DAARIELL

CONVICTION IN A CULTURE OF COMPROMISE

Daniel Chapters 4 and 5

- Nebuchadnezzar's Dream of the Giant tree
- The humbling of Nebuchadnezzar
- The judgement of Belshazzar

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Examine Nebuchadnezzar

- Acknowledges God
- Seeks help from magicians and Daniel
- Ignores Daniel and suffers consequences
- A better statement of humility

How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.

Daniel 4:3

Then the magicians, the enchanters, the Chaldeans, and the astrologers came in, and I told them the dream, but they could not make known to me its interpretation.

Daniel 4:7

At last Daniel came in before me—he who was named Belteshazzar after the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods—and I told him the dream...

Daniel 4:8

Not restricted to the Old Testament

Pilate - sensed the truth but did not take action Herod - wanted to see Jesus perform tricks Simon Magus - tried to buy Holy Spirit Agrippa - said he was almost persuaded by Paul ... in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, ... having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power.

2 Tim. 3:5-7

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Minor Point

- Belshazzar = Nebuchadnezzar's son
- Belteshazzar = Nebuchadnezzar's "god"
- Belteshazzar = Neb's nickname for Daniel

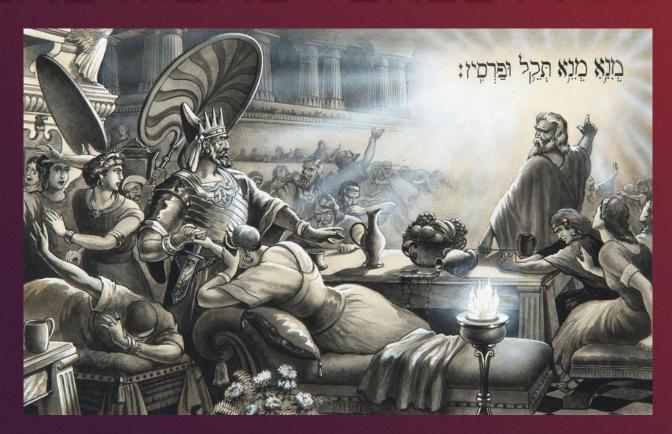
Belshazzar's story

- Profanes the implements of the Temple
- Receives terrifying vision
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The Lessons of Daniel 4 and 5

- Earthly power is temporary
- God is sovereign
- Judgement is sure

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All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord stands forever.

I Peter 1:24

Daniel lived through Nebuchadnezzar - Babylonians Belshazzar - Babylonians Darius - Mede Cyrus - Persian

What do we do?

A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. He said to himself, 'What should I do? I don't have room for all my crops.'

Luke 12:16-17 NLT

Then he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store all my wheat and other goods.

And I'll sit back and say to myself, "My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!"

But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get everything you worked for?

Our applications

- Appreciate the patience of God
- Avoid superficial godliness
- Don't delay when you know the truth

Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God.

Next teaching in Daniel

- Visions of eternity
- God's plan for the end of time
- A glorious hope for our future.