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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Daniel

Jim Bill McInteer

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NOT ONCE BUT MULTIPLE TIMES DANIEL COURAGEOUSLY STOOD FOR TRUTH

Dan.1:8-17

I. Daniel is one of the most amazing men of the Bible.

A. His name means "God is my judge."

B. He appears at a crucial time in Jewish history.

1. During the Babylonian captivity and during the reign of other heathen kings.

a) Nebuchadnezzar

b) Darius

c) Cyrus

Dan. 6:28

Dan. 1:21

Dan. 10:1

2. He lived a long time and was ever faithful.

3. He saw the handwriting on the wall and virtually came out of retirement to read it.

4. Jesus calls him a prophet.

Matt. 24:15

5. He had companions in youth that were equally strong.

Dan. 1:11 "...Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah.."

6. They were youths "of the seed royal." (Think of African slaves earlier Kings in Africa).

7. He knew captivity virtually all his life - 70 years of it.

2 Chron. 36:5-8

8. Exceptional youth
- a) Royal birth
 - b) Seed of nobles
 - c) No blemish
 - d) Well-favored
 - e) Skillful in all wisdom
 - f) Endued with knowledge, understanding science
 - g) Ability to stand in King's palace

9. Called notably wise.

Ezek. 28:3

10. Special power in righteousness and prayer.

Ezek. 14:14

:19

:20

Jer. 15:1

11. Served in positions of high trust: 5 kings - Nebuchadnezzar, evil-Merodach, Belshazzar, Darius, Cyrus
12. Above all - God!
13. Called to "teach them the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans." (Dan.1:3-6)

14. Endured a name change to Belteshazzar--perhaps connected with Baal, but never lived after what men called him.

Prov. 22:29 "Seest thou a man diligent in"

Prov. 16:7 "When a man's ways please.."

II. He starts out impressively only to continue this devotion for a lifetime.

Ezek. 28:3

A. Ashpenaz, Prince of eunuchs his early encounter.

1. Train as royal servant.

2. Eat dainties at King's table, wine used.

3. Three-year course.

B. Not flattered by it, but saw it as a defilement.

1. Wine

2. Unclean food (Lev. 11).

3. Curse to Israelites

Hos. 9:5-4

Ezek. 4:14 "Ah Lord Jehovah! behold, my soul..."

4. Could not eat blood (Deut. 13:16) and so for Christians today (Acts 15).

5. Not animals sacrificed to heathen gods.

6. Nothing strangled or dainties.

Ps. 141:4

C. Quite a temptation to be with bigwigs as a youth here boasted of his experience.

1. Resist by purpose

Dan. 1:8 "But Daniel purposed in his.."

2. Seek "kindness and compassion" (Dan.1:9) with overseers. God opens doors.

Gen. 39:1-6

:22-23

3. Paul did with captors.

4. Yet resist wrong of government.

D. Agree to a test

1. Pulse vs. dainties (herb or grain)
Water to drink.

2. Compare and use results.

3. Ten-day trial.

4. Dan. 1:15 - fairer, fatter

Dan. 1:19-20

III. Freedom or captivity be loyal to God and His truth.

A. Kingdom first

B. Loyalty to Jesus supreme

Isa. 30:18

THE PURPOSE OF GOD

David Powell

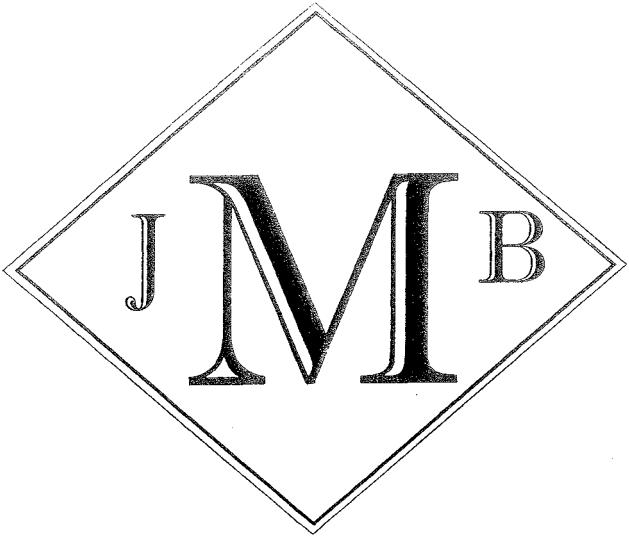
Has America lost its moral compass? Joe Wright thought so. On September 18, 1996, Joe Wright led the opening prayer in the Kansas House of Representatives. Paul Harvey reported that one House member walked out and another sat down in protest of the prayer. The whole House was abuzz with the excitement that comes from hearing the truth. Here is a portion of Mr. Wright's prayer:



Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and seek your direction and guidance. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values. We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your word and called it moral pluralism. We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism. We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation. We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare. We have killed unborn babies and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discip-

David Powell teaches Bible at Freed-Hardeman University and preaches for the North Jackson congregation in Jackson, TN.

line our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it political savvy. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment. Search us, O God, and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free. Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of Kansas, and who have been ordained by you to govern this great state. Grant them the wisdom to rule, and may their decisions direct us to the center of your will. I ask it in the name of your son, the living savior, Jesus Christ. Amen (1).



A KING'S DREAM - OUR DREAM: A COMPARISON

Dan. 2:14-18

- I. Since God is unchangeable;
Since it worked one time - obviously one would think it would work again.
- II. So I'd like to tell you a King's dream & draw our dream beside it via comparison.
- III. Nebuchadnezzar presents a problem.
 - A. His dream.
 1. 2nd yr. of reign.
 2. Troubled him.
 3. Couldn't sleep - (what he needed was my preaching)
 4. Called Magicians & Co.
 5. Reported his dream.
 6. Tell it to us - we interpret.
 7. It's gone - you recall it, else chopped to pieces & house a dung hill. Show it - reward.
 8. All repeated - as it grew hotter (Read V. 9-11).
 9. Thus they admit their fraud - and error. If we can't no one can. Gods had made no rev. to them, obviously.
 - B. Neb. Sentence - Read V. 11 & 12.
- IV. Enter Daniel. *Some crazy skin! (v-13)*
 - A. Remember he is under execution orders. ↗
 - B. Remember they are looking - searching for him.
 - C. He has no small problem. How did he solve it?
- V. Daniel's Doings. We seek solutions.
 - A. He went straight to heart of problem by confronting Executioner, identified it.
 1. Went to Arioch.

- a.) We have a great jury system.
- b.) Commie nothing but slavery - Russia & Poland
- c.) Name means chief butcher lit.
- d.) Spanish translation Captain of the cut throats.
- e.) Lit. Servant of the Moon God.
- f.) Courage to go directly to him even when under condemnation.
- g.) Went thru ranks of guards right to chief.
2. Went with: Armed with:
- a.) Counsel.
- (1) Kept his cool.
- (2) Soft ans. turns away wrath.
- b.) Wisdom.
- (1) Prudence (proceeds prayer).
- (2) Did not fall into passion & rage.
- (3) Cautious under threat of death.
- c.) Courage.
- (1) Worse ill than violent death.
- (2) He would die in defense of truth.
- d.) Prompt - no delay. Would be dead tomorrow.
3. Asked question: "Why is the decree so hasty from the King?" showing impropriety of voicing hope!!!
- a.) Hasty decisions are usually bad.
- b.) Why this severe decree - lit.
- c.) Decree so bitter.
- d.) Harsh a sentence.
- e.) Harsh decree.
- f.) Hasty - raging, shameless, scandalous.
- g.) Could he criticize a royal decree?

Counsel
Wisdom
Courage
Promptness

h.) Why didn't King consult all of us before the order of execution was issued? (Conveys idea the matter is not impossible tho the wise men have so indicated).

i.) Uncontrolled temper is suicide - it robs of dignity, reason, memory.

j.) Daniel condemned unheard & unjudged.

k.) Do you know what happens when great men fail? If all doomed to common destruction what happens tomorrow as youth see it?

l.) Arioch told the "thing" - the agitation of the King.

4. Daniel asked for time as he went before the King

a.) He gave Daniel time but did not the Chaldean.

Note Daniel did not ask the dream be revealed as Chaldean did - Neb. could read them like a book. Problem for others - won't be saved

b.) Did Providence favor Daniel. *Soup for us.*

Dan. 1:19-20 "And the king communed with them; ar

c.) You didn't ask me to come when called other wise men.

d.) Yet didn't put because he was not in 1st draft

e.) Daniel had faith but also courage to venture into King's presence & also humility to ask for more time.

f.) Daniel didn't believe God would suffer His saints to be destroyed causelessly.

Gen. 18:24 "Peradventure there be fifty righteous wit

5. Daniel sought help of companions via prayer.

a.) He wants to pray, Believing in God!!

b.) He needs help of friends in prayer.

c.) Power in united prayer.

Matt. 18:19 "Again I say unto you, That if two of you
Acts 12:5-12 "Peter therefore was kept in prison; but

d.) Pray alone & c others.

e.) Need companions in prayer.

f.) Need to be specific in prayer.

g.) Whatever is a matter of care must be a matter of prayer.

h.) Some things only God can give.

i.) The best men desire the prayers of others.

k.) Note used Hebrew names - as Jews they appeal for help.

l.) Some wise men (V. 18) may already have perished. *also verse 13*

m.) With some prayer is last resort - not 1st.

n.) Prayer exalted God, appealed to His mercies, committed troubles to Him, concerned c great public interest.

o.) Practical prudence must accompany prayer.

p.) Daniel sought aid - did not want honor of victory for himself alone.

q.) In union there is strength.

6. "Then" (V. 19) was secret revealed. Got his ans in night vision.

B. We summarize. He used:

1. Go directly to problem.

2. Go with counsel.

3. Go with wisdom.

4. Go with courage.

5. Go promptly.

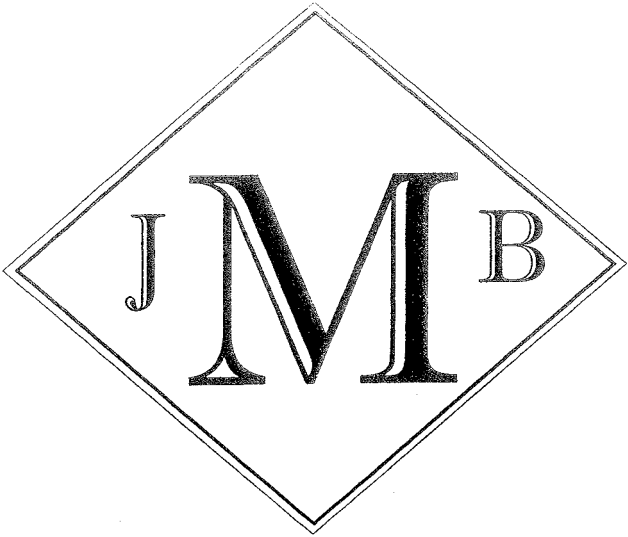
6. Ask a proper question. *voicing hope, show interest*

7. Seek proper time *to welcome*

8. Get help of companions in prayer *manifesting faith in God.*

C. S. gives way to New Day!

West End 1-2-83



WHAT PHRASES WOULD YOU USE TO MAGNIFY GOD?

Dan. 2:20-23

I. Comparisons can be helpful.

A. I never thought of that.

B. Why didn't I say that.

C. I was just going to say it & you took my words.

D. I don't agree with that at all.

II. At any rate, Daniel used 7 phrases. (It's great when God's name is mentioned his servants are immediately moved to praise.) So I ask 2 questions

A. What 7 phrases would you use to magnify God?

B. Would you now examine Daniel's 7 & see your agreement or disagreement?

III. Daniel's 7 Phrases of Praise of God. "Blessed be the name of God forever & ever. Why?

A. Wisdom is His.

Jer. 32:19 "Great in counsel & mighty in work

B. Might is his.

1. Perhaps one that is involved in that wisdom & might are his. (We combine them later).

2. Might could mean understanding.

3. Comfort to Daniel to think of God's might when under death threat to Neb.

4. We may look on God as one who can do all things

5. Yet I can pray to Him tenderly as my Father.

C. He changes the times & the seasons.

1. God sees & knows all things.

2. Times = duration of empires.

Dan. 7:25 "They shall be given into his hand until a

3. Seasons - fitting times for their decline.

4. God orders the events which occur at different times & seasons.

Ps. 41:11 "By this I know that thou favourest me, bec

5. Not conjunctions of the planets.

6. Teaches the "sun to rise & "know his time of going down."

7. God's in general control - not chance, nor largest battalion.

D. Removes Kings & Sets Up Kings.

1. God governs in the affairs of men.

2. Vicissitudes of states not regulated by fate, but by God.

3. He grants that which is to his glory & our good.

4. Not human ambitions & earthly armies.

5. God has to do c rise & fall of empires.

6. Nothing is fixed - stable but we've an anchor.

Dan. 4:17 "The most High ruleth in the kingdom of m

Dan. 4:32 "And they shall drive thee from men and ti

Dan. 4:35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth are r

Ps. 75:6-7 "For promotion cometh neither from the ec

E. Wisdom to the Wise & Knowledge to the understa

1. It's the old principle - if you've got you will get more - ruler over 10 cities.

James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of

2. Hebrew perfect in V. 23 means it's already given & continues.

Prov. 2:6-7 "For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his n

F. Reveals Deep & Secret Things.

1. Nothing is as deep as the revelation of himself to us.

2. He makes known to us our salvation.
 3. Only via Him do we know the future.
- G. Knows What's in the Dark & Light Dwells in Him
1. He is the Sun of man's soul.

