

## ***Lessons From the People of the Bible***

### **Daniel**

#### **Lesson 1 – Daniel – Taken prisoner**

##### **Reading: Daniel 1:1-21**

Daniel was only one of the many Jewish young men who were captured by the Babylonians and taken away hostage to the capital city as subservient slaves. He was just a teenager with the whole of his life before him. He was bright, handsome, strong and of noble birth. He had probably made plans for his future and the prospects would have been exciting and bright.

Suddenly, that all changed. He was taken captive by one of the most brutal enemies Israel would ever face, and carried away from his family and homeland to a foreign land where he couldn't even understand the language let alone speak it.

Then along with others he was hand picked to undergo a forced development programme, indoctrinated not only into the language but also the customs and culture of the conquering nation. The whole purpose being to make him and his colleagues useful slaves for the king. The intent being that they would be compliant and trustworthy – probably encouraged by the fact that any demurring would end in severe punishment if not death.

Their instructors were also living in the perpetual fear of death should they not succeed in their most important royal mission. Being handpicked for a job can have its disadvantages. Daniel and his friends also had to undergo the ignominy of having their names changed to those of the Babylonian equivalent.

Nevertheless, these bright boys were separated out for special treatment and attention. They would share the same food and wine as the king, which was prescribed for them. This would continue for 3 years by which time each slave should be total ready and fully prepared for their new duties in the king's service.

Daniel, however, started the way he intended carrying on. He had no intention of bowing to the godless culture of his captors. Regardless of the king's demands he would not change his values or compromise his faith. He was of God's chosen race with very specific rules and regulations and consequently he was determined to remain totally undefiled and true to his heritage. Unlike Esau, he was not about to sell his birthright for a pot of stew or in Daniel's case, the king's richest fare.

He negotiated with his guard to be allowed purely kosher food – indeed he chose to go totally vegetarian and only drink water. At first his captor was horrified and pleaded for Daniel and his friends to agreed to eat what the king had stipulated as he was afraid of being executed if they didn't look as healthy as the rest.

Daniel countered by insisting that they should give it a trial for 10 days and if there appeared to be any unfavorable comparison, then they would reconsider. However, at the end of the trial, Daniel and his friends looked healthier and better nourished than the others and so the guard acquiesced and let them maintain their separate diet.

Not only did God bless them in health, strength and physique but He also enabled them to learn everything they were required to do and additionally gave them wisdom and He helped them learn the language and retain knowledge of the cultural literature. God also endowed Daniel with the ability to understand dreams and visions.

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Once the three years were over the king sent for the young men and interrogated them. The king was surprised to find that Daniel and his three friends were far more intelligent, knowledgeable and wise than anyone in his kingdom – in fact the record says they were ten times better.

Daniel proves to us that we do not need to fear those who are the enemies of God, or a secular world with godless values, nor should we be squashed into their mould. We need to stand firm in our faith and maintain the eternal values which God has introduced for the benefit of His created world without compromise for whenever we honour Him, He always honours us.

### **Daniel would say to us today...**

We should never live 'under the circumstances' – God is in total control of all the events in the world and is working out His Sovereign plan. Our job is to find our role in that plan and to fulfil it to the very best of our ability.

### **Prayer**

*Father, as we consider the life and attitudes of Daniel we feel so inferior. Please help us to see beyond our circumstances, like Daniel did, and to seek Your will and purpose for our lives despite what is going on all around us. For Your Name's sake. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- Genesis 50:15-26
- Judges 6:1-16
- 2 Corinthians 6:3-10

### **Questions**

1. Why do we expect life to be easy and fair?
2. What things stop us doing what God really wants us to do?
3. What can we do to help keep us focussed on the goal regardless of the contrary circumstances that surround us?

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### **Lesson 2 – Daniel – The interpreter of dreams**

#### **Reading: Daniel 2:1-28**

Nebuchadnezzar was only a few years older than Daniel but of a totally different disposition. Nebuchadnezzar was an arrogant despot. He was ruthless, vicious and scheming.

One night he had a dream that disturbed him. He knew it was very significant but he couldn't understand what it meant. He was determined to find out its meaning. So he called together all his astrologers and advisers and asked them to tell him what it meant.

However, just to make life interesting he didn't reveal what he saw. He paid them to be clever so now was a good time for them to deliver. He demanded of them to know what the dream was and on top of that what it meant.

