

A Prophetic Lamp in the Darkness

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Hello! This is Dorothy -

I would like you to get hold of a Bible somewhere and start to read the **Book of Daniel**. It is an amazing book. The first six chapters of this book open with an account of the personal history of Daniel and the conquest of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar , the king of Babylon. Then it goes on to speak of Nebuchadnezzar - . . . **all people, nations and languages, trembled and feared before him: and whom he would he slew; - that means killed - whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.**

Now Daniel worked under such a man. Daniel was, in fact, trained to work in the palace of such a tyrant, because of his background, his position, and his appearance. In fact, Daniel not only lived through the reign of such a man as Nebuchadnezzar, but he also lived through the reigns of Belshazzar and Darius and Cyrus. He was even called out of retirement to serve a second time, and was promoted to be the third ruler of the kingdom. Such was this servant of God, Daniel, in such difficult circumstances, elevated to be a key instrument for the Lord. In fact, Daniel died in his nineties.

Throughout the **Book of Daniel**, even in the midst of the captivity, God is working His purposes out. God gives His people- and note this - a

prophetic lamp in the darkness. For ourselves we, too, can be encouraged and blessed to learn of those who survive hard times. Especially can we be encouraged that they testify of the miraculous intervention and protection of the living God. Oh, I encourage you to get hold of these wonderful, wonderful stories of missionaries and Christians, who have been in difficult places. You will be uplifted in the very place where God has put you.

In **Daniel chapter 2**, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and expected his crowd of so-called wise men to tell him what he dreamed as well as what it meant! Obviously, no one could do that. But this fanatical Nebuchadnezzar decided to put out a death threat upon them, because of their so-called inefficiency in handling such an impossible request. But, you know, God is good even amongst the ungodly. For we read in **chapter 2, verses 14 and 15** of the prophet Daniel, who had nothing to do with the satanic magic and some of the things that the Babylonian so-called wise men were in, but he made a request to come before the king. This captive slave, this youth as it were, came before the king and listened to the king's demands. And Daniel said that with all the education that he had, he could not answer, but there was One who could.

We read in **Daniel 2:27-30** -

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king and said, The

secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, show unto the king: -
and he knew the answer was of course they couldn't and that is why they were all going to be killed -

28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these . . .

Therefore, Daniel went on, as God told him, about the very dream that Nebuchadnezzar had had. It was all about an image. That is, a figure of a person with a man's body. Nebuchadnezzar represented the head — the head of gold — he represented Babylon's worldwide kingdom. The breast and the arms of the image were of silver, which represented the kingdoms that would follow Nebuchadnezzar, which were of the Medes and the Persians. The belly and the thighs were of brass in the image and they stood for Greece and Macedonia. Then, the fourth kingdom — and this is important — represented Rome. This fourth kingdom had, naturally, two legs, which represented Rome. It was divided into two kingdoms composed of a strong people represented by iron, and also weak ones represented by clay. Then the lesser of the kingdom comes down to ten toes. Ten toes, which represented the Roman empire, which never really died, will reemerge in these last days in resistance to gather against God, with the mixture

of the iron and the clay and the Lord Jesus will smite them with His Second Coming.

I just praise God that Daniel, who disclaimed any right to anything natural or magical, credited everything to Almighty God. He was unafraid to confess the Lord alone, Who is the One who knows all; He knows everything about everybody, what they are thinking, what they are saying. Daniel's dependence was upon the living God

What about you? Do you know God in that intimate way? Will you open your heart to know Him? Would you today say *Yes!* to the sovereignty of Jesus Christ Himself?

Amen.