Ps. 36:9 "For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light."

2. Compels imposter to eat his words.

3. On light:

I Tim. 6:16 "Dwelling in light which no man can app

I Jn. 1:5 "God is light & in him is no darkness at all

Ps. 139:12 "Darkness & light are both alike unto thee

4. God comprehends all things.

5. We best be sincere before Him.

6. What man can't solve, He can.

7. Dwell = to loose, to unbind, to solve like traveler unbinding burden from beast.

IV. How Shall I Then Live? Daniel had good reason to be thankful & expressed it.

5. 1. His life was saved. *Gives God glory*

2. God's name honored among the heathen.

3. He responded with praise.

4. Told friends the full story, had prayer c them, now praised God. Renewed mercy should lead to renewed thanksgiving & adoration.

5. Prayer not recorded but his thanksgiving is.

6. Give God glory for what he is to man.

7. Share God's glory c others.

A. God is the same God thru the Ages.

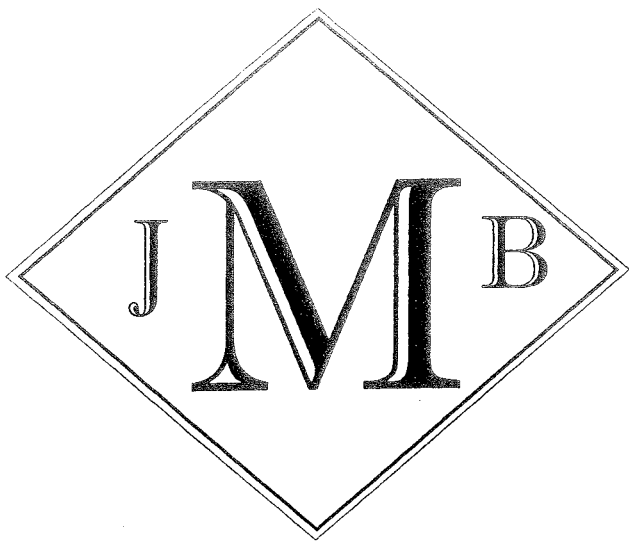
1. Unchangeable & eternal.

2. God dealt gloriously c Israel as of old - does today.

3. Do we say blessed be the name of God forever?

B. He gives gifts unto men.

West End 1-9-83



I HAVE FOUND A MAN!

Dan. 2:25

- I. It had to be an electrifying moment in old Babylon.
 - A. A world famous king had a forgotten dream.
 - B. All wise men were under the threat of death.
 - C. Innocent folk were drawn in to the same execution order - I've got to die just because he does.
 - D. Suddenly a man is found that can save everybody.
- II. Purpose of this lesson is 2-fold:
 - A. Quick Review of These Details.
 - B. What kind of man was he anyhow. World still needs heroes!
- III. Review of events.
 - A. Neb. Dreamed - Troubled - Sleepless.
 1. Neb. most mentioned King of pagan order.
 2. Dreamed.
 - a.) Cares of day became the cares of night.
 - b.) Forgot his dream.
 3. Troubled.
 - a.) Conscience makes cowards of us all.
 - b.) Conquered dynasties but afraid of dreams.
 - B. Called for Intellectuals: Magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, wise men.
 1. Many classes of men.
 2. "Stood" - in ritualistic readiness before King.
 3. Read Dan. 2:3-13.
 - a.) Did he forget or fain he did to test their metal?
 - b.) Cut in pieces, thus deprive of proper burial.
 4. "Not a Man".
 - a.) Wise men were wrong about their evaluation - so can we be in error about folk.

b.) There are men on earth today in touch c Heaven
you are part of them!

c.) True, there are some of empty pretentions.

(1) False men read the stars or quote sources other
than the Lord.

(2) Do we disappoint men by our shallowness.

(3) Are we folk of obvious inabilities.

D. Daniel enters scene.

1. Some say about 16 yrs. old.

2. He's swept along with tide of death.

3. V. 14 speaks to Arioch.

(a) If lesser man came might not have been able to
make an appoint. c Neb.

(b) Asked for time - the very thing Neb. found
infuriating in the Chaldeans!

4. How'd he use time?

a.) Went to his friends for assistance.

b.) With them went to God in prayer for victory.

c.) Can you imagine this teen-ager commanding the
King's attention so as to get an appointment!

d.) Prayed.

(1) Strange time for prayer mtg. ?

(2) 4 of them praying.

(3) Teen-agers are powerful when at prayer.

E. Secret was revealed.

1. Once revealed he got busy.

2. When prayer was answered he:

a.) Praised.

b.) Thanked God.

c.) Needed another prayer mtg. to say thank you.

d.) Praise recorded, specific petition was not - God wants lot of former (V. 20-23 Read).

F. Electrifying "I Have Found a Man."

IV. What Kind of Man Did He Find?

A. Man with an investigative mind.

V. 15 "Why is the decree so hasty."

B. Man prepared to move among all men.

1. Arioch - Officials.

2. Hananiah - Countrymen.

3. Neb. - Kings.

C. Man with a Plan - "give him time" - V. 16.

(Casey Stengel & flashlight).

D. Man of Poise.

1. Unfit for consultation but not for condemnation.

2. Didn't panic & run.

3. College kid "Look like blooming idiot."

E. Man of faith & confidence.

1. In his fellows.

2. In his God.

3. Promised an answer.

V. 16 "He would show the King the interp.

4. Prayed earnestly.

F. Man or others.

V. 24 "Destroy not the wise men of B.

G. Man of Gratitude.

(Put more in, get more out)

H. Man of Speed.

V. 25 "Brought in D. B4 King in haste.

I. Which quality can you not duplicate?

1. Investigative mind.

2. Prepared mind to meet all men.
3. Mind that has a solution.
4. Manner of Poise.
5. Man c faith & confidence.
6. Man of unselfish thoughts.
7. Man of Gratitude.
8. Man of Dispatch.

West End 11-11-79

Hickwood Church, McMinneville 11-20-79

William had returned home after his first year at college. He was resplendent in college finery. His father looked at him in disgust and said, "You look like a silly fool."

Later William called on an old major who lived next door, who greeted the young man heartily. "William," he said, "you look exactly as your father did twenty-five years ago."

"Yes," said William with a smile. "Father was just telling me that."

she fainted."

One day when Casey Stengel was managing the Brooklyn Dodgers he wanted the game called because of approaching darkness. There were no lights for the field at the time. The umpire refused and ordered the game to continue. Casey, a few minutes later, used a flashlight to signal the bullpen to send in a new pitcher, for which he was thrown out of the game.

HOW CAN PRAYER
CHANGE THE WORLD?

POSITIVE THINKING

By Norman Vincent Peale

A little over one hundred years ago, on a gloomy morning in 1857, a man by the name of Lanthier, living in New York City, boarded a horse-drawn street car to go to his office in Fulton Street. On the way downtown he read the morning paper. The news he read was that the country was in the grip of an economic depression — in those days, it was called a "panic." Businesses were closing down, one after the other. Wages were down. Factories were closed. Breadlines were formed. Thousands of people were walking the streets, out of work. Conditions were profoundly disturbing. Lanthier, along with many others, read these pessimistic and alarming reports and was worried.

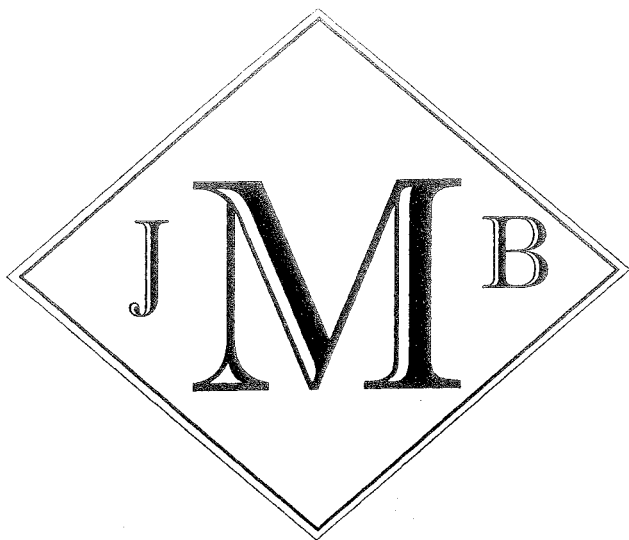
Lanthier was only a simple clerk in an office on Fulton Street. But there was one important thing about him; he was a man who believed in prayer. And, under the impact of the gloomy news in his morning paper, he got an inspiration.

That day he sent a note to all his business acquaintances, tell-

ing them that, beginning the next day, there would be a prayer meeting in an office on Fulton Street daily at noon. He hoped that each of them would attend. For his first prayer meeting, he arranged twenty chairs in a circle. That first day only one chair was filled; its occupant was Lanthier himself. But that did not discourage him. Alone, he prayed that there might be a tremendous change in him and in America. The second day, a few friends joined him. The next day all twenty chairs were filled.

Day after day, those men met and prayed together. Soon, a similar prayer meeting was started on Wall Street; then on William Street; then another on Broadway. The movement spread like wild fire to other parts of the country. Prayer groups sprang up everywhere. Soon there was a great religious revival and with it came a new upsurge in the moral and spiritual life of the people. It was followed by an era of sound prosperity and progress.

Lanthier's achievement was a demonstration of an age-old principle: that you can change your life, that I can change mine and that together we can change the world around us. Basically, all we need to do is to get hold of the power of prayer. Or, better still, let prayer get hold of us.



CONFESSIONS OF A HEATHEN KING

Dan. 4:1-3

- I. The world witnesses many strange acknowledgements (Wayne Holt, Broadway elder, & friend were flying commercial. Guy sat by Wayne's friend - never stopped talking. Was a stranger - bored them & bothered since they wanted to work. Finally asked one, "What do you do?" "I'm a professional pickpocket." Bore, "Well, don't try me - I have **only** \$10.00." Holt's friend, "I know." Bore, "Will you excuse me, I believe I see someone in back of plane I know.")
- II. Will we allow a heathen King of past centuries to out voice our appreciation for God?
 - A. Neb. made a great statement.
 1. Babylonia statement right in middle of Bible.
 2. A decree preserved.
 - Dan. 4:1-3 - Read.
 - B. What was he saying?
 1. Evangelical & universal "Unto all people, nations, lang. that dwell in all the earth."
 - a.) We are blessed to bless others.
 - b.) Felt a constraint to say something.
 2. Beneficial.

"Peace be multiplied unto you"
 3. Voluntary & Personal.

"I thought it good to show the signs"

 - a.) It seemed good to me.
 - b.) They have come to me.
 - c.) Not a word of comment from Daniel - all his!
 - d.) Will tell of his humiliation too - animal 7 yrs.

4. Infinitude of religion.

"How great are his signs -
How mighty his wonders.

- a.) Can't tell it all, nor fully like it is!
- b.) Self interest must give way to magnification of God.
- c.) Our motive - God!

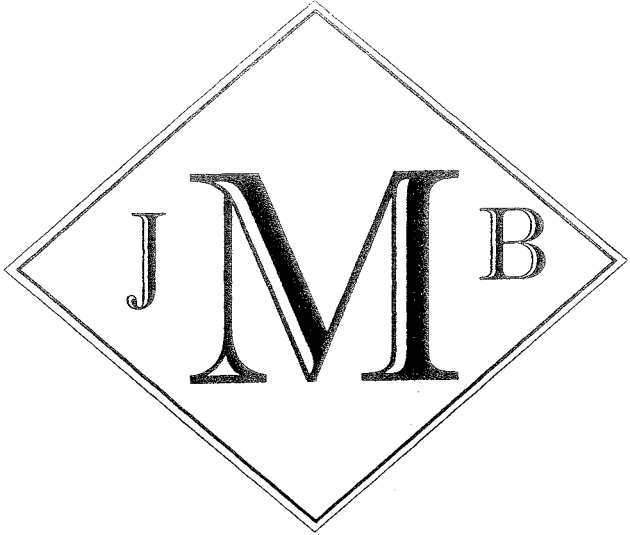
5. Eternal above earthly.

