

Sermon Series Title: "Christmas in Daniel"

Sermon Series Summary: For two weeks, we will be looking at Christmas in Daniel. In this book, we see that Christ is the One who has come in the flesh, has revealed to us God's will, and is our salvation hope.

"For two weeks, we will look at Christmas from the book of Daniel, seeing our God who has come in Jesus Christ to be with us and to save us."

Call: Judges 5:31

Text: Daniel 2:8-11, 17-19

Title: "Dwelling in Flesh"

Next Week's Call: 2 Samuel 2:1-2

Next Week's Text: Daniel 3:16-28

Next Week's Title: "The Son of God"

Future Calls: 2 Samuel 2:3, 4, 7, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23-25, 26-27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 40-43, 47, 50-51

Future Titles: "EM Vision, Part One" (Luke 8:40-56); "EM Vision, Part Two" (Romans 1:16-17); "The Start of Paul's Ministry" (Acts 9:19b-31); "The Healing through Peter" (Acts 9:32-43); "Cornelius' Prayer" (Acts 10:1-8, 30-33); "Peter's Vision" (Acts 10:9-29); "Cornelius' Salvation" (Acts 10:34-48); "Peter's Report" (Acts 11:1-18); "The First Gentile Church" (Acts 11:19-30); "The First Apostolic Martyr" (Acts 12:1-5); "Peter's Rescue" (Acts 12:6-19); "Herod's Death" (Acts 12:20-25)

Fallen Condition Focus: We are restless in our idolatries, blind in our ignorance, and judged by our sin.

Christ redeeming FCF: Christ is the one who is the supreme revelation of God and received our death so we can receive peace and life.

Proposition: "Christ has come to, revealed to, dwelled among, and saved a blind and sinful people, like us."

Summary: We are spending two weeks in Daniel to reflect on Christmas, the coming of our Savior. In today's passage, we see the restlessness of King Nebuchadnezzar, the need for

revelation, the judgment of death, and God's impossible salvation. We see this for Daniel but also for us in Christ Jesus.

Reflective Questions:

1. Can you relate to the restlessness of Nebuchadnezzar, the need for revelation, or the salvation through Christ in our passage? Explain.
2. How do we see Jesus speak into our struggles through our passage?

## I. Introduction

- A. Hook
- B. Transition
- C. Proposition
- D. Points

## II. The Context

- A. Daniel is a book about belief in an unbelieving world.
  1. Daniel's ministry covers from Nebuchadnezzar to Cyrus' reign of Persia; 70 years of being an adult
- B. Ch. 1- Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, crushed Jerusalem; destroyed temple; around 30 YO when he conquered; successfully engaged Egyptian forces, controlled Syria and Palestine; rulers of Damascus, Tyre, Sidon, and Jerusalem paid tribute to his kingdom.
  1. He would take the elite of society, assimilate them into Babylonian culture/priorities, and influence/rule the conquered nations through the elite.
- C. In ch. 1, we see Daniel with his three friends be faithful to their Lord by eating clean and holy foods.

## III. The Crisis (vv. 8-11)

- A. Dreams were seen as revelation from their gods; we see this theme throughout the OT as God revealed Himself in visions/dreams.
  1. Dreams are seen today as a revelation of our internal desires/worries/struggles.
  2. Nebuchadnezzar was a pious king. History shows us that he devoted himself to his god when he first became king.
  3. There were dream experts and magicians to interpret dreams. Nebuchadnezzar had a panel of them to interpret dreams correctly and to do what's necessary to please the gods and avoid loss.

- B. In v. 1, we see that he had a dream that was so troubling that he was restless and couldn't sleep.
  - 1. He had everything: power, youth, wealth; but he was troubled in his soul. This is the picture of the insufficiency of idolatry.
  - 2. We can relate with this restlessness and trouble from our idols.
- C. He requires his dream interpreters not just to interpret the dream but to tell him the dream. That way, he knows that this interpretation is true and from the gods. If not, he will kill not only these men but all the wise men of Babylon, including Daniel and his three friends.
  - 1. We see the need for revelation, the blindness in false gods, and the sentence of death.
- D. The dream interpreters say that this is impossible since no one can do this except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh... with man.

#### IV. The Cure (vv. 17-19)

- A. Daniel hears of this, asks his friends to pray for mercy concerning this mystery, and receives the revelation of the mystery.
- B. He takes time to bless the God of heaven before going back to the king.
- C. God accomplishes the impossible, reveals the mystery, and saves the wise men from death.
  - 1. This shows us that God's wisdom is wiser than man's wisdom- 1 Corinthians 1:25.
  - 2. We are to trust in Him and His revelation.

#### V. The Christ

- A. We need the revelation of God for our salvation. It's impossible for us to know the truth and to save ourselves.
- B. But God so loved the world, that he sent His only Begotten Son.
  - 1. The dream interpreters said that the gods do not dwell with flesh. But we have a God who dwells with us... by becoming flesh Himself- John 1- God the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.
  - 2. He is the mystery of our salvation revealed, according to Eph 1.
  - 3. God's wisdom is wiser than men in 1 Cor 1:25; and this wisdom is found in Jesus Christ in 1 Cor 1:24.
- C. The story of the Magi from the east to visit Jesus after he was born.
  - 1. These are descendants of the Babylonian magicians (magi short for magicians).
  - 2. The word for Christ they use in Matthew 2 is only found in Psalm 2 and Daniel 9.
  - 3. It was the teaching of Daniel that had been passed down about this Messiah.

D. Jesus is the greater Daniel.

1. No one was by his side to pray with him. His disciples fell asleep.
2. No deliverance for Him. He died so that He could give us life.
3. He is the one who was faithful, and that faithfulness led to His crucifixion.
4. He became flesh so that that flesh may be torn apart on the cross.
5. He is the revelation of God's truth, judgment, and mercy for us.