

Only One Sovereign King – DANIEL –



Most High God

Daniel 4:4-27

Review

- ◆ A high point in the story
- ◆ A letter to “all peoples, nations, languages” (v 1)
- ◆ Has worldwide implications

1. A Great King Humbled

- ◆ Given dreams to reveal unfolding of history
- ◆ He is at peace, living in luxury
- ◆ Receives this dream as a warning
 - ◆ Daniel advises he changes his ways
 - ◆ For a further year he lives in pride & sin
 - ◆ He is driven into a form of madness
 - ◆ Becomes a deranged animal living in the wild

1. A Great King Humbled . . .

- ✦ Writes a letter describing what happened
- ✦ He possibly became a follower of God
- ✦ Reveals there is a God who oversees human affairs

2. A Greater God Acts

- ◆ God's revelation to Nebuchadnezzar begins with a dream
 - ◆ Made him aware of the powerful God of the Jews
 - ◆ A God involved in the affairs of the world
- ◆ His worldly empire was oppressive
 - ◆ God acted against him
 - ◆ His luxury was on the backs of oppressed people

2. A Greater God Acts . . .

- ◆ Nebuchadnezzar does not listen
 - ◆ He will be humbled
- ◆ Eventually he looks to God (v 34)
 - ◆ God restores him to his throne (v 36)
 - ◆ Now he knows who is in charge (v 37)

3. A Testimony to the World

- ◆ Letter testifies – Most High God has absolute authority
 - ◆ God rules the earth and will give authority to whom he wants
 - ◆ Testifies to the greatness of God in 2 short psalms (v 3, 35)

– LIVING IT –

- ◆ Take in broad sweep of history
 - ✧ People of Judah in exile
 - ✧ Kingdom of Israel went to captivity in Assyria
 - ✧ Reason: Refusal to worship YHWH *alone*
- ◆ Jews return with one indelible lesson:
 - ✧ There is only one god who should be worshipped
 - ✧ Faced brutal persecution for refusing to acknowledge other gods

– LIVING IT –

- ◆ Stance of early Christians built on this conviction
- ◆ Lasting implications right up to the present day
 - ◆ Most people assume there is only one God (or no god)
 - ◆ Everything is under God's control

– LIVING IT –

- ◆ This knowledge was essential for Jesus' ministry
 - ✧ Theology of TRINITY – one God in three persons
 - ✧ How the apostles knew God was not just God of the Jews
 - ✧ If there is only one God, he is God of everyone
- ◆ Westminster Shorter Catechism:
 - ✧ Man's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy him forever.