"His Kingdom is an everlasting

- a.) We are never so big we do not need God. Kings do.
- b.) Grasp temporal nature of man & you'll see eternal quality of God.
- c.) In briefing by Jody Powell on soybeans - Know yield? Of course not - weather determines (God determines weather!)
- d.) God's gifts of mind, reason, memory, speech far above nobilities, royalties, & dazzling appointments.
- e.) Best gifts of God demand public acknowledgment

West End 11-12-78

North Central, Indianapolis 11-13-78



SIGNS ALONG THE WAY

1. Dan. 4:1-3

I. Signs - what are they?

A. Symbols - like the cross.

B. Constellation.

C. Motion to make known a wish - Landry's green card.

D. Lettered Board.

E. Remarkable event. *To make the G. ob. by words & deed*

Romans 15:19 "Through mighty signs and wonders, by

Mark 16:17 "And these signs shall follow them that be

F. Portent, omen - sign of rain.

G. Character in math: $\frac{2}{3}$

H. Medical - evidence of disease.

I. Affix signature.

J. Sign off.

II. Bible has its signs.

A. There are signs that proclaim the presence & power of our God.

Gen. 1:14 "And God said - lights - signs - seasons *days & yrs.*

Exo. 10:2 "And that thou mayest tell in the ears of th

Ps. 19:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and

There is no speech nor language
1. I want my life to bear testimony of the fact I believe in God.

2. I want to show it by regular worship.

3. I want to tell others and even distribute gospel literature.

4. I want to utilize the opportunities as the World's Fair presents.

5. Clip on stress.

1

6. Courage conquers. #2

B. There are signs that tell me of the existence of Jesus and the inspiration of His word.

John 20:30-31 "And many other signs truly did Jesus i

II Pet. 1:16- "For we have not followed cunningly

- 1. I want my life to proclaim my faith in Jesus, God's Son.
- 2. That's one thing the little fellows downstairs named 1st - Jesus is the Son of God.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave

Acts 2:22 "Ye men of Israel, Jesus of N., a man appr

3. Oberammergau article. Wt. ~~ESS~~ OF CROSS #3

C. There are enemy signs that proclaim danger.

Ps. 74:4 "Thine enemies roar in the midst of thy congr

- 1. I must be alert to anything that erodes my spirituality.
- 2. I want to pray daily & read the Bible daily - will you join me in that pledge?

Jer. 10:2 "Learn not the way of the heathen, and be

3. You tell on yourself - card. #4

4. North & bus driver. #5

5. "One advantage of traveling the straight & narrow path is that no one is trying to pass you!"

6. Qt. of ethics story? #6

D. I want my life to radiate the sign of my joining to Jesus.

Acts 14:1-3 (Read)

- 1. Let my thoughts & then my deeds show I belong to Him.

John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give unto you

Dan. 4:1-3 (Read)

Isa. 8:18 "Behold, I & the children whom the Lord has
(My - hair' sha lah' haz' baz)

sh' ahr' yha' shuve)

2. Truck sign. #7

3. Treasurer's report. #8

4. At 90, Frank L. Wright was asked to single out
his finest work - "My next one," he ans.

E. I want to win the lost & reclaim the backslidden.

Heb. 2:1-4 "Therefore we ought to give the more ear"

John 14:6 "No man cometh to the Father, but by me.

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salv. in any other: for the

1. Vaughn story. #9

Heart End 1-1-84

Emotional Distress: Physical Distress

by Paul Harvey

My research files are pretty well organized — except one.

It's a file I tend myself; a single drawer-shelf in my office desk.

Any day that some person of prominence is in trouble — perhaps a public official exposed for misfeasance — I slip his name into that special file.

Experience says that very soon his or her name will be in the news again as he or she is stricken with some physical illness.

The file is overflowing. Let's examine some of these "case histories."

New Hampshire's Governor Hugh Gallen was defeated for a third term as Governor, promptly contracted "a blood infection," died.

Comic Jerry Lewis, after divorce and bankruptcy, required a double-heart bypass.

British carmaker Colin Chapman, under vigorous criticism by stockholders, died of a heart attack at 54.

Al Bloomingdale, disgraced by his secretly "kept-woman," lived less than a month.

Bear Bryant, retired from football, lasted less than 28 days.

The Tampa Bay ship's captain who rammed his ship into the Sunshine Skyway Bridge, within six months developed Multiple Sclerosis.

Research at the Universities of Colorado and Denver affirm that "inability to cope with stress may weaken the body's immune system" altogether as surely as AIDS does.

Chicago's Cardinal Cody, under investigation for diverting church money to a woman, lived less than a year.

Dr. Thomas Hackett, Chief of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General, says, "There are now more than enough studies to demonstrate that people who worry or are stressful have an increased risk of developing a disease."

For many years doctors have considered the word "stress" too unscientific, for one reason because the word was ill-defined.

Today the physiology of stress is defined to the degree that we can measure the biochemical results of even subtle psychological influences.

Stated simply, "a man is likely to catch cold when his mother-in-law comes to visit."

Less simply, among tuberculosis victims the onset of the disease generally follows a cluster of disruptive events.

The University of North Carolina studied 225 doctors who had been tested 25 years earlier when they were 25 year old medical students.

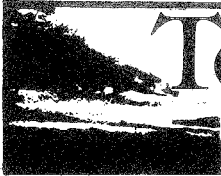
Those who, at age 25, were "high in hostility" subsequently had higher rates of heart disease; "were six times more likely to die by fifty."

Courage Conquers

#2

WHENEVER WE ARE confronted with a bad situation, we should say to ourselves, "This is the reality with which I have to live and I must figure out a way in which I can meet my situation bravely and heroically." There are many examples in history that should show us that life can be met bravely and effectively whatever tragedy has befallen us at any given time. Demosthenes, the great Greek orator, stuttered, and it was his inclination to hide from people and not use his great talents. Finally he realized that only as he spoke stutteringly would he learn to conquer his handicap. The great scientist Steinmetz was so terribly deformed that it took him a long time to accept that his handicap in no way really kept him from producing and contributing much to scientific progress. Milton had to learn, painfully, to believe that he could make his life sing with his poetry in spite of his blindness. Robert Louis Stevenson seemed to produce his greatest works when he was suffering most physically. Beethoven had to be satisfied with composing beautiful music even though he couldn't hear it. And even after a stroke, Louis Pasteur made his greatest discovery. Likewise when we have what we consider are unsurmountable handicaps we should be tempted not to give up and cease in our efforts to utilize our talents, but instead we should be challenged to devise ways of conquering our handicaps and bad situations and to rise above it to achieve our greatest victories.

—The Better Way



To The Point

by Steve Goodier

An American businessman traveled to Oberammergau, Germany, to view the famous Passion Play. The Easter season drama enthralled him. In rapt attention, the businessman watched the events leading up to a dramatic crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

After the play, he made his way backstage to meet Mr. Anton Lang, who played the part of Christ. After taking a picture of the actor, the man noticed a large, wooden cross resting in the corner. It was the same cross Mr. Lang carried in the play. "Here," the businessman said to his wife. "You take the camera. When I lift the cross on my shoulder, snap the picture."

Before the actor could speak, the businessman stooped to lift the prop onto his shoulder. He was amazed that the cross would not budge! It was made of heavy oak beams and could be moved only with great difficulty. Panting from strain and frustration, he turned to Mr. Lang and said, "Why, I thought it would be light. I thought the cross was hollow. Why do you carry a cross so heavy?"

The actor replied, "Sir, if I didn't feel the weight of the cross, I could not play this part."

A provocative statement! Unless I feel the weight of your burden, can I really know you? Until I let myself feel your feelings with you, can I understand you? It seems a bit risky — but worth a try.

DON'T LET US DOWN

You are an important person. You're the one who knows the most about your inner thoughts and dreams. You must believe in yourself and your hopes and dreams. You have much to contribute; take your time, don't hurry. There is no one like you. You are unique. Keep living with a happy thought and dream. Don't let the rest of us down, we need your love and smile every-day.

*Murray McBride's
Management Forum*

DETERMINATION

Asked by a fellow pianist if he could be ready to play a recital on short notice, Jan Paderewski replied:

"I am always ready. I have practiced 8 hours daily for 40 years."

"I wish I had been born with such determination," the other said.

"We are all born with it," Paderewski said, "I just used mine."

You Tell On Yourself

#4

You tell what you are by the friends you seek,
By the very manner in which you speak,
By the way you employ your leisure time,
By the use you make of dollar and dime.

You tell what you are by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which you burdens bear,
By the kind of things at which you laugh,
By records you play on your phonograph.

You tell what you are by the way you walk,
By the things of which you delight to talk,
By the manner in which you bear defeat,
By so simple a thing as how you eat.

By the books you choose from the well-filled shelf;
In these ways, and more, you tell on yourself.

--Author unknown

"Devotionals for Worship Programs" - By Fredna W. Bennett
Pages 24-25

AROUND IT

History From Bus #5

(Prizewinner)

The guide on a Gettysburg sight-seeing bus kept telling the story of the famous battle of the Civil War in such a way that it sounded as if the South had made a great victory there: "Here is where two boys from Georgia captured an entire regiment of Northerners," etc.

A woman from Ohio asked, "Didn't the North win a single victory here?"

"Nope," was the guide's answer, "And they aren't going to as long as I'm driving this bus!"

Grand Haven, Mich.

L. D.

Richmond, Va.

Question of Ethics #6

"Ethics are vital to the successful businessman," said the man to a friend. "For example: An old customer paid his account today with a hundred dollar bill. As he was leaving, I discovered that he had mistakenly given me two hundreds, stuck together. Immediately a question of ethics arose: Should I tell my partner?"

Valparaiso, Ind. Lorene

I wonder if Christians could afford to have a truck sign #7 pinned on their back? In driving to Glasgow in that gospel meeting, a tremendously large truck, all washed and shiny, passed me. On the back of his truck, there was a big sign that said, "If anyone observes this vehicle doing anything discourteous, unlawful, or illegal, please report it to (and it gave a name and address) and corrections will be made immediately." That's pretty open, don't you think?

A MODERN PARABLE

#8

The Treasurer of a congregation resigned. The church asked another person to take the position. He was a man who managed a local elevator. He agreed to take the job upon two conditions: One, that no report from the treasurer would be given for a whole year, and two, that no one ask him any questions during that one year period.

The church members quiped, but finally agreed since he was a trusted man in the community, and wellknown, and because most of them did business with him.

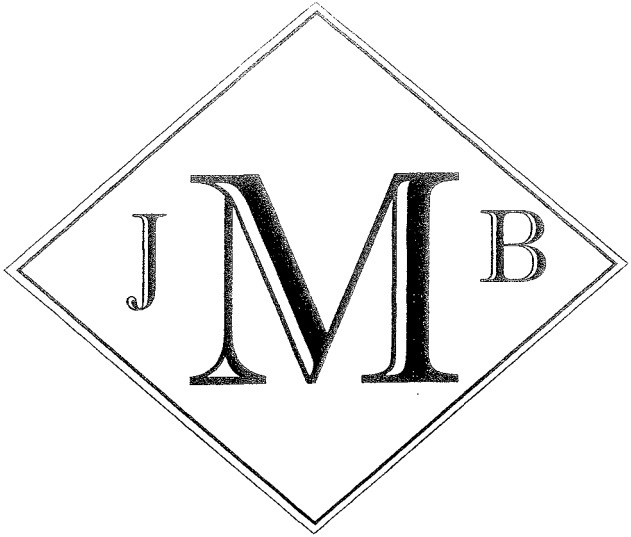
At the end of the year, he gave his report as follows: "The indebtedness of \$250,000 on the church building has been paid, the minister's salary has been increased, the mission quota was paid 200% - there are no outstanding bills, and there is a cash balance of \$12,000.

Immediately the shocked congregation asked: "How come?" Quietly, the new treasurer answered: "Most of you bring your grain to my elevator. As you did business with me, I simply withheld ten percent on your behalf, and gave it to the church in your name. You never missed it." See what we can do when we give as we should?

- Selected

A story is told of a man who left his farm to spend a few days in Washington, D. C. with his son, a United States Senator. One evening, at a social occasion, the senator's father was introduced to the Ambassador from Beligum. They had hardly exchanged greetings when the man asked the Ambassador, "Sir, are you a Christian?" The answer never came, for the embarrassed Senator interrupted, changed the conversation, and hurried his father away. A short time later, after a brief illness, the elderly man died. Among the many flowers at the funeral were roses from the Beligum Ambassador. Attached to the flowers was a note which read, "He was the only man in America who asked if I was a Christian."

John Vaughter



THE ACCEPTED TIME

Dan. 4:27-

I. We deal cheerfully in acceptable things.

A. Our meditation.

Ps. 19:14 "Let the words of my mouth, and the me

B. Our words.

Ecc. 12:10 "The preacher sought to find out accep

C. Our manner. *words, that which was written was uprite
even words of truth*

Prov. 21:3 "To do justice and judgment is more ac

D. Our sacrifices. *to the lord than sacrifice*

Rom. 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, I

II. Does it seem strange then that there is an accepted time?

Isa. 61:2 "To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord

Lu. 4:19 "To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

2 Cor. 6:2 "(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time

A. Our only question is: *Behold now is the acc. time* An accepted time to do wh

B. May we search soul & Scriptures to see.

III. Story of Dan. 4.

A. Nebuchadnezzar's decree.

1. Babylonia state document right in the middle of the Bible.

2. Wants everybody to know his story, God is God of all.

3. Beneficial - peace be to you.

4. Voluntary - It seemed good to me (V. 2).

5. If we are blessed - bless others - be evangelical.

6. Be excited - "How great are his signs", "How mighty his wonders."

7. Infinitude of religion - can't tell it all, fully like it is.

B. "I saw a dream" (V. 4).

1. At rest, flourishing in my palace.

a.) Calamity came while King walked in palace.

b.) Wars over.

c.) Beware of ease & plenty.

d.) We grow prosperous and proud.