They were very keen to help but were totally in the dark and so requested the king to tell them his dream so that they could interpret it. The king responded that if he revealed the dream to them, they would then be able to conjure up their own interpretation to suit themselves and so mislead the king.

No, the king demanded they should reveal the dream first and then interpret it. When the advisors pressed for clarification the king became angry and told them that if they didn't do as he asked he would cut them into pieces and reduce their homes to rubble. However, if they did succeed in getting it right the rewards would be well worthwhile.

The advisers and astrologers once more sought clarification of the dream but the king told them that they were just playing for time, as they were totally incompetent and evil.

They naturally responded by pleading that to ask them to reveal the dream was beyond reason. Not being gods but merely human it was inconceivable that they could do what the king demanded.

However, at that point the king went into a rage telling them that he was tired of their stalling and so he would issue a decree that all the wise men in the land should be executed at once. The breadth of the decree meant that Daniel and his three friends would face the same fate.

However, when the guard came to Daniel to carry out the orders, Daniel asked the reason why the decree had been issued. Please notice that we read he did so with the utmost respect and tact. He didn't fly off the handle in shock and despair; he calmly asked the reason why the law had been passed and what had caused the king to do such a thing.

On hearing the answer, Daniel went and approached the king in person. He asked for time for him to give the king the answer and for some reason the king agreed.

I love what follows. It's what I call a knee job! Daniel returned to his friends and explained what they needed to do – get on their knees – and plead with God for mercy and to reveal the dream and its interpretation to them. They were between a rock and a very hard place, they either received the answer or they were history.

God in His mercy revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel during the night. From the praise song that followed we get a glimpse of the stress and pressure Daniel was under and the tremendous release he felt once the vision and interpretation had been given him.

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I also love how Daniel approached revealing the answer to the king. He didn't just blurt out the answer. He re-established the fact that no human being was capable of revealing what the king had demanded but that the God of Heaven was able to do so.

Daniel took no kudos for himself at all but purposefully pointed the king towards the God of Heaven and earth so that the king might give Him all the praise due for the interpretation. No wonder God could use Daniel in that way.

### **Daniel would say to us today...**

Never forget the gifts of God are just that – gifts of God. We are not the gift nor do they belong to us but they are given so we can glorify God and point people to Him.

### **Prayer**

*Father, thank You so much that through the power of Your Holy Spirit You give to each of Your children gifts. Please help me recognise the gifts You have given me and help me use them to bring glory to Your Name. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- Ephesians 4:1-16
- 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

### **Questions**

1. Why has God given supernatural gifts to His people?
2. What gifts has God given you?
3. What are you doing to reveal God through exercising your gifts?

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### **Lesson 3 – Daniel – Daniel’s friends pass the test**

#### **Reading: Daniel 3:1-30**

King Nebuchadnezzar went from bad to worse. Not satisfied with the extent of his kingdom, power and wealth, he longed for the people to worship him as well. People already had to bow before him when they entered his presence but that was a mere formality. How could he make it more threatening and poignant?

He had an image made 27 metres high and 2.7 metres wide. No one could miss it. Not only was it tall and broad, it was made out of gold, so it shone brilliantly for all to see. A truly magnificent and eye-catching edifice.

Being totally satisfied with his accomplishment the king invited everyone who was anybody in his kingdom to join him for the dedication ceremony. Naturally, wanting to keep in with the king, they all duly attended. The herald announced so all could hear that as soon as the band played everyone was to bow down prostrate in worship before the idol. The alternative choice was to be thrown into a blazing furnace. Since it was such a stark alternative everyone played ball and worshipped at once – except, that is, for some Jews.

Some anti-Semitic and obviously jealous co-advisers, who saw this as an opportune time to rid themselves of these foreign, had spotted the offending Jews Interlopers. The Jews had been promoted to high position by their friend Daniel at the time he had interpreted the dream for the king, when all the other advisers and astrologers had been proved totally impotent. The fact that Daniel had actually saved their lives had momentarily at least escaped their memory.

These people jumped at this opportunity to readdress the embarrassment and injustice they had felt and so told the king of the behaviour of these disobedient Jews.

