



PROGRESS CHURCH

*Why We Should Live Wisely in
Babylon*

EL ELYON

God Most High

November 29, 2020

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A. Prelude

- **Psalm 24: 1-2**, states; *“The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein. For He has founded it upon the seas, And established it upon the waters.”*
- **Psalm 24:1-2** tells us that:
 - ❖ God owns the earth
 - ❖ It belongs to Him because He established it
 - ❖ Not only does the earth belong to Him, but all who dwell in it
 - ❖ He created all things. The book of Ezekiel declares, *“...All souls are mine (18:24).”* **ALL OF IT BELONGS TO MY GOD!**

B. Introduction to Daniel

- ❖ **Author and Date:** Daniel, Timeline 605 BC to 622 BC
- ❖ **Theme:** The books central theme is God's sovereignty over history, empires, and Kings (Daniel 2: 21; 4: 34-37)
- ❖ **Key Themes:** It is possible to live a faithful life while surrounded by pagan influences, if one serves the Lord.
- ❖ **Outline:**
 - The Setting of Daniel:** Though their short-lived by comparison with the Assyrians before them and the Persians after them, the Babylonians dominated the near East during the early days of Daniel, and they were responsible for his initial exile to Babylon. Daniel himself, however, outlived the Babylonian Empire, which fell to the Persians in 538 BC.

C. In the Book of Daniel God is Described as the Most High God and the Ancient of Days

- ❖ El Elyon or Elyon means “Highest,” “Most High,” or “Uppermost”
- ❖ Since El Elyon is possessor of heaven and earth, He has and exercises authority in both spheres: the heavenly authority and the earthly authority
- ❖ It is thought that El Elyon comes from the words translated “highest” and “to go up”
- ❖ When these words refer to God, they mean the “Exalted One,” the One lifted far above all gods, men who are rulers with pagan authority, angels and even fallen angels



In the Book of Daniel God is Described as the Most High God and the Ancient of Days (cont'd)

- ❖ Ancient of Days is an Aramaic name for God that is found in the book of Daniel
- ❖ Like other names, it points to God's eternal nature while describing Him in terms of a human elder

D. Body of Content - King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- Daniel went home from the court to his house and told his companions Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah what the king was about to do to his spiritual advisers if they were not able to tell him his dream and interpret it.
- ❖ But I believe it was God who put this in king Nebuchadnezzar's heart to demand such an impossible task from his spiritual advisers to fulfill his purpose in: the king's life; Babylon and also Daniel's destiny. Scriptures confirming this: Philippians 2:13 and Revelation 17:17

Body of Content - King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (cont'd)

- ❖ God always have a man or a woman in the right place at the right time; God is never without a witness. Daniel was that man. Captive from Judah in the king's court.
- ❖ Scripture confirms this truth: Esther 4:14 and Acts 23:16

E. Daniel Made the Matter Known to his Companions

- They sought mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, that they would not perish with the rest of the wise men from Babylon (Daniel 2: 18).
- ❖ God revealed the dream to Daniel in Daniel 2: 19
- ❖ Daniel give praise to the Most High God who revealed to them the secrets of the king's dream in **Daniel 2: 20-23**
- ❖ He declared in verse 23; *"I thank You and praise You, O God of my Fathers: You have made known to me what we asked You, for You have made known to us the king's demand."*



Daniel Made the Matter Known to his Companions (cont'd)

- ❖ **Deuteronomy 29: 29** declares; *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”*



F. Daniel's Response to the King When he asked if he Could tell him the Dream and the Interpretation

Daniel 2: 27-29 says, *“No man has the ability to reveal the dream and to give the interpretation of it. But there is a God in heaven who reveals and He has made known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the later days... and He who reveals secrets has make known to you what will be.”*

- God made known to the king in a dream the FUTURE WORLD POWERS.