4:30 "Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for

4:37 "Those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

2. Nature of the dream - Vision of a tree.

a.) Midst of earth.

b.) Great height.

c.) Grew & was strong.

d.) Could see to end of earth.

e.) Leaves fair.

f.) Much fruit.

g.) Meat for all.

h.) Beasts in shadow.

i.) All flesh fed on it.

j.) Watcher - holy one came.

k.) Hew down tree - cut off branches, shake off leaves - scatter fruit.

l.) Let beast & fowl leave.

m.) Leave stump c band of iron (to protect).

n.) Send dew.

o.) Give N. a beast's heart.

p.) 7 passes.

q.) Eagle feathers & claws.

3. Neb. troubled.

was afraid (V.5)

a.) Why a mighty man afraid?

b.) Others dreamed - Abimelech, Pharaoh's Butler

Gideon, Pilate's wife (Matt. 27:19).

c.) Shakespeare, "Conscience makes cowards of us all."

4. Called for Daniel.

a.) Others turn to wrong prophet.

b.) Dan. a wise man for 30 yrs.

c.) Had respect - V. 8-9, 18.

C. Daniel's Reaction.

(V-19)

1. Was astonished (old word - silenced).

2. Speechless 1 hr. - had King int. at heart.

3. He was troubled - afraid - why?

a.) Will he apply remedy?

b.) Will he believe me?

c.) Will he kill me?

d.) Do we empty the Bible of penal words.

4. As a slave before a King.

"It is thou, O King" (V. 22).

a.) Great courage.

b.) Fearless truth.

c.) Hopes to win King.

5. Lycanthropy.

a.) Man thinks himself an animal.

b.) Lukos = wolf. (Lytos)

Anthropos = man.

c.) Beauty & the Beast.

d.) Terrible condition for a ruler.

6. Leave the stump.

a.) God's merciful to heathen King.

b.) Guard stump - grow again.

IV. Accepted Counsel (V. 28).

A. We can sentence but can we repair! We know what's wrong - do we know how to right it?

B. Gave 5 Point Plan - Really 3 as each of 1st two c a counter proposal.

1. Break off thy sins by Righteousness.

a.) Break = metaphor, refractory beast casting off yoke.

b.) Rebel against sins & put all to one side.

c.) Do it by practicing a contrary virtue.

d.) Call to Repent.

(1) Constant insistence on it - today.

(2) 60X in NT.

(3) John's 1st ministry words.

Matt. 3: 2 "And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of
Jesus' 1st min. words.

Matt. 4:17 "From that time Jesus began to preach, and
Peter's 1st sermon.

Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be

(4) Repentance is getting up & getting out.

(5) Leave pigpen & don't stop till in father's arms.

(6) Anxious to bring him to reawakening.

e.) Do it now - Barnett & Dobson Clips.

f.) Do righteousness.

2. Break off iniquities by showing mercy to poor.

a.) Stop sinning.

1.) Trace our failure to its real cause.

2.) Sin brings judgement.

3.) Porno queen.

4.) Franklin - Paine.

5.) Washington.

b.) Merciful to poor.

Story of Crippled Boy

(1) Bear practical fruit.

(2) Are we fair in public justice? Always show justice.

(3) Do we hurt the poor.

3. Lengthened Tranquility.

a.) If Neb. will repent his posterity shall be prolonged.

b.) If man will turn, God will turn.

c.) We find no final decrees of damnation.

d.) Gave him 12 mo.

(1) Are we on borrowed time?

Ecc. 8:11 "Because sentence against an evil work is

(2) Is today it.

2 Cor. 6:1-2 "We then, as workers together with him

Shes End 11-26-78

32nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Fellowship Day, 16th + Deacon

Washington, D.C. 11-11-78

1-29-79

High Plains Christian Development Series, Plainville, Tex.

Pratt, Kans. Church 3-8-79

Clare, Okla. Church 3-11-79

North Texas Training for Service Series, Ft. Worth 3-25-79

I read recently about a little boy who was crippled. When the streetcar stopped at the corner, he called to the conductor to wait for him. The conductor kept the door open and the crippled boy struggled in and found a seat by a man who looked at the little fellow in amazement. The boy was bright, though so terribly crippled. And he was so cheerful the man could not help but exclaim to the lad. "Son, you seem so happy! How can you be that way when you are crippled?" The little fellow brightly replied, "Oh, sir, my father tells me that God always gives us what is best, and don't you think I ought to be happy with the best?" Whoever was the father of that little boy was a great man! The boy had found the answer God gives what is best and we should receive it as from His hands so that we might be exalted.

PETER - Criswell p.97-99

We live at breakneck speed. One man admitted that he "made his breakfast on soft-boiled eggs because they slid down fast." We burden ourselves with so much "miscellaneous living" that we are forever fifteen minutes late for the next appointment.

"Happiness . . . Day and Night" - By Joe Barnett and John Gipson

Page 13

"Routine panic", American way of life. There were times when a man didn't feel if he missed a stage coach; he'd just catch it next month. Today if he misses a skeleton going revolving door, he's thrown into despair. Hobson Pg 50 what writes

And All Laughed At A Porn Queen

LOS ANGELES — It is Merv Griffin time, and guess who is scheduled on? — routine, no fuss; just another guest. We have had on already Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Murray, who although they may have taught us dancing in a hurry, didn't do so because they were in any particular hurry: they are in splendid shape, having recently celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. A second guest is a rock-ballad singer, envelopingly warm, talented, who sings songs about father-son relationships.

What's my line? Well, she produces and directs porno flicks. The hard stuff. She looks rather like Kay Kendall. How old are you, dear? Twenty-three. What religion were you brought up in? Catholic. Still practice your religion? Well — tee hee — no, not really, don't go to church much. Did you go to college? Yes, Michigan State. Graduate? Yes. Major? Phys. Ed. What made you go into...porno movies? Wanted to get into the business, and worked for a while as a cashier at a movie house that featured X-rated movies, so got interested in the business, asked around, and went to Hollywood. Do you make all kinds of films? No, we don't go into bestiality, sado-masochism. Just, you know, the regular stuff, only, in a way, you know, we try to experiment, new positions, that sort of thing.

A Pat Boone type came in and said he thought it was all a pretty good idea. He and his wife had an X-rated film which they showed on their

home video-cassette system, and he thought it was very healthy, after all we're all part animal, and we have instincts, and what's wrong with recognizing anything that obvious?

An author mumbled something about it's also being an animal instinct to eat other animals, but we don't make movies about people eating other people, but the audience didn't like that. And Merv said to the author: Have you ever seen a pornographic film? Sure, the author said, I've done a lot of reprehensible things.

Well, that did it, what was so reprehensible about it: I mean, here's a sweet young thing, making the kind of movies that the singer and his wife showed in the privacy of their living room.

At this point the author tried to take the offensive, but he sounded awfully stuffy. He said the whole situation reminded him of the point Irving Kristol had made in one of his essays for the *Wall Street Journal*, that such was the inversion of values in America that an 18-year-old girl could legally have intercourse live on a stage in New York provided she was paid the minimum wage. Are you — he directed his question to the singer — in favor of snuff films?

What are snuff films?

Well, snuff films are where a guy (or gal) is actually killed in the film, the victim being a masochist inclined to go all the way, and the executioner being a masochist inclined ditto



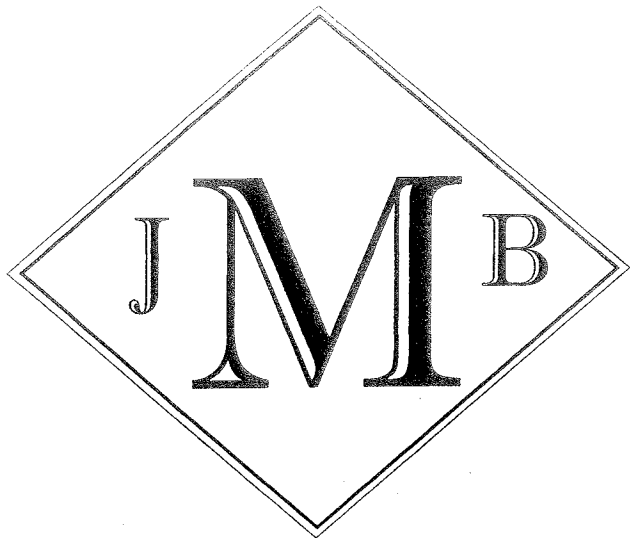
Merv Griffin
Just another guest

The porno-director shook her head, as did Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Murray, as did the singer, as did Merv Griffin.

Merv asked the lady how much she had spent on her current porn movie and she said about \$116,000. How much money have you grossed so far this year? About \$1 million. But we can go on selling it, it will last years.

What happens, the author asked, when you run out of positions? The lady laughed, Merv laughed, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Murray laughed, the singer laughed, time was up, everybody went home, just as if they had heard from someone who had made a success of a chain of doughnut shops.

On the way home the author tried to remember a couple of lines from Hilaire Belloc, but couldn't. The next day he found them. "We sit by and watch the barbarian, we tolerate him; in the long stretches of peace we are not afraid. We are tickled by his irreverence, his comic inversion of our old certitudes and our fixed creeds refreshed us; we laugh. But as we laugh we are watched by large and awful faces from beyond; and on these faces there is no smile"



THE NIGHT THE HEAD OF GOLD ROLLED

Daniel 5

- I. First see the city--Babylon of Iraq.
 - A. An impregnable fortress.
 1. Built in shape of a square.
 2. Wall 15 miles each way.
 3. Wall 87 feet thick--350 feet high.
 4. Upon it four chariots could ride abreast and often did.
 5. Feeling "nobody can take us."
 6. 100 massive bronze gates.
 7. Water in abundance--Euphrates River flowed through the middle of it.
 - B. Rulers - Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar.
 - C. Great Banquet Hall--discovered.
 1. 60 feet wide x 172 feet long.
 2. Middle--main section of White House approximately this size.
 - D. Here on Babylon's last night a feast was held.
 1. Feast is not immoral but an orgy is.
 - a) Full of defamation, desecration, blasphemy, resultant judgment of an awesome God.
 - b) Humanity follows same pattern--immorality and drunkenness increase.

- c) Criswell "the ripened fruit rots, hell itself opens and yawns."

Ps. 9:17 "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God."

- d) A dynasty passes away in Chapter 5 of Daniel.
- e) Approximately 36-year old King--Belshazzar, decadent, dissolute, idolatrous, immoral, impious, unworthy to rule, throws a party--and God crashed it.
- f) That very night the Medes and Persians continued, says history, their 2 1/2 year siege without success, they continued withdrawing from the only bastion they could not conquer, the only unclaimed jewel, but the Babylonians felt secure, only then did the Medes divert the river and enter through the belly.
- g) Critics have assailed this chapter to no avail--but the Bible is the only accurate report of that last fatal night.

II. Now to the Text

A. Feast with 1,000 Lords drinking wine.

1. Each lord, his retinue, guards, favorite females, dancers, musicians, jugglers, and entertainers--perhaps 10,000.
2. They reveled, drank, praised gods of gold, silver, brass, iron, wood, stone (v.5).
(Doesn't the Bible warn about strong drink?). (America - cure your pain by chemicals).
A death by auto accidents every 11 minutes, injury every 18 seconds due to alcohol.
3. This night, 532 B.C. cited even October 12, 539 B.C. by Herodotus.
4. This hall, recently excavated had walls decorated with painted stucco design, feting Bel for whom Belshazzar was named, on a grand scale.
5. Shortly we'll see the Feast, the Fingers, the Fear. *The Finals*
6. The king failed to know the strength of the nation is on the inside, not the outside.

B. Belshazzar's fatal move: "He tasted the wine."

1. Set a bad example before others--carefree hilarity.
2. Brought in the women, wives and concubines--suggests immorality.
3. "King began to feel the influence of the wine--losing all sense of decency.
4. Concubines--inferior class of women in the harem--smacks of lasciviousness.
5. Kings were not to revel with their courtiers in those days nor to have women in attendance.
6. Moffatt says he "Carried away by the wine."
7. Drink leads you away to do the unthinkable, the intemperate.
8. MacArthur says the tasting implies drunkenness.

C. He calls for the sacred vessels taken by Nebuchadnezzar earlier.

Dan. 1:2

2 Kings 24:13

2 Kings 25:13-17

1. He had put God's vessels in the house of his god, according to accepted proprieties.
2. Bel says bring them out and we use them.