Naturally enough the egocentric king was livid. How dare anyone refuse to bow down to his precious image? This was as personal as it could get. Refusing to bow down to the image was not only disobedient but a direct insult to the king’s person. No way would he countenance such rebellion. He therefore summoned Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to explain themselves and to carry out the king’s demand straight away or be thrown into the furnace.

I love their reply. It sounded so calm and straightforward. *“Your request is totally unreasonable for us. We will not bow down to you or your image. If we are thrown into the furnace our God is able to save us from its effects, but even if He doesn’t rescue us, be assure of this we will not do what you want us to do.”*

Well, as you can imagine, that went down like a lead balloon. The king already angry became totally insensed. Not only did he demand the three be thrown into the furnace but in preparation he had the temperature turned up 7 times hotter than normal. Totally paranoid I call it. What could the extra heat achieve that the furnace could not already do?

The answer is, of course, in the record. As the three offenders were thrown in to the furnace, the soldiers who carried out the command died immediately from the searing heat. The three Jews, firmly bound, fell right into the furnace.

It was obviously possible somehow to see into the furnace. As the king looked he froze in awe. He had commanded that the three men be thrown in the fire and yet as he looked into the flames he

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counted four! What was worse they were all walking around in the fire totally unharmed and unrestrained. To cap it all off, the fourth one looked to the king as a son of the gods. We, of course, know Him as Jesus!

Nebuchadnezzar immediately called the three men out and they walked out totally unharmed, unsinged and without even a hint of the smell of fire, scorching or smoke. For the moment Nebuchadnezzar recognised the power and authority of God and promoted the three to high position. But unfortunately, the king's attitude didn't last.

### **Daniel would say to us today...**

Please remember, God doesn't promise to exclude you from trials. What He does promise is to be there right beside you through them.

### **Prayer**

*Father, I thank You that when I am exposed to trials which seem insurmountable to me, You promise, nevertheless, to be there close beside me. Please help me remember that when I am faced with my next ordeal. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- Acts 4:18-31
- James 1:3-12
- 1 Peter 4:12-19

### **Questions**

1. How can we prepare ourselves to endure hardships for Christ?
2. What is the best attitude to adopt in the midst of severe trial?
3. What is the best way to encourage others who are in the midst of their trials?



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### **Lesson 4 – Daniel – Bearer of bad news**

#### **Reading: Daniel 4:18-37**

King Nebuchadnezzar was so self-centred that he was unable to learn anything from history even when it happened right in front of his own eyes.

He seems to have wanted to add God, the Creator of the Universe to his collection of other gods and idols and so use God as a means of strengthening his own political position and kingdom. He wanted to keep his options open and maintain control of every situation and use them all for his own advantage and advancement.

Whilst he was prepared to acknowledge the miraculous signs and wonders that God Almighty had given him in order for him to change and become a great leader, Nebuchadnezzar nevertheless wanted to carry on just as he had always done so. *God maybe almighty but I want to live my life my way* – seems to have been his determined stance.

God is not only almighty, He is amazingly gracious. I guess it is that side to God that we all find incomprehensible. Yet, while we find it incomprehensible we are nevertheless extremely grateful for it when we apply it to ourselves. Without God's love, mercy and grace none of us would stand a chance of entering His presence every day let alone for eternity. However, we normally think that God should show us mercy without necessarily showing the same compassion to others.

God is so gracious, in that He constantly tries to get our attention even though we consistently ignore Him. With Nebuchadnezzar, God tried to get his attention through visions and dreams. Each one was so significant; Nebuchadnezzar was sufficiently disturbed to determine to find out the meaning behind them. Even though it was only through Daniel, in whom the king recognised was the Spirit of God, that Nebuchadnezzar received the interpretations, nevertheless the king refused to change and in stead chose to continue in his self-centred and arrogant lifestyle.

As with his first dream the king commanded all his advisers to attend. However, he was far more lenient this time in that he actually told them the dream in order for them to interpret it. However, just like the first time none of them could interpret it.

At last Daniel arrived and the king retold the dream to him. However, this second dream was of a different genre. The first spoke of the future of the kingdom, this spoke about the future of the king himself. Once Daniel had heard the dream he undoubtedly wished he hadn't heard it. He probably wished the earth would stop turning so he could get off.

This dream was very bad news for Nebuchadnezzar. It revealed the king's arrogance and showed how God was going to deal with him in judgment. No wonder Daniel added quickly that Nebuchadnezzar should repent, radically change his lifestyle so that God might see the difference and relent.

