

Surviving Babylon: Lessons from Exile

Daniel 4

Context: The Wake of God's Deliverance of the Three (v. 1-3)

This is a Story of Two Kingdoms:

By all appearances, the Babylonian gods have _____ the Hebrew God.

The people of God are living as captive exiles.

The Babylonian king is proudly "at ease" and "prosperous".

But the one true God is about to crush his delusion of _____ and _____.

In so doing, He will make it plain to all that "... *His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion endures from generation to generation.*" (v. 3)

Even the once self-assured and self-exalted Nebuchadnezzar will declare, "... *his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*" (v. 34-35)

His 2nd Dream: A Great Tree (v. 5ff)

"... *the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will ...*" (v. 17)

Daniel's Interpretation: "It is you" (v. 19ff)

"... *till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.*" (v. 25)

The message for God's people (then and now):

God is _____ ...

... over what _____ happened and over what _____ happen.

... over His _____ and His _____.

... over the weak and the _____.

... over the _____ and the _____.

God will _____ all that He _____. (Isaiah 46:8-11)

And He regards _____ as He regards _____. (Psalm 78:19-22)

In adversity and difficulty, hold tightly to these truths:

God is _____ in sovereignty.

God is _____ in wisdom.

God is _____ in love.

Therefore ...

Lesson 3: No matter the circumstances, I can _____ in Him.

"God in His love always wills what is best for us. In His wisdom He always knows what is best. And in His sovereignty He has the power to bring it about."

Jerry Bridges, *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts*

This is why we trust Him.