3. These were Solomon's earlier and Belshazzar wanted to dishonor the God of Israel.
4. Note the drinking of wine is connected with idolatry.
5. The profanation of sacred things brings down the swift displeasure of Jehovah. Sometimes his judgment seems slow; others exceedingly swift and sudden.
6. This is an act of desecration and blasphemy.
7. The drunken throng led by a defiant king drank from the vessels of the true God and at the same time praised the gods of gold, silver, brass, wood and stone--deliberately in defiance of the God of Judah. (Wood)

D. At the same hour came for the finger.

1. In the midst of the orgiastic feast appeared over against the lamp stand, the great candelabra that shown against the white plastered wall, the finger of a man's hand, incising words in the very stone itself. (Criswell)

2. Finger as of a human hand, write on the well-lighted portion of the wall terrifying the king and everyone else.
3. In the same hour came the writing fingers where the light was the brightest.
4. Four mystic words, not in Babylonian, but in Aramaic, same language as Book of Daniel, not syllabic character of Babylonian cuneiform, but ancient alphabetic characters of older Hebrew and Aramaic inscriptions.
5. White plaster is mentioned, means chalk. Any dark object moving across this white surface would stand out.
6. It means the extremities--hand from the wrist to the tips of the fingers.
7. He challenged God and God accepted the challenge.
8. God's patience comes to an end.

Gen. 6:3 "My spirit shall not always strive."

9. Immediately the drinking stopped.
10. Feel the deathly silence and fear.
11. King had the best place to see it.

Gal. 6:7 "God cannot be mocked."

Rom. 1:18 "The wrath of God is being revealed.."

Ecc. 12:14 "God will bring every deed into judgment..."

E. The King's Reaction

1. Countenance changed--gaze frozen on the wall. Death, doom and damnation just around the corner.
2. His thoughts troubled him.
 - a) "Conscience doth make cowards of us all."
 - b) Despair swept over the drunken despot.
 - c) Pale face, troubled mind, avails nothing.
3. Joints of his loins were loosed.
 - a) Joints of hips weakened.
 - b) Terror gripped his heart.
 - c) Joints weakened, strength gone, can't stand due to shaking knees.
4. Knees smote one against the other.
 - a) In one brief hour the boastful, profane king becomes a shivering, shaking, helpless, hopeless mortal.
 - b) Against Jehovah's buckler he was broken.
5. The king cried aloud.
 - a) Frivolity gives place to fear.
 - b) Cried aloud--shrieked, beside himself.

6. Not troubled by the foe outside but now by supernatural foe inside.
 7. Calls for astrologers, enchanters, Chaldeans, soothsayers, wise men.
 8. Read the writing and interpret well clothe with scarlet, purple, gold chain, third ruler in kingdom, third member of co-equal group of three.
 9. No wonder he cried--close to death within 24 hours, his days are finished, his cup of iniquity is full, his doom is fixed.
 10. We find our rightful place in the crisis of life.
 11. None could interpret.
- F. The Queen Mother
1. Made her entrance--see verses 10 and 11.
 2. There is a man in thy Kingdom.
 3. Mothers seem never to give up.
 4. Description of this man, Daniel.
 - a) Generation lived in obscurity.
 - b) 80 or more years old.
 - c) Able to meet the crises.
 - d) Didn't say he currently was in high position.
 - e) Served your father--no Hebrew or Chaldee word for grand-father so word father can go for several generations.

- f) Stood alone as a teenager, as mature as old man--refuses to compromise.
- g) At the right time God has the right man.
- h) Describe verse 11 and 12.
- i) Comes out of retirement.

- 5. Word to preacher--card on item 66.
- 6. Daniel last resort--brain trust fails.

G. Daniel called and rejects gifts.

- 1. Bel uses only motivation he knows-- possession, possession, power.
- 2. Couldn't be bought.
- 3. Reviews reign of Nebuchadnezzar verse 18-21. READ THIS
- 4. Next review - Belshazzar.
- 5. Must see "God ruled in the Kingdom of man."
- 6. More references to God's anger and wrath in the Scriptures than to his love and mercy. (Peel)
- 7. Most telling thing (v.22) -
 "Though thou knowest all this."
 a) Sin is sin, but guilt is proportionate to knowledge.
 b) Sinned against knowledge.

Heb. 10:29

Matt. 11:20-24

- c) No word of sympathy for king.
- d) Guilty of premeditated sin.

H. He read the handwriting on the wall.

1. Mene - numbered, counted.
 - a) God hath numbered thy kingdom and finished it.
 - b) There is a number for everything.
 - c) Repeated for emphasis.
 - d) Its duration is so counted out that it is full, that in now comes to an end.
2. Tekel -- weighed.
 - a) Thou outweighed in the balances and found wanting. To be too light.
 - b) There is a measure for everything.
 - c) Kingdom dissolved or destroyed
 - d) Man pictures justice with scale and sword, but blindfolded. Only God is accurate.
3. Upharsin - divided.
 - a) Division
 - b) Peres - thy kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and Persians.
 - c) There is a time for everything.
 - d) Time to be born, die.

Heb. 9:27 "And it is appointed unto men.."

- e) Singular form PRSIN.

- f) In Aramaic the "U" is a simple connection such as "and."
- g) None but God is competent to accurately weigh even one life, or even one act of life. Who then but one who is himself God can be capable of judging the innumerable myriads of mortal beings, heavenly and human? Jesus must be God or he could not perform such a task as that of universal judge. (Lang)

John 5:22-23

- h) Medes were at the gates--the willful and wicked Belshazzar lost his kingdom, lost his life, lost his soul, and his all. Sin ends in doom, death and hell.

- I. Our last night may be nearer than we expect or think.
1. Will ours be a night without morning?
 2. "Everyone sooner or later sets down to a banquet of consequences."

--Robert L. Stevenson

Fishinger & Kenny - 5/8/04

Old Union C/C - 7-26-05

London, KY - 4/22/06

Locust Grove - 7/16/06

...of Belshazzar's palace. He spreads this feast in contempt for the enemy on the outside. Cyrus and his great Medo-Persian army had been besieging the city of Babylon for months, possibly for two and a half years. But the walls were great, 350 feet high and 87 feet across. They were surrounded by a deep, broad moat, fed by the waters of the Euphrates River. The city was so large it could grow its own produce. It had water in abundance. The Euphrates flowed through its center. It was impregnable and invincible. No military device at that time could breach those walls and no army could storm those gates. In contempt, Belshazzar, within the safety of the city that could be besieged forever and never fall, threw this orgiastic festival, this unspeakable party.

But what the drunken king did not know is that the strength of a kingdom the strength of a...

At the feast of Belshazzar and a thousand of his lords,
While they drank from golden vessels, as the book of truth records,
In the night as they reveled in the royal palace hall,
They were seized with consternation—'twas the hand upon the wall.

See the brave captain Daniel as he stood before throng,
And rebuked the haughty monarch for his mighty deeds of wrong;
As he read out the writing, 'twas the doom of one and all,
For the kingdom now is finished, said the hand upon the wall.

See the faith, zeal, and courage that would dare to do the right,
Which the Spirit gave to Daniel—this the secret of his might;
In his home in Judea or a captive in the hall,
He understood the writing of his God upon the wall.

So our deeds are recorded, there's a Hand that's writing now;
Sinner, give your heart to Jesus, to his royal mandate bow;
For the day is approaching, it must come to one and all,
When the sinner's condemnation will be written on the wall.

—Knockles Shaw.

--E.A. ELAM

Elam's Notes on Sunday School Lessons - 1929

Conclusion

*Photo copy
superior
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A poem magnificently summarizes Daniel 5 and focuses our attention on the condemnation belonging to all who have not received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior:

9 At the feast of Belshazzar and a thousand of his lords,
While they drank from golden vessels, as the Book of Truth records,
In the night as they revelled in the royal palace hall,
They were seized with consternation at the hand upon the wall.

See the brave captive Daniel as he stood before the throng,
And rebuked the haughty monarch for his mighty deeds of wrong;
As he read out the writing, 'Twas the doom of one and all,
For the kingdom was now finished said the hand upon the wall.

See the faith, zeal and courage that would dare to do the right,
Which the spirit gave to Daniel this the secret of his might.
In his home in Judea, a captive in its hall,
He still understood the writing of his God upon the wall.

So our deeds are recorded; there is a hand that's writing now.
Sinner, give your heart to Jesus, to His royal mandate bow;
For the day is approaching, it must come to one and all,
When the sinner's condemnation will be written on the wall.

“PERES : Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.” Empires do not stand by horses and munitions, not even when these cost annually thousands of millions of pounds sterling. Babylon was deemed impregnable, but it fell. The *Titanic* was deemed unsinkable, but she sank. Herodotus points out how easily the Babylonians might have defeated the Persians. For the river bed by which the latter entered was not only protected by the great gates which the Persians had not been able to force, but under which they crept at night as the water of the Euphrates sank when drained off by Cyrus, but the openings in the banks, by which access to the waters was gained by the inhabitants, were also defended by gates. If the defenders had been normally alert they could have closed these gates, mounted the banks, and have caught their attackers in a veritable death-trap. Herodotus visited the city not such a great while after, and when the memory of the deeds of Cyrus was still fresh, and he says it so happened that a great feast was in progress that very night, and the city proved an easy prey to the Medes and Persians.

We say “it happened”; but no! in truth the divine sentence was fulfilled, and “in that night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain” (30). The first empire of prophecy had run its afore-declared course. So will the last. History is prophecy.

Photo copies
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separate from other
notes

Tell of its walls.
 Where was the city built?
 How did Cyrus enter it?
 Who predicted this?
 What did the prophets say would be the condition of Babylon?
 What can you say of the truthfulness of this?

The Feast of Reveling

At what time was this feast?
 Who were present?
 Where was the feast held?
 Why did Belshazzar think he was safe?
 What was done with the vessels of the house of God?
 Who had brought these to Babylon?
 What appeared on the wall while at the feast?
 How did it affect the company?
 What did the king cry?
 What proposition did he make to the one that would read and interpret it?
 Why could they not interpret it?
 How did this affect the king?
 Who had Daniel brought in?
 Did the king know Daniel?

Daniel Rejects the Gifts of the King

What reward did the king offer for the interpretation?
 What did Daniel say about his reward?
 What can you say of Daniel's heroism?
 Who else manifested such courage?

*5/15/06
 did not
 for
 T. H. M. J. K.*

At the feast of Belshazzar and a thousand of his lords,
 While they drank from golden vessels, as the book of truth records,
 In the night as they reveled in the royal palace hall,
 They were seized with consternation—'twas the hand upon the wall.

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 When the sinner's condemnation will be written on the wall.

—Knowles Shaw.

Jehovah Overrules All

What had Jehovah done for Nebuchadnezzar?
 What had he done for Belshazzar?
 Why did not Belshazzar acknowledge Jehovah's power over him?
 Does Jehovah rule in the nations of earth to-day?
 What three charges did Daniel make against Belshazzar?
 What had Belshazzar done with these apparent truths?

The Writing and the Interpretation

What was written on the wall?
 What do the words "mene," "tekem," and "upharsin" mean?
 What is the full meaning of the inscription?
 To what is Belshazzar compared?
 What can you say about God's scales?
 Who is weighed in them?
 For what do we have opportunity?

Practical Suggestions

What lesson may we learn from this?
 What is God's warning to us?
 Why was Daniel so courageous?
 Why was Daniel not hurt?
 Over what does Jehovah rule to-day?
 How does he make all things work together for good?

brought to you and you and your nobles, your wives and your concubines drank wine from them." Most men are content just to ignore God. Unfortunately, ~~Belshazzar didn't stop there. He defied God to exercise authority over his life, saying in essence, "Stop me if you can."~~ God rarely drops that kind of challenge.

Belshazzar Worshiped False Gods

With a slow, deliberate gaze at the images of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood, and stone scattered around the hall, Daniel marveled at the idiocy of worshiping them. Given the choice between the one true God and gods who could neither hear nor speak, these people chose the latter. Why would someone make that choice? The answer is clear. We don't have to submit to what we create; it serves us. If we were honest, most of us would have to admit that we want that kind of god.

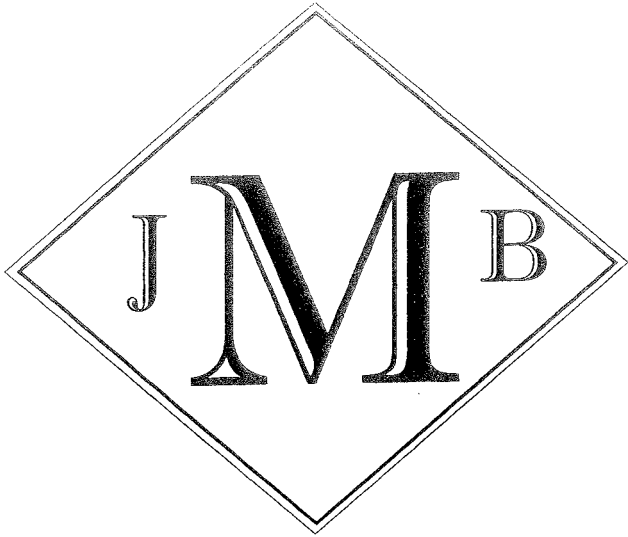
Belshazzar Wasted His Life

Daniel uttered the last incredible charge: "You did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways" (5:23). Belshazzar had wasted his life and missed the purpose of his being. Rather than seeking God's glory, he had lived totally for himself. Now what glory he had would be snuffed out with a swiftness he could not imagine.