G. The Dream - A Great Image

- The Dream: Daniel 2: 31-33 and Interpretation of the dream: verses 36-45
- The Great Image to be established in the Earth in a particular order:
 1. The Head of Gold represented the Babylonian empire which is king Nebuchadnezzar (verse 32)
 2. Its Chest and Arms was of silver represented the Mede and Persian empire (verse 32)
 3. Its Belly and Thighs was of bronze representing the Grecian empire (verse 32)
 4. Its Legs and Feet the Roman empire (Feet partly of Iron and partly clay)



The Dream - A Great Image (cont'd)

- ❖ Gold was more precious and costly
- ❖ Silver was inferior to gold
- ❖ Iron was inferior to silver and gold
- ❖ Clay cannot be compared to gold, silver, and iron; in terms of cost, or being precious and durable

H. All these Kingdom Powers were the Babylonian System: The Spirit of Babylon

- ❖ Babylon is an actual place that exists in the dimension of the spirit world. Babylon is a system of control. It has its own cosmological system, which is the exact antithesis of the kingdom of God. Meaning a person or thing that is the direct opposition of someone or something else.
- ❖ It has its own political system, legislative bodies, and governments, just like any other physical, natural kingdom, nation, or country. Its principles, policies, and religious practices are promoted by doctrines of man and devils.



All these Kingdom Powers were the Babylonian System: The Spirit of Babylon (cont'd)

- ❖ It permeates throughout the twelve systems of the universe.
- ❖ It is assigned to hinder, frustrate, and sabotage the fulfillment of purpose, undermine destinies, and imprison souls of man.

I. God Dealt with the Babylonian System with a Special Stone

Daniel said to the king in **Daniel 2: 34**; *“You watch while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces.”*

- ❖ The stone cut out without hands hit the image on its feet which takes away its stability
- ❖ The great image was struck on its feet by a stone cut out without hands and the whole image was destroyed. Tells us that these kingdoms had a timeline, they are not durable and they would come to an end



God Dealt with the Babylonian System with a Special Stone (cont'd)

- ❖ The stone was cut out without hands, signifying that it was not of human origin but by God's intentional design
- ❖ The stone that struck the image on its feet and caused the image (the world powers) to crumble and destroy the kingdoms of this world, is the King of kings and Lord of lords over God's eternal kingdom – JESUS! (Daniel 2: 44-45)

J. Bible Prophecies Fulfilled

In Genesis 3:15, God spoke to the serpent, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel (NJK).”

1 John 3:8 states, *“The one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil (NASB).”*

Luke 2: 11, was the fulfillment of Jesus birth, *“For unto us is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord”*

Bible Prophecies Fulfilled (cont'd)

- ❖ God declare His prophetic word to us so that we will know and anticipate its fulfillment
- ❖ He also setup the world powers and resides over them

Daniel 4:17 declares, “For this has been decreed by the messengers; it is commanded by the holy ones, so that everyone may know that the Most High rules over the kingdoms of the world. He gives them to anyone he chooses— even to the lowliest of people (NLT).”

K. Three Kings in the Book of Daniel Encountered the Most High God

- In the book of Daniel, we see three kings encounter with God which brings them to a place of humility or they were humbled by God.
- ❖ King Nebuchadnezzar had an encounter with the Most High God and at the conclusion of chapter 4:4-37
- ❖ Daniel 5:1-30: King Belshazzar experience was one where God had to humble him, because he should have known better (verse 21-22) because of his father's encounter and decree regarding the Most High God

Three Kings in the Book of Daniel Encountered the Most High God (cont'd)

- ❖ Daniel 6: 25-27, King Darius had an encounter with God and it made him realize that he could not fight or compete with the God of Daniel
- ❖ Therefore he made a decree, in verse 26-27; *“I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For He is the living God, and steadfast forever; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, and His dominion shall endure to the end. He delivers and rescues, and He works signs and wonders in heaven and on earth, who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.”*



Five Things we can Learn from the Book of Daniel

1. God is always in control of the powers that be, but we need to do our part as believers in Christ Jesus
 2. God will give answers to difficult situations, when we ask for answers and wait for the answer
 3. We can walk confidently in life when we trust God with our life knowing He is in control
 4. We need to keep our eyes on what God is doing because He is always working
 5. The things that are impossible for men has a solution in God. For nothing is impossible with Him
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L. The Conclusion of the whole Matter: Psalm 2

- Psalm 2:1-12 (NIV), shows us the heart and intent of the nations and rulers towards God and His Christ.
- If Psalm chapter 2 were a play, it would have four Scenes:
 1. Scene One: Human Rebellion (2: 1-3)
 2. Scene Two: Divine Reaction (2: 4-6)
 3. Scene Three: Divine Rule (2: 7-9)
 4. Scene Four: Human Responsibility (2: 10-12)