

Life Group Notes

Sunday 31st October 2021

Speaker: Andy McCullough

Title: Daniel: Nebu's Nightmare

Passage: Daniel 4

Read Chapter 4 together.

King Nebuchadnezzar had a nightmare, which his advisers failed to interpret. Daniel, the exile, the outsider, offered the true interpretation.

The Nightmare (v 9-18):

There was a huge strong tree, reaching to the heavens, visible for the whole world offering shelter to various creatures. Then a heavenly being came down and proclaimed in a loud voice that the tree was to be chopped down; chopped up into firewood, scattering all those who were taking shelter. BUT the stump was to be left, being given the mind of a beast until seven periods of time has passed.

The Interpretation (v 19-27):

The tree is Nebuchadnezzar – God says that Nebuchadnezzar will be removed from his position and live like the wild animals. He must acknowledge that God is Sovereign over the kingdoms of men, renouncing his sin by doing what is right and being kind to the oppressed.

The Fulfilment (v28-37):

Twelve months after Daniel brought the interpretation, King Nebuchadnezzar was still boasting about his power. Then everything happened exactly as Daniel predicted, exactly as Nebuchadnezzar had seen in his nightmare.... until he finally acknowledged that God is God.

Five things we learn from this story:

1. God is willing and able to humble
2. Nothing and no-one is irredeemable
3. The conditions for change are clear: acknowledge God is God and repent (break off your sins and show mercy to the oppressed)
4. Kings and Kingdoms belong to God
5. There is only One Tree that bridges the gap between earth and heaven.... The Cross of Christ.

Questions/actions: (just pick two or three)

1. What did you hear on Sunday that you found challenging, helpful or provocative?
2. In what ways, like Nebuchadnezzar, are you walking in pride?
3. This theme of cutting off and renewal, death and resurrection is all the way through the Bible. It is fundamental to the story of God. Do you have an example of this in your life?
4. Repentance is two pronged: Break off your sin (stop) and Show mercy to the oppressed (start). Are there things that God is asking you to stop or start?
5. Pray for world leaders.
6. The best way to posture ourselves in humility is to exalt the One True God, remembering who He is and who we are in Him. Spend time together in worship.