Belshazzar is not the only leader in history who has tried to muscle in on God's glory. Take Louis XIV of France, for example. Of all the courts of Europe, Louis XIV had the most magnificent. He called himself "Louis the Great." Before he died in 1715, he gave elaborate instructions to be carried out at his funeral. To commemorate his greatness, it would be the most spectacular funeral ever given a European monarch. On his orders, a single candle burned on his gold coffin, illuminating the darkness to dramatize his greatness. As the service began, thousands waited in hushed silence. Bishop Massillon approached the coffin, snuffed out the flame, and declared in a voice that echoed through the silent cavernous cathedral, "Only God is great!"

Silence answered Daniel's charges, and he turned and read the four-word inscription: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPARSIN." The message was composed of three Aramaic words: *mene*, meaning "to number";

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THERE IS A MAN IN THY KINGDOM
Daniel 5:11

- I. It was a crucial time in the Babylonian Kingdom.
- A. It has one night to live.
 - B. The Medes are diverting the River.
 - C. The vaulted walls will not be scaled nor the massive gates opened.
 - D. It will be taken while the King is drunk tasting wine.
 - E. The handwriting is on the wall and none of the King's company can read it.

- II. Enter the Queen Mother
"There is a man in thy Kingdom"
- A. He's been retired.
 - B. He served earlier Kings.
 - C. He's 80 or more years old.
 - D. He is twice identified:
 - 1. Thy father made him master of magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, soothsayers.
 - 2. Art thou of the captivity that my father brought out of Jewry, now the wise men bring before me? Are you Daniel?

- III. Both the Queen and the King described him.
- A. It's a long list and if I keep you too long it's because she used every adjective she knew.
 - B. Secondly I think it describes both men & women here now--teachers in your Bible School.

C. I shall use their lists.

(It's like the acrostic on YALE for
40 minutes--what if Mass. Inst. Tech.)

IV. Terms that describe Daniel and Your
Teachers

A. Spirit of the holy gods (spirit of
Diety--Berkley)

1. Later "excellent spirit."
2. First of 8 things--all good.
 - a) Do I look like Jesus?
 - b) Judge me: Patient, Kind,
Forgiving.

B. Light--Insight

1. Do I sense a pupil's needs?
2. J. D. Tant story.

C. Understanding--Intelligence.

1. Later repeated--Common sense.
2. Brag on Ohio.

D. Wisdom, like the wisdom of gods.

1. Application of knowledge.
2. Breakfast special story.

E. Knowledge--keen mind.

1. Must know the Scripture.
2. What did I give the class this week?
3. Looking for a tall woman.

F. Interpreting of Dreams

1. What do you want to be?
2. Courage to take the challenge.
3. What dreams? Faithfulness, Good
marriage, Education, Honest living.
4. Fix my TV set.

G. Showing of Hard Sentences--Explain
Riddles.

1. Could be troubling passage.

2. Complex relationship.

3. Define "Friend."

H. Dissolving of Doubts--Solving difficult problems.

1. Is there a God?

2. Does the church exist?

3. Is there absolute truth?

4. Do I count for anything?

5. Man more assertive.

V. So glory in your opportunity to teach.

A. Teddy Roosevelt "There is one quality greater than hardness of the heart-- it is the softness of the head."

B. Khrushchev and Nixon.

C. In 1869 the first vacuum cleaner patent was issued to J. W. McGaffrey who really cleaned up.

Natchez Trace Teachers' Banquet - 4/5/05

The Stuff of our Forefathers in the Faith

John Reese recently wrote in World Bible School's *ACTION*:

Jefferson Davis Tant was born in Georgia in 1861. Eight days after his birth, his father left for four years' fighting in America's civil war. As a three-year old, J.D. watched Sherman's soldiers burn down the family home, and for the next ten years survival was a struggle. At age twelve, shortly after a snakebite that nearly killed J.D., he entered school for the first time, but, unable to pay school fees, he had to leave after eight weeks.

In 1876 the family moved by wagon to a wilderness in south Texas. J.D. began school again but couldn't afford books. For two years his teacher left a schoolhouse window unlocked, allowing J.D. to borrow books for study by lamplight, sometimes until 3am. Finally a kind neighbor, supplementing money J.D. earned in reaping, helped him to complete the first few grades.

About 1880 the Methodists appointed J.D. a "circuit rider", with no circuit, transportation or salary (apart from his own earnings from picking cotton, teaching and breaking wild horses). Intense studies led him to reject infant baptism and to embrace New Testament Christianity. 1883 was the first time he was paid for his preaching - a year's total of \$9.75. The next year he received \$92 in all, at a time when schoolteachers earned \$40 a month.

J.D. walked barefoot most of the 45 miles to one preaching appointment. He finally borrowed a horse, but both of them went under crossing a swollen stream. Tant saved his new shoes, although one wet one would no longer fit. Arriving late, he began the gospel meeting with one shoe on and one shoe off.

In 1890 J.D. married Laura Warren. They had two children. Laura ran their small farm while her husband traveled the territory preaching. She died in 1894 from pneumonia caught in a winter storm while trying to rescue a cow.

Three years later J.D. married Nannie Yater over the objections of her family who said she would have "only hardship, sacrifice, long days and weeks of loneliness and privation." Their daughter, they felt, would surely "break under the strain and fill an early grave." But God forged J.D. and Nannie into a powerful partnership that continued for more than forty years. The fires of trial were fanned by uncertainty and debt, "the near-poverty level of living," severe malaria for him, the loss of one child and near-loss of another for her. Nannie summarized their years as "filled with incredible hardships and difficulties, but equally incredible have been rewards and the happiness."

Her income from boarders and schoolteaching reached \$125/month, "far more than her preacher husband was making - or ever had made - in evangelism." That was said at a time when J.D. Tant was one of the most influential preachers in Texas, continually holding "protracted" meetings, traveling to other

continued on page 3

continued from page 1

states and writing for Gospel papers. In the *Firm Foundation* in 1909, he told his fellow missionaries, "You are up against a hard proposition: Nine out of ten of us will, in old age, have become beggars."

Much of the blame rested with brothers who could have helped but did not. Yet, supported or not, he felt the work had to go forward. In 52 years, J.D. Tant baptized 8000 men and women, of whom 100 would become evangelists. Finally, J.D. Tant was the great-uncle of Tex Williams, who heads today's World Bible School.

submitted by Sam Lanford

Braggin' Buckeye

A YOUNG woman tended to brag a bit too much about her home state, notes Field Editor Karen Ann Bland from Gove, Kansas. One day she told a long-suffering friend, "You know, the first man in powered flight was from Ohio. The first man to orbit the Earth was from Ohio. And the first man on the moon was from Ohio."

"Sounds to me like a lot of people are trying to get out of Ohio," her friend observed.

Subject: Fw: BREAKFAST SPECIAL!!!

We went to breakfast at a restaurant where the "seniors' special" was two eggs, bacon, hash browns and toast for \$1.99.

"Sounds good," my wife said. "But I don't want the eggs."

"Then I'll have to charge you two dollars and forty-nine cents because you're ordering a la carte," the waitress warned her.

"You mean I'd have to pay for not taking the eggs?" My wife asked incredulously. "I'll take the special."

"How do you want your eggs?"

"Raw and in the shell," my wife replied. She took the two eggs home.

DON'T MESS WITH SENIORS

A SMALL BOY was wandering the halls of our church, clearly lost.

"Do you need help?" asked a member of the congregation.

He glanced up and down the hallway once more before answering.

"I'm looking for a tall woman," he said. "Her first name is 'Mom.'"

WILLIAM R. HARRIS

48D

Heard on Paul Harvey News

Ed Ruffing reports in the Utica, NY, Observer-Dispatch. Burglars in suburban Marcy were carrying the TV set down the driveway when the next-door neighbor called out: "Hey, are you going to fix her TV set?" And the burglars called back, "Yes." And the neighbor asked, "Mine needs fixing, could you take it, too?" And the burglars said, "Be glad to." And they did.

Wish I'd Said That! A true friend is someone who is there for you when he would rather be anywhere else.

Horrible Blonde Joke! Did you hear about the blonde who bought an AM radio? It took her a month to realize she could play it at night.

Church Kids! The lad was fidgeting during the sermon. The more his mother tried to quiet him, the more he fidgeted. Finally, she said to him, "If you don't sit still and be quiet brother Jones is going to lose his place and will have to start his lesson all over again." It worked!

Bad Advice

A MILD-MANNERED fellow had been reading a self-help book on being more assertive, and decided to start at home, writes Irene Kaufmann from Tavares, Florida. He stomped into his house, pointed a finger at his wife and said, "From now on, I'm the boss, and my word is law. I want you to prepare me a gourmet meal and draw me a bath. And afterward, who do you think will dress me and comb my hair?"

"The undertaker?" she guessed.

COUNTRY

One of the nuns who taught us pointed to her habit and joked, "If the Russians ever attack, I'm going to tell them that this is my Halloween costume."

Even as children, we were aware that the Soviet Leader Nikita Khrushchev, had said, "We will bury you." Sophisticated people insisted that he didn't mean it literally, but we weren't sure. We also knew that in 1959 Khrushchev had told Vice President Richard Nixon, "Your grandchildren will live under Communism." When he said that, Dad shook his head and said, "No sir, No Siree, No sir." I don't think we were aware that Vice President Nixon had responded by telling Khrushchev, "No, your children will live in Freedom?" Nixon was more right than he ever imagined: forty years later, in July 1999, Khrushchev's son Sergei became an American citizen.

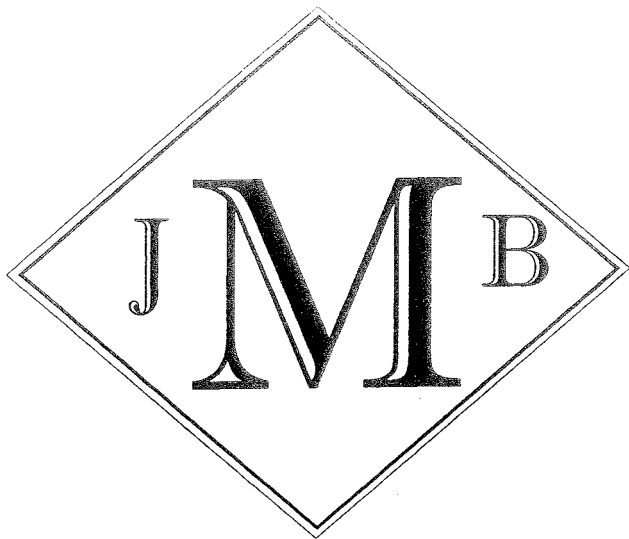
Freedom

-over-

-- Tim Russert

Big Russ & Me

pg. 83



A UNIFIED AUDIENCE

Daniel 5:17

I. Seldom does a speaker have this privilege--a solidly unified audience.

A. I've spoken to divided ones.

B. Sleepy ones, *Moral one - yet story*

C. Disinterested ones.

D. But this one is totally united--no point in your being here other than to honor the one purpose that brings us today! (If any not with me on that, I'll let you leave now).

1. No one is trying to fool another. ("My dog is dead story").

2. No one has to try to win you.

3. No one trying to get in your pocketbook. *Washington quote*

E. Rather I can be as independent as Daniel was. *Let thy gifts be to thyself and give thy rewards to another yet I will read the writings to the king*

Prejudiced ones
leave
Chio
Power Rights
Orbit earth
Hon Mary

Dan. 5:17

1. Refuses gifts though not pert or crude.

2. Not speaking contemptuously.

3. No fear for his safety as Heslop suggests.

4. Rather no desire for earthly gain nor personal advantage.

5. Come what *may* declare the truth.

6. Surely it impressed the king.

a) Speaks in the midst of a drunken feast.

b) Declares his faith in God.
 (Infidel and Christian floated down Niagara toward falls. Closer infidel cries to God for help--Infidelity not a bad thing with which to drift down the river, but a very bad thing with which to go over the falls. (Lang)

7. Rejected gifts -- couldn't be bought. *Mugger - Give me your money*
8. Belshazzar used the only motives he knew--the enticement of position, possession and power.
8. Like Abraham with King of Sodom (Gen. 14:22-23) " I will not take a thread even to a shoe latchet."
9. Paul covets not man's gold (Acts 20:33).
10. Free to charge Belshazzar with premeditated sin, profane sacrilege, pagan sacrifice, and knowledge *"the thou knowest O King (v-22) ~~thou~~"*
11. Sin is sin but guilt is proportionate to knowlledge.
12. He could tell it like it is.