Daniel doesn't record for us the king's immediate reaction. However, from the rest of the script we find that it made absolutely no difference to Nebuchadnezzar's lifestyle and mindset. In fact over the next twelve months it seemed to reinforce it.

He remained self-centred and egotistic. Finally, boasting that he had made Babylon into what it was, and that he should receive all the praise and worship due for it. He was still in the process of extolling his own importance and majesty when a voice from Heaven interrupted him and repeated the sentence encapsulated in the second dream, as interpreted so faithfully by Daniel.

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Nebuchadnezzar was consigned to live like an animal. Yet in God's grace and mercy, through that experience it seems Nebuchadnezzar finally acknowledged God for who He really is, and God restored him to his throne and an even greater kingdom.

### **Daniel would say to us today...**

We are merely servants of God. Our job is to deliver the message He gives us and leave the rest up to God. It is not our message, it is God's message and so it is up to Him to fulfil it in His way and in His time. However, regardless of how direct it may be, we should nevertheless still deliver it with, love, compassion and grace.

### **Prayer**

*Father, please help me remember that whenever I am asked to give advice, wisdom or counsel to others I should always do so from a position of prayer, love compassion and grace. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- 2 Samuel 12:1-14
- 2 Kings 20:1-11
- James 5:13-20

### **Questions**

1. What does it mean to speak the truth in love?
2. What are the results of not telling the truth?
3. What do we need to do once we have shared our wisdom or counsel with the other person?



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### **Lesson 5 – Daniel – The Writing on the wall**

#### **Reading: Daniel 5:1-31**

Some four kings and six years after the death of Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar became king. None of these kings seem to have had any greater moral values than their predecessor.

Belshazzar decided to hold a grand celebration. He would make it the most memorable event of his reign. He invited 1000 nobles to a banquet at the royal palace. Indeed, this was not going to be a male only event, he would also invite his wives and mistresses as well.

There would be no expense spared. Everything would shout of opulence, wealth, success, power and majesty. It would declare to everyone that Belshazzar was the supreme and unparalleled world ruler.

Not only would he display the riches of his kingdom, he also decided to show off the plunder Nebuchadnezzar had gained when he had conquered Israel. The highlight would be the display of the treasures from the Temple in Jerusalem. However, they would not just be put on display, the king would allow all his nobles, wives and mistresses to indulge themselves. Anyone could take them and drink from them to their heart's content.

The drunken orgy got into full swing. The full contingent of participants began praising the gods of gold, silver and bronze, iron, wood and stone using none other than the consecrated Temple items. Items consecrated to Jehovah, the Almighty Creator God.

Suddenly, the image of a dismembered human hand appeared and with its fingers wrote a message on the wall. The king was totally gravitated to the image. He froze. The blood drained from his face, and his knees started knocking so fast he collapsed on the floor.

Gasping for breath he summoned all his advisers and astrologers for help. He offered them riches and high position if they could interpret the words for him. Unfortunately for the king none could help, they were just as baffled as the king.

The queen, who would appear to have been absent and or uninvited to this orgy, entered the banquetting hall on hearing all the comotion and learned of the impotence of the wise men. She told the king to send for Daniel, since he had helped Nebuchadnezzar on previous occasions.

After Daniel arrived, the king repeated his offer of wealth and position to Daniel for the interpretation of the vision. Daniel replied that he wasn't the least bit interested in the toys on offer, however he would nevertheless interpret the vision.

He prefaced it by reminding Belshazzar that God had made Nebuchadnezzar a very powerful king and given him an expansive kingdom and that Nebuchadnezzar had failed to honour God as his benefactor. Indeed he had carried on in his arrogance until God had forced him to live like an animal.

Daniel reminded Belshazzar that despite being fully conversant with all this, he had failed to humble himself and on the contrary had set himself up as a great king worthy of honour and worship. In deed he had gone further by exalting the gods of gold, silver and bronze above the God of Heaven. He had not acknowledged God in whose hand was his breath of life.

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Daniel went on to say that because of this behaviour God had sent him a message – Mene, Mene, Tekel, Parsin.

Mene – God has finalised your reign and brought it to an end  
Tekel – You have been weighed on the scales and come up short  
Peres (parsin) – Your kingdom is to be split and given to the Medes and Persians.

