of discipline tells of a warning and intensive phase and even a sin which would seem to lead to death.

7. Believers are disciplined for either carnality or reversionism or some combination of both. Heb 12:5-6

8. If discipline comes for carnality the discipline is canceled by the use of rebound at least to the extent that discipline for punishment is turned into discipline for "blessing". 1Co 11:31

8.1 Discipline for reversionism or evil requires a change in thinking and the associated halt in the aberrant behavior. Rom 12:2

8.2 Believers are often not teachable and therefore can only learn by means of divine discipline. Heb 12:1-11 and Jam 5:9

8.3 To become upset when punitive measures are applied is to forget the concept taught in Heb 12:5.

8.4 There are for the individual believer stages of discipline just as there are for the national entity.

8.4.1 There is a warning stage where God presents a gentle reminder and if there is no response then the severity is increased. Rev 3:14-20

8.4.2 That there is an ultimate dying stage would seem to be taught by what many call for lack of a better term "the sin unto death". 1Jo 5:16 and 17:

9. Client nations today would seem to be culpable and are expected to have:

9.1 a large pivot of positive believers

9.2 a significant evangelical effort both at home and abroad

9.3 pro Semitic policies for ethnic Jews living in their borders

9.4 establishment principles which protect and support the four divine institutions.

10. When nations fail to support such principles, divine discipline becomes the order of the day.

11. The root cause of divine discipline for a nation is "a lack of knowledge" of the Word of God and the implementation of its principles. Hos 4:6

12. As we look at God's dealing with Israel and His warnings there are cycles resulting finally in a stage called by Col Thieme the "fifth cycle".

12.1 There are many passages outlining the process but the most extensive can be found in Deu 28:58-67 and Lev 26:14-39.

12.2 Keep in mind, like as in most prophetic Scriptures the interpretation must be adjusted so as to apply today.

12.3 Some of the caveats of Scripture translate readily like famine, lack of rain etc. but descriptions like "I will send wild beasts among you" might better be interpreted as internecine carnage or the ravages of war etc.

12.4 So much for what we earlier covered, now for new material.

13. Let's first look at Deu 28:58-67 to get the concept of God's promise to deal with a disobedient Israel.

Deu 28:58 If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name--the LORD your God--  
Deu 28:59 the LORD will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses.

Deu 28:60 He will bring upon you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you.

Deu 28:61 The LORD will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed.

Deu 28:62 You who were as numerous as the stars in the sky will be left but few in number, because you did not obey the LORD your God.

Deu 28:63 Just as it pleased the LORD to make you prosper and increase in number, so it will please him to ruin and destroy you. You will be uprooted from the land you are entering to possess.

Deu 28:64 Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods--gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your fathers have known.

Deu 28:65 Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart.

Deu 28:66 You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life.

Deu 28:67 In the morning you will say, "If only it were evening!" and in the evening, "If only it were morning!"--because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see.

14. Col. Thieme has chosen to organize the Scriptures found in Lev 26:14-39 into 5 cycles of discipline as follows:

#### 14.1 Cycle One Lev 26:14-17

Lev 26:14 But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments;

Lev 26:15 And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant:

Lev 26:16 I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning fever, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.

Lev 26:17 And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.

#### 14.2 Cycle Two Lev 26:18-20

Lev 26:18 And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins.

Lev 26:19 And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass:

Lev 26:20 And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.

#### 14.3 Cycle Three Lev 26:21- 22

Lev 26:21 And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring seven times more plagues upon you according to your sins.

Lev 26:22 I will also send wild beasts among you, which shall rob you of your children, and destroy your cattle, and make you few in number; and your high ways shall be desolate.

#### 14.4 Cycle Four Lev 26:23-26

Lev 26:23 And if ye will not be reformed by me by these things, but will walk contrary unto me;

Lev 26:24 Then will I also walk contrary unto you, and will punish you yet seven times for your sins.

Lev 26:25 And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall avenge the quarrel of my covenant: and when ye are gathered together within your cities, I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy.

Lev 26:26 And when I have broken the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied.

#### 14.5 Cycle Five Lev 26:27-39

Lev 26:27 And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me;

Lev 26:28 Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins.

Lev 26:29 And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat.

Lev 26:30 And I will destroy your high places, and cut down your images, and cast your carcasses upon the carcasses of your idols, and my soul shall abhor you.

Lev 26:31 And I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation, and I will not smell the savour of your sweet odors.

Lev 26:32 And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it.

Lev 26:33 And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste.

Lev 26:34 Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths.

Lev 26:35 As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it.

Lev 26:36 And upon them that are left alive of you I will send a faintness into their hearts in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a shaken leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee, as fleeing from a sword; and they shall fall when none pursueth.

Lev 26:37 And they shall fall one upon another, as it were before a sword, when none pursueth: and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies.

Lev 26:38 And ye shall perish among the heathen, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.

Lev 26:39 And they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; and also in the iniquities of their fathers shall they pine away with them.

15. Israel today finds itself under the fifth cycle and there they will remain until our Lord returns.

15.1 Earlier the fifth cycle was imposed for 70 years on "Israel" when they were exiled to Babylon. Later they were permitted to return to "the promised land" however some 500 years later a second "fifth cycle" had to be imposed.

15.2 In A.D. 70, Rome destroyed Jerusalem and Israel found itself once again a "nation" under ultimate discipline.

End Lesson Taught 6-24-2001