Job 12:10 "In his (God's) hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind."

*Be Boss
 Word law
 Government med
 Both
 Dress &
 could heir*

13. Under no obligation--speak only what God wanted him to say.

14. Know that God rules in the kingdom of men.

a) Heard J.C. Watts all I am is due to faith in God and education. (Go to best schools no one in public housing due a scholarship. President lives in public housing).

b) Diet--three most miserable hours of my life.

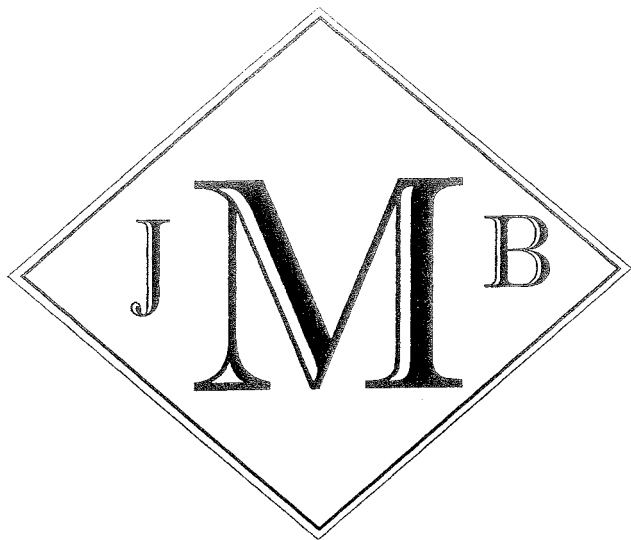
II. At the right time God has the right man (Heslop).

III. So to an independent audience--I say "thank you" for all that you are giving.

That's what I only need to do!

Adventures with Jesus Dinner - 3/8/05
Harding Graduate School (Groundbreaking) 3/31/05

George Washington said it: "I beg leave to assure the Congress that no pecuniary consideration could have tempted me to accept this arduous employment at the expense of my domestic ease and happiness. I do not wish to make a profit from it."



THIS DANIEL

Daniel 6

- I. Words and their sounds impress us all.
 - A. This chapter tells late life of Daniel.
 - 1. He never outgrew his opposition.
 - 2. He never was devoid of talent and work accomplished.
 - 3. Now he's an old man in the midst of governmental and spiritual decisions.
 - 4. Note he is faithful to the very last of his life in spite of trials, disappointments, hurts and opposition.
 - 5. He has an appellation:
 - a) Holy Spirit - this Daniel.
 - b) Enemies - this Daniel.
 - B. Let's go to perhaps his best known victory--dwelling with lions that have lockjaw.

II. Story begins with governmental procedure.

- A. USA had it--see Jefferson story.
 - 1. "Lord King" as history records organizes.
 - a) Picks 120 satraps
 - b) Three presidents, governors over them
 - c) Daniel king's favorite
 - d) Queen mother would agree

Dan. 5:12

- 2. Three satraps

3. One over all--next to king.
4. King to have no damage--no financial losses
5. Government ever an IRS

B. This Daniel preferred for a reason: character shines through - V-3.

1. Made Prime Minister
2. Others jealous of his success
3. Reason for his excellencies:
 - a) Excellent spirit
 - b) Faithful (V-4)
 - c) No error or fault
 - d) No occasion or fault

C. Fellow officials sought to destroy him.

1. Envy and jealousy bad
2. "Sought to find" - we go over our opponents' resume with a fine tooth comb.
3. Came up empty.

V-4 Sought to find.

V-4 But could find no occasion

V-4 Found no fault

V-4 No error or fault found

V-5 We shall not find any occasion against

4. This Daniel (V-5).

5. When your enemies say this about you be aware of a compliment.

D. But envy is tenacious.

1. Devil left Jesus for a season and he's back again.
2. Let's get him via his spiritual walk.
3. So they assembled to devise a plan.
 - a) Interesting word--assemble hastily
 - b) Come together in concord.

E. The Evil Plot

1. First get the king to act.
2. Tell him the proposal is unanimous, all.
3. Involves presidents, governors, princes, counselors, captains--surely such an outlay of talent could not be wrong.
4. We put pride in numbers.
5. Anyone voicing any petition except to the king gets lion's den.
 - a) This flatters the king's power.
 - b) This makes him the most important person in the realm.
 - c) Do it quickly in writings that cannot be revoked.
 - d) Anyone in any distress apply only to the king.
 - e) This only for 30 days (could have said for one day and Daniel would still be found guilty).

6. So it was done and quickly signed before he backed out and thought it through--if a little boy asks food of his mother does this violate the law?

III. This Daniel's Reaction

- A. When Daniel knew--he'd not been a part of the decision.
 1. He now knows--fact--not rumor.
 2. Knows law that changes not as a part of Medes government.
- B. Detailed procedure.
 1. He knows it to be a fact.
 2. He went to his house.
 - a) Not to the king.
 - b) Permanent decree so he can do nothing--immitigable--infallible.
 - c) All his family there?
 3. Windows open, upper chamber.
 - a) Not in vain glory.
 - b) Are your windows open to new Jerusalem?
 4. Toward Jerusalem - I Kings 8:44

Ps. 55:17

Jonah 2:4

5. Knelt upon his knees three times per day, begging.
 - a) Vast duties most important man in word.
 - b) Three times daily.

6. Prayed--not complain to men, talk to God.
 - a) Luther--so much to do, need three hours of prayer.
 - b) Surely skip 30 days and close windows?
7. Gave thanks before his God.
 - a) For what was he thankful? Distress?
 - b) Where there's a tent God must hae an alter.
8. As aforetime.
 - a) Not in contempt to king.
 - b) But in habit to his God.
 - c) Saw heavens and it lifted the spirit.

Ps. 102:14

- d) If food refreshes three times daily, what about spirit's needs?
- e) Prayer is a petition, it is not?
- f) "Aforetime" - didn't start praying when times got hard--at it all time.
- g) Look to heaven and raise your empty hands--God will fill them.
- h) Go where God has placed his name.
- i) Daniel uncowed--continued his devotion--some so timid today won't even pray in a public restaurant.

C. Read V-11--king's business has to go on.

1. Looks like they came to Daniel's house on business.
2. He continued his routine ways.
3. No doubt they see him violate the law.
4. They report it.

V-12 Read

V-13 Read

5. Note slur "which is of the children of the captivity of Judah."
6. They play the race card.

D. The king tries vainly to save Daniel.

1. Disgusted with own mistakes.
2. If kings with advisors make them should we not pray for wisdom?
3. Daniel does not come prostrate before him.
4. He could see their contempt for Daniel.
5. Also their gloating in the entrapment.
6. But kings don't cry.
7. Nor must appear fickle.
8. He heard their sneer of "captivity."
9. King set his heart to deliver Daniel (we serve a king who could, did, does).
10. But the warrant was signed-- Daniel must be executed.

11. The enemies seemed to win--they well knew DANiel would pray in violating teh petition law.
12. But please note the foolish action of the king did not cause Daniel to be unfaithful.
13. Long melancholy night.

E. In spite of royal efforts.

1. King kept his word (V-16A).
2. King added a codicil (V-16B).
3. Brought stone to mouth of den.
4. Seal with royal signet and of his lord's--they were in it too (like Jesus).
5. No way to get out.
6. Daniel "cast" (V-16) into den.

IV. And has long been true there is a new morning.

A. King could not sleep that night.

1. No wine or women for him.
2. No instrument of music brought--king knows more than some of my brothers and sisters!
3. Stated "I can't deliver you but your God can." Lifeless idols cannot.

B. Early, yea very early to the den.

1. V-20 tells the call in a "lamentable" voice to Daniel--and Daniel knew it.

2. He thought he must be alive!
 3. Is thy God able?
 - a) Heathens ask this.
 - b) Christians know the answer.
 4. Daniel's answer - Read V-21,22.
 5. Know lamentable to "exceeding glad" the mood to the king.
 6. Extract Daniel from the lion's that had lockjaw.
 7. Examine him--not a scratch.
 8. Reason, "because he believed in his God" (V-23).
 9. All his enemies put in den and devoured before they could hit the floor (V-24).
 10. Family connections are powerful.
- C. Serve God faithfully irrespective of the changing day.

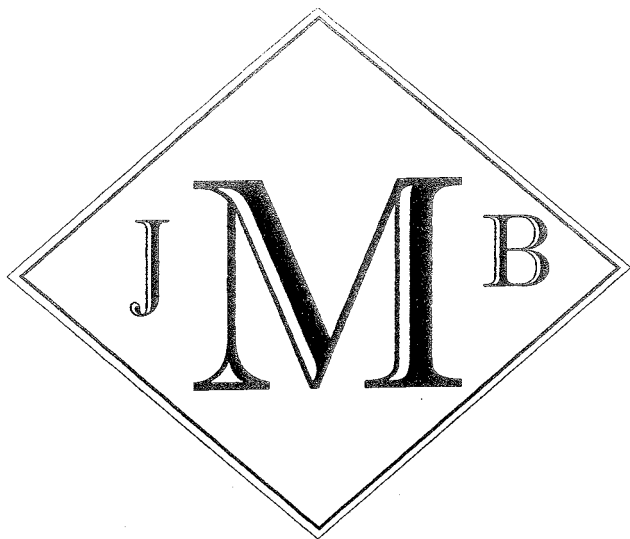
I Pet. 5:3 *Examples - chief Shepherd - Crown*
 Acts 24:16 *Conscience void of offense God*
 I Pet. 4:19 *Commit the keeping of their souls*
 Deut. 19:19
 Prov. 19:5

1. God still sends angels to shut lions' mouths.
2. We don't have to see them to know they are there.
3. "You are immortal til your work is done."
4. God manifests his power in some strange circumstances.

THIS DANIEL

10/6/08

Branson, MO



THE DESTINY OF THE CHURCH

Daniel 7

I. What better way to ascertain this than to go to the Word of God and learn centuries ago what He proposed for it to be and how long He envisioned it lasting.

A. We go to Daniel and his dreams centuries ago, believing this was a revelation from God.

1. Daniel strikingly reveals and wrote down his dreams as soon as he arose.

2. It comes to an estimate of 48 years after Neb. had his vision--thus it must be important for inspiration to twice record it.

3. We quickly see God moves among the nations of men, bringing them high, also low as his all powerful desires among them unfold.

4. I remind you the rise and fall of nations comes as God moves among them.

B. Can we infallibly interpret the prophetic visions?

II. Daniel saw:

A. Four winds.

1. Cardinal points of the compass.

2. Rouses beasts from its depth.

3. See the power of God clash with the plans of rebellious man.
 4. Winds represent forces by which they show the agency of God carrying on the history of His unfolding will.
 5. Four signifies the whole world.
- B. Winds strive with great sea.
1. Mediterranean Sea--or else not identified.
 2. All unruly yet under God's control.
 3. Man must have a relationship with God--this universe did not just happen--it was created.
 4. We see oceans of population.
 5. NIV says seas were churning as people of the earth in the Satanic system in opposition to God.
- C. Four great beasts diverse in nature arise out of the sea.
1. Without God all are animalistic.
 2. Man rises out of the sea; the kingdom of God out of the clouds.
 3. They represent kingdoms, not kings: Babylon, Medio-Persian, Greek, Roman.
 4. They (kingdoms) are called "great" in contrast and comparison with other smaller states and governments.

5. Called beasts as denotes cruelty and tyrannical nature--God's kingdom one of peace.

D. Those four:

1. Lion--Babylon--eagle--head of gold, all these things "chief."
 - a) Power and swiftness of movement.
 - b) Wings plucked.
2. Bear--Medio-Persian
 - a) Heavy, clumsy.
 - b) Could lay waste territory.
3. Leopard with four wings and four heads universal extent--Greek--panther in one version.
4. Fourth beast - powerful, fierce, without comparison, destruction.
 - a) Days of these kings set up a kingdom.

Dan. 2:44 (Read)

- b) Stand forever.
- c) No beast specified in fourth one.
- d) Know of no revival of the fourth.
- e) Three times revealed fourth one diverse or different: Republican government, power, extent.
- f) Monstrosity symbolizes Rome.

III. Now come to answer of our question--
the destiny of the church.

A. Throne of the Ancient of days
(V. 9-10).

1. We'll see the splendor of the heavenly court.
2. Behold God - one ancient in days.
 - a) Throne
 - b) Entirely pure (white)
 - c) Purging and consuming wrong (fire)
 - d) Perfectly capable to judge
 - e) Thousands at his call
 - f) The most High rules in the kingdoms of men.

4:35-36

Rev. 4:2

- g) Perfect wisdom through all ages.
- h) White raiment, white hair--
only time portrayed with human element.
- i) Fiery stream--fiery judgment.
- j) Numbers show vastness of those who serve God.
- k) Fire shows his glory.
- l) Unsullied integrity in every decision.
- m) Throne a triumphant chariot
- n) Seat and wheels of fire.
- o) Myriad of angels minister to him so vast none can count.