To be fair to the king he did follow through and give Daniel the gifts and promote him, just before he was killed and Darius, the Mede took over the kingdom.

It is a salutary lesson to us all that God is not mocked – what we sow we reap sooner or later.

### **Daniel would say to us today...**

We should never forget that we are each accountable to God for all our words and actions.

### **Prayer**

*Father, please forgive me for all the things I have done wrong. I realise that if You weighed me in the balances today – I, too, would be 'found wanting'. Thank You so much that Jesus died to pay the price of my sin and even out the balances for me. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- Matthew 25:31-46
- 1 Corinthians 3:1-22
- Matthew 12:30-37

### **Questions**

1. Why do people want Jesus to be just a good man rather than God?
2. Why do we think we can get away with what we do that is wrong?
3. What can we say to people to help them understand that we/they are accountable for all we do on earth?

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### **Lesson 6 – Daniel – Faces off with the lions**

#### **Reading: Daniel 6:1-28**

Darius took little time in appointing those he wanted to the highest positions of his realm. He appointed 120 people to oversee the various regions with three administrators over them. He chose Daniel to be one of the three. Daniel was ninety years old by this time.

Their role was to ensure that the revenue actually reached the king's coffers. Not an enviable position then or now. Daniel would take his role very seriously as he was a man of integrity and experience. That would not make him the most popular especially with those to whom he closely related. To make matters worse it became obvious that Darius had plans to promote Daniel to the top job.

That was sufficient challenge to his colleagues and subordinates who were devious and jealous. They banded together in order to get Daniel removed. However, that was not going to be easy, since Daniel was such a principled person. They soon realised that the only way they would be able to remove him was by using his heritage against him. Yes, Daniel was a practicing and devout Jew. More than that he had an unshakable faith in God.

Daniel's enemies decided that desperate times make for desperate measures. They couldn't take Daniel's life themselves – well, not kill him and get away with it. They had to enlist Darius' help. However, they couldn't just approach the king and ask him to get rid of Daniel. No, they would have to be far more subtle and cunning. They decided to use flattery and arrogance.

They approached the king with what appeared to be a fairly innocuous request, especially for someone who was not a God fearer but definitely arrogant and a worship seeker.

Their scheme was to elevate the king within his kingdom so that everyone would bow down and worship him. How could the king refuse? Not only that they stipulated that it should be for only 30 days. The king fell for it hook, line and sinker. Typically, he didn't stop to think through the ramifications. Simple decisions don't need thorough examinations, do they? The king was about to learn a very important lesson – unfortunately without hindsight.

I love Daniel's reaction to the news of the king's latest decree – nothing. He just carried on with his life just as he had always done before. He didn't ask God to destroy his enemies or remove the king. He didn't, like Jonah spit the dummy and ask for God to destroy him, nor did he run away like Elijah. No, Daniel just kept on doing what he always did – pray to his God three times a day – and he even kept his window open so all could see.

Daniel's enemies must have laughed all the way to the palace. Once they had their audience with the king, they didn't accuse Daniel out right, they just subtly asked the king about his decree. Once the king had re-confirmed the decree they went in for the jugular. They exposed Daniel's crime of non-compliance.

The king was devastated. He had picked Daniel for future promotion and now he had been caught in his own stupidity and self-aggrandisement. He had been hoodwinked by his junior officials and now had to pay the price. Darius tried every way he possibly could to avoid having to put Daniel in the lion's den but the hyenas gathered as a group and reminded the king that the laws of the Medes and Persians could never be rescinded. Darius was caught. He had to issue the orders to eliminate his premier advisor.

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Darius was present when the men threw Daniel into the lion's den and even as he passed by the king said he hoped Daniel's God could still save Daniel's life. A stone was placed above the pit and sealed with the king's seal. And Darius retired to the palace, but he didn't eat, sleep and he didn't call for any entertainment to ease his shame and hurt.

At first light, the king rushed to the den and called out to Daniel. Daniel replied that his God had sent an angel to close the lions' mouths. The king ordered that Daniel be released and that his accusers, their wives and children should be put in the den, and Daniel records that before their bodies touched the floor the lions had crushed them.

God honoured Daniel's faith and lifestyle. We should never forget that Daniel's God is the same God that loves us and cares for all those who love and serve Him.

