

END GAME: ARE YOU READY?

JUNE 27, 2021

WORSHIP

Mighty Warrior, Prepare
the Way of the Lord,
O Praise The Name
(Anastasis), The King Is
Coming, Be Ready

WELCOME

If you are given one
week to live, how will
you live your life during
your remaining time?
for?

WORD

DANIEL 2:21

"It is He [GOD] who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding.

(READ DANIEL 2 FOR FULL CONTEXT)

Today, people are asking: "are we living in the end times?" News and theories about it bother most people causing a great divide in beliefs. In this series, we will be looking at biblical prophecies. Studying biblical prophecies grows our faith and anchors it on the reliable, accurate, and truthful Word of God. **Biblical prophecies** also validate the character of God—faithful, powerful, and true in fulfilling His promises. Finally, studying biblical prophecies will help us understand the end, bringing us peace and security instead of fear. In **Isaiah 44:6-7**, God's unique quality of being able to foretell the future is emphasized. **Isaiah 46:9-10** show that nothing compares to God and His purpose and His pleasure alone shall be established.

The book of Daniel is an amazing prophetic book written in the 6th century B.C. Daniel served under 4 different kings and empires. He was quoted by JESUS when He talked about end times. Even the symbolisms and pictures he wrote were repeated in the book of Revelation! **Daniel 2** highlights the following:

1. GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING

Daniel 2:1-3 narrates how King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon dreamt of things that troubled him and made him seek to understand them. The truth is God wants to communicate with us, but we don't usually listen. We are too busy pursuing our own agenda, so God moves in mysterious ways to get our attention. King Nebuchadnezzar then asked the "experts" to tell him the dream and its interpretation to make sure the interpretation is not subjective. These wise men expressed that it is impossible (**Daniel 2:10-11**) which angered the king and he decided that these men should die! Daniel, by God's wisdom and provision, appealed to the captain of the bodyguard and courageously asked for him to be given some time (**v.16**). He went to his friends to seek "compassion from the God of heavens" and to be given wisdom in this challenge. Daniel's faith was solidly anchored on who God is. This mystery is unknown and impossible to be known by men but God sees everything and knows this mystery. Daniel resorted to prayer!

2. GOD IS SOVEREIGN AND IN CONTROL

God in His Sovereignty granted Daniel the grace he needed so that the King will listen to him. When the mystery was revealed to Daniel, Daniel blessed the Lord and praised Him, admitting His undeniable control over everything (**vv.19-23**). We see God's sovereignty here. He is the one in control of history. He is in control even in our present difficult circumstances. As **Charles Spurgeon** puts it, "**there is no attribute more comforting to His children than that of God's sovereignty...**" In **Romans 8:28-29**, the sovereignty of God is further emphasized in that He allows things to happen and causes even the bad or unfortunate things to achieve His good purposes. God's sovereignty does not remove human responsibility. Despite Him being in control, we are still responsible and we got to do our part. The king asked if Daniel is able to do what is being asked (**Daniel 2:26**) and Daniel

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admitted by giving glory to GOD (**vv. 27-29**) acknowledging God's sovereign choice to reveal future events to the king and to him as well.

3. THE REALITY OF GOD'S COMING KINGDOM

Daniel first told of the dream (**vv.31-35**). By the time he made the interpretation, the king was already ready to listen because he has seen that Daniel knew what was impossible to be known by mere men. Daniel describes the statue in the king's dream in full detail! As Daniel interpreted this dream (**vv. 36-45**), he spoke of great kingdoms that are coming after the Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom. Later in **Daniel 7:1-8**, the prophet was given a vision of the same kingdoms but now represented by four animals:

Daniel 2:31-45 Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	Head of Gold	Chest & Arms of Silver	Belly & Thighs of Bronze	Legs of Iron	Feet of Iron and Clay
Kingdoms represented	Babylonian Empire	Medo-Persian Empire	Greek Empire	Roman Empire	Revived Roman Empire
Daniel 7:1-8 Daniel's Vision	Winged Lion	Bear	Winged Leopard	Beast	
Kingdoms Timeline	606-536 B.C.	536-330 B.C.	330-63 B.C.	63B.C. 476A.D	Future

All these great empires would be destroyed by the stone which represents the kingdom that the God of heaven will establish—one that cannot be destroyed and will endure forever (**vv.44-45**). In **Daniel 7:13-14**, this kingdom was described further and the Son of Man was mentioned. Jesus referred to Himself in **Matthew 26:63-64** as the “**Son of Man**”. **Daniel 7:27** also emphasizes that the sovereignty, dominion, and greatness will be given (shared) to the “**people of the saints of the Highest One**” – a prophecy that tells us of the permanency of the kingdom of God.

What truths can we see here?

- God is sovereign.
- God's Kingdom is eternal; man's kingdom is temporal.
- Jesus is coming again as KING and JUDGE! Be ready and help Be ready and help others get ready to meet Him. (2 Timothy 4:1-2)
- We will reign with Him in the end! (Daniel 7:27, Revelation 22:5)

4. THE GRACE OF GOD

God extended His grace to King Nebuchadnezzar by revealing these things to him. This pagan king stood in awe and responded with humble worship and acknowledgement of God (**Daniel 2:47**). God used the dream and Daniel to evangelize and speak to Nebuchadnezzar. However, man has this propensity to pursue personal greed and glory. The king failed to recognize that the End Game is about GOD, not him. We must make daily choices to remind ourselves that the ultimate endgame is all about God. May we pursue everything for His own glory, honor, and praise!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Why is it important to study about the End Times?

2. Setting It Right

Is there any pursuit in your life that doesn't really achieve much for God's glory? What can you do to correct it?

3. Living It Out

How can you be ready? How can you help others be ready for the ultimate endgame?

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation
- Wisdom and timely, effective response to the pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people to turn to the Sovereign Lord and King during these times. Extend a kind word or action to someone God has placed in a leadership position. Share the gospel to that person.



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