### **Daniel would say to us today...**

Just because you have been a Christian for many years does not mean you will be exempt from facing challenges from the enemy. However, once you are as old as I was and been through all I had been through you will have a very secure confidence in God as your Deliverer, too.

### **Prayer**

*Father, thank You for recording the life and experiences of Daniel for us. It helps give us the courage to face the challenges of life. Thank You that he showed us that it is always best to trust You and leave the outcome to You. Thank You above all else that You are a faithful and loving Heavenly Father. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- Luke 13:31-35
- 1 Samuel 17:33-47
- 1 Peter 5:6-11

### **Questions**

1. Why didn't Daniel compromise – the decree was for only 30 days?
2. What are the things in your life which challenge you to make compromises?
3. How do we avoid giving into compromise?

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### **Lesson 7 – Daniel – Foretold the future**

#### **Reading: Daniel 7:1-14**

Daniel's prophecies must be amongst the key reasons why we consider the Bible to be true. Daniel revealed the future and, as we look in hindsight, we realise the truth and validity of his visions.

It is beyond human ability to foresee the things Daniel did. The accuracy of his description of the future compels us to believe that he had outside assistance, for only God is able to reveal the future in such a way. Daniel's visions and their explanation remain the key to understanding Biblical eschatology.

Whilst it is unhelpful to speculate regarding the end time events – and many well-respected people have done so with varied and at times opposing theories – we should not write off the underlying truth that God wishes for us to understand. Why else would He include the visions and their interpretations for us?

Here we have a vision, which is not dissimilar to the one given to Nebuchadnezzar. It portrays 'kingdoms' with worldwide power, each succeeding the last, and at the end there is war between the major world power and the Eternal God, the Ancient of Days.

However, what I find especially interesting is that in both dreams someone with omnipotent power and authority (other than the Ancient of Days) is used to re-establish the authority of the Ancient of Days. In chapter 2 Daniel first sees the Rock not made with human hands; here he sees that Rock as one like the Son of man. We know His Name is, of course, Jesus Christ.

Jesus is the Rock upon which all other gods, religions and worldly powers will eventually be broken. As Peter reminds us, *the stone the builders rejected will become the capstone and the stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.*

Nevertheless, Daniel makes a vast distinction between the major world powers and the Ancient of Days. There is a brilliance and power that seem to flow from His Throne – it totally transcends Daniel's description of the earthly powers. Those major world powers have a certain controlling influence over nations for the set period of their reigns but, when compared with the power and authority of the Ancient of Days, they are reduced to insignificance. There is an indestructibility about who the Ancient of Days is; there is an inevitability as to what He chooses to do.

That authority and ultimate power are equally seen in the Rock and the Son of Man. Both the Ancient of Days and Jesus Christ are of the same essence – both are Eternal, Almighty, Everlasting God.

Daniel's vision goes some way to preparing us for worship in the Heavenly places, as depicted in Paul's hymn of praise – *Therefore God has exalted Him to the highest place and given Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord* – and John's revelation: *To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb (Jesus) be praise and honour and glory and power for ever and ever.*

Daniel's vision gives us another glimpse of the truth that Jesus Christ is God – One with the Father; eternally existent. It reminds us that whatever power is in place on earth, it will never supplant the ultimate authority and purposes of God.

No matter how the authorities of this world increasingly snub their noses at God and do all they can

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to reduce the credibility and authority of God on earth, there will be a day of reckoning – God will have the final say.

We need to hold on to the truth and share it with those prepared to listen whilst we prepare ourselves to dwell with God.

### **Daniel would say to us today...**

Never forget the best is yet to come. God is still the Ancient of Days – and Jesus Christ is His Son – who has been given all power, all authority and all glory; His Kingdom will never ever pass away.

### **Prayer**

*Thank You, Father, for reminding us again that this world is not all there is – our destiny is Eternity with You. How we long to see Your Glory and the Glory of Your one and only Son revealed in all its fullness and truth. Thank You for giving us a glimpse of what is yet to come. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- Isaiah 6:1-8
- Matthew 17:1-11
- Revelation 1:12-18
- Revelation 5:5-14

### **Questions**

1. How can we make the truth of our destiny in Heaven work out in our daily routines of life on earth?
2. What are you looking forward to in Heaven?
3. What can we do to prepare ourselves for Heaven?