B. And the books were opened.

1. Deeds are recorded.
2. Heavenly recording of human activities.

Ps. 56:8

Mal. 3:16

Exo. 32:32

3. "Book" comes from word "engraved," impressed letters on clay tablets or cylinders.
4. Book of Life - individually recorded.

Phil. 4:3

I Cor. 14:25

5. Is my name written there?

C. Son of Man

1. He contrasts all the beasts.
2. Comes with clouds--the heavenly element along with the human.
3. Messiah

Matt. 26:64

Mark 14:62

4. Body the sheath of the soul.

Heb. 12:28

5. Kingdom singular.
6. Everlasting
7. He is resurrected, ascended with promise to return.
8. Kingdom is eternal.
9. Delivers to God.

I Cor. 15:24-25

10. After Christ's work on earth, returns to Father, received everlasting kingdom.
11. DeHoff quote #124. (See Card)
12. This kingdom not formed by wars of conquest.
13. Will not fail as earth's kingdoms do.
14. Nor is it brutal, but loving, peaceful, benevolent, not evil but clean, not temporary but everlasting.
15. It's from above, intimately related to God.

John 8:23

16. Other kings seize theirs--this is a gift from God.
17. Others limited--his universal.
18. Christ the King suits all mankind.
19. His army delights to honor God.

Matt. 28:18

20. It alone provides for the redemption of man.

Psalm 2

Psalm 72:17 on

Portland C/C

8/30/06

On the other hand, to be stirring up ourselves to a state of feverish excitement, as though we could already discern every minute particular which shall take place when the period that has been predicted shall have arrived, is to dive into futurity with an unhallowed boldness, and to pervert the true end of prophecy. Prophecy is not intended to make us prophets, but to shew us, after that the predictions shall have been fulfilled, that the events so predicted were both foreseen and foreordained by the Most High God.

--Charles Simeon

Expository Outlines on the Whole Bible, Vol. IX

pg. 536

This paragraph somewhat out of chronological sequence relates to the setting up or the establishment of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Note the statement that he was brought near unto God (the Ancient of Days) "with the clouds of heaven," corresponding exactly with the facts related in the NT, that upon Christ's ascension to the Father to receive the kingdom that he was taken up "with the clouds of heaven" (Acts 1:9-11). Keil and other usually dependable scholars are mistaken in their view that "coming with the clouds of heaven" indicates Christ's coming down from heaven to earth. We are sure that the words refer to Christ's "coming with the clouds of heaven" is a reference not to the Second Coming, but to His Ascension to heaven "to receive the kingdom."

--James Burton Coffman Commentaries

The Major Prophets - Daniel - pg. 118

Verses 13,14 simply announce the establishment of Christ's kingdom with no word whatever of exactly when this magnificent achievement took place. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 states categorically that at the time of Christ's giving that commission, "All authority in heaven and upon earth" were at that time in the possession of Christ. Without this light from the NT, it would be difficult to discern this. Chapter 2:44, however, which is parallel to the visions here and must be consulted in connection with the interpretation, makes it very plain that the kingdom was to be established "in the days of those kings," not in the days after the kings were destroyed.

--James Burton Coffman Commentaries

The Major Prophets - Daniel pg. 119

DeHoff quote:

124. The parables of Jesus proclaim the growth and increase of this kingdom until the tribulation and judgment at the end of the world. It might be pointed out that Jesus had nothing to say of a millenium nor does Daniel. The Kingdom was to be an everlasting kingdom and its rule to cover all nations. It is represented as being of eternal duration and as lasting until the end of the world. It is not represented as a narrow, political regime with one small race exercising autocratic control over all other people. Christ is now Lord of lords and King of kings and righteousness reigns in the heart of His children throughout the whole earth.

-over-

The next great event in the plan of God is the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the entrance of the righteous into heaven and the wicked being cast into hell.

“AND CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE, AND SAID, WHAT HAVE I TO DO WITH THEE, JESUS, THOU SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD? I ADJURE THEE BY GOD, THAT THOU TORTURE ME NOT.”—
Mark v. 7.

THE coming of Jesus into a place puts all into commotion.

The gospel is a great disturber of sinful peace.

Like the sun among wild beasts, owls, and bats, it creates a stir. In this case, a legion of devils began to move.

I. THE DEVIL CRIES OUT AGAINST THE INTRUSION OF CHRIST. “What have I to do with thee?”

1. Christ's nature is so contrary to that of the devil that war is inevitable as soon as Jesus comes upon the scene.
2. There are no designs of grace for Satan, and, therefore, as he has nothing to hope for from Jesus, he dreads his coming.
3. He wishes to be let alone; for thoughtlessness, stagnation, and despair suit his plans.
4. He knows his powerlessness against the Son of the Most High God, and has no wish to try a fall with him.
5. He dreads his doom; for Jesus will not hesitate

(120)

--C. H. SPURGEON

My Sermon-Notes - 1886

to torment him by the sight of good done, and evil overcome.

II. MEN UNDER THE DEVIL'S INFLUENCE CRY OUT AGAINST THE INCOMING OF CHRIST BY THE GOSPEL.

1. Conscience is feared by them: they do not wish to have it disturbed, instructed, and placed in power.
2. Change is dreaded by them; for they love sin, and its gains, and pleasures, and know that Jesus wars with these things.
3. They claim a right to be let alone: this is their idea of religious liberty. They would not be questioned either by God or man.
4. They argue that the gospel cannot bless *them*. They expect nothing from it, for they do not know its rich benedictions, or the power of sovereign, almighty grace.
They think themselves too poor, too ignorant, too busy, too sinful, too weak, too involved, and perhaps too aged, to receive any good from the gospel.
5. They view Jesus as a tormentor, who will rob them of pleasure, sting their consciences, and drive them to obnoxious duties.

Therefore they cry out, "What have we to do with thee?"

III. SOBER MEN CAN ANSWER THESE OUTCRIES.

They endeavor to answer the question—"What have I to do with thee?" They remember a fact, and make an inquiry.

1. I have to do with him inevitably.

He has come to save, and I am responsible for accepting or refusing his grace.

I am his creature, as he is the Son of God, and he has power over me, and a right to my obedience.

I am under his rule, and he will judge me at the last day.

2. Has he to do with me graciously?

He has to do with me by the gospel which he has sent me.

He has abundantly much to do with me if he has wrought in me repentance, faith, prayer, etc.

He has everything to do with me if he has bestowed on me pardon, peace, sanctification, etc.

IV. MEN SAVED FROM SATAN RAISE AN OPPOSITE CRY.

According to the instance before us in the narrative—

1. They beg to sit at Jesus' feet, clothed, and in their right mind.
2. They ask to be with him always, and never to cease from personal attendance upon him.
3. They go at his bidding, and publish abroad what great things Jesus has done for them.
4. Henceforth they have nothing to do but to live for Jesus, and for him alone.

Come, ye despisers, and see yourselves as in a looking-glass!

Look until you see yourselves transformed.

CASES IN POINT.

Conversion is feared as a great danger by natural men, lest the promises put them on the pain and labor of godliness; for men do flee nothing but that which they apprehend as evil, dangerous, and so the true object of fear. Now, when Felix and Agrippa were both upon the wheel of the great Potter, I cannot say that conversion formally was begun, yet materially it was. The one trembled, and so was afraid and fled, and did put Paul away till another time. He saw the danger of grace (Acts xxiv. 25, 26), and fled from it. The other said that he was half a Christian (but it was the poorer half), and "he arose, and went aside." (Acts xxvi. 28, 30, 31.) "Their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them." (Matt. xiii. 15.) In which words it is evident that conversion is feared as an evil.

A wretch once jested that he was once in danger to be caught, when a Puritan preacher, as he said, "was preaching with divine power, and evidence of the Spirit of God."—*Samuel Rutherford*.

It is said that Voltaire, being pressed in his last moments to acknowledge the divinity of Christ, turned away, and said feebly, "For the love of God, don't mention that Man—allow me to die in peace!"

A number of young men were sitting together in

a country store one evening, telling what they did not believe, and what they were not afraid to do. Finally, the leader in the group remarked that so far as he was concerned, he would be willing at any time to sign away all his interest in Christ for a five-dollar bill. "What did I understand you to say?" asked an old farmer, who happened to be in the store, and who had overheard the remark. "I said that for five dollars I would sign away all my interest in Christ, and so I will." The old farmer, who had learned to know the human heart pretty well, drew out his leathern wallet, took therefrom a five-dollar bill, and put it in the storekeeper's hand. Then calling for ink and paper, he said: "My young friend, if you will just step to the desk now, and write as I dictate, the money is yours." The young man took the pen, and began: "In the presence of these witnesses, I, A—— B——, for the sum of five dollars received, do now, once for all, and for ever, sign away all my interest"—then he dropped the pen, and with a forced smile said: "*I take it back, I was only fooling.*" That young man did not dare to sign that paper. Why? He had an accusing conscience. He knew that there was a God. He believed in religion. He meant to be a Christian some time. And so do you, reader. Notwithstanding your apparent indifference, your trifling conduct, your boasting speech, you would not to-day for ten thousand dollars sign away, if such a thing were possible, your interest in Jesus Christ. You do not desire or expect to lose heaven.—*The Congregationalist (American).*

4/10/06
 David Adams
 wrote me to
 write Harold
 Linn & the 5 other
 names

Lesson IX—March 3, 1929

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Mark 4: 26-32; Eph. 1: 22, 23; 4: 4-6, 11-16.

26 And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed upon the earth;

27 And should sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should spring up and grow, he knoweth not how.

28 The earth beareth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.

29 But when the fruit is ripe, straightway he putteth forth the sickle, because the harvest is come.

30 And he said, How shall we liken the kingdom of God, or in what parable shall we set it forth?

31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown upon the earth, though it be less than all the seeds that are upon the earth,

32 Yet when it is sown, groweth up, and becometh greater than all the herbs, and putteth out great branches; so that the birds of the heaven can lodge under the shadow thereof.

22 And he put all things in subjection under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

4 *There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling;*

5 *One Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

6 *One God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all.*

11 And he gave some *to be* apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error;

15 But speaking truth in love, may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, *even* Christ;

16 From whom all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplieth, according to the working in *due* measure of each several part, maketh the increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love.

GOLDEN TEXT.—“*So we, who are many, are one body in Christ.*” (Rom. 12: 5.)

TIME.—A.D. 28 for the parables in Mark, A.D. 63 for the Scriptures in Ephesians.

PLACES.—Jesus gave these parables by the Sea of Galilee; Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus while in prison at Rome.

PERSONS.—Jesus, his disciples, and the multitude; Paul and the church at Ephesus.

DEVOTIONAL READING.—Eph. 4: 11-16.

DAILY HOME READING.—

February 25.	M.	The Church's One Foundation. (Matt. 16: 13-20.)
February 26.	T.	The Brotherhood of Believers. (Acts 2: 37-47.)
February 27.	W.	The Daily Ministration. (Acts 6: 1-7.)
February 28.	T.	The Church at Worship. (Ps. 122.)
March 1.	F.	Diversity of Gifts. (1 Cor. 12: 1-11.)
March 2.	S.	The Church Among the Gentiles. (Acts 11: 19-26.)
March 3.	S.	Building the Body of Christ. (Eph. 4: 11-16.)

INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

The church was established at the wonderful cost of the blood of Christ. (Eph. 5: 25; Acts 20: 28.) God's estimate upon the church can be measured only by its price—the "precious blood" of the Lamb. God did not pay this great price for something which is worth nothing and without which people can be saved. If people can be saved without the church, they can be saved without the blood of Christ, without Christ, and without becoming Christians. The foundation of the church is the great truth that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said: "Upon this rock I will build my church." (Matt. 16: 18; Eph. 2: 19-22.) "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." (1 Cor. 3: 11.)

"Church" is used in two distinct senses in the New Testament—namely, a general sense and a local sense. The general sense is seen in the fact that Christ is "head over all things to the church, which is his body" (Eph. 1: 22); and, again, "the general assembly and church of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven" (Heb. 12: 23). "Church" in these Scriptures is used in the broadest sense, and includes all the redeemed in earth and heaven and in all ages. (Eph. 3: 10; 5: 22-27; Col. 1: 24.) The Scriptures are numerous which use the word "church" in a local sense. In some instances the word is used in the singular and in others it is used in the plural. In some cases it is used with reference to a particular church and in others without such specification, but in all these cases its meaning is local. The local use of the word may be found in Acts 11: 26; 14: 23; 16: 5; 20: 17; Rom. 16: 4; 1 Cor. 1: 2; 6: 4; 11: 16; Gal. 1: 2, 22; and many other places.

EXPOSITORY NOTES

I. The Church Began on Pentecost

Pentecost has been called "the birthday of the church." John the Baptist had prepared the way for Christ. Jesus' first disciples were from John's disciples. Jesus prepared material for the church and had all things ready in Jerusalem for the complete organization of the church before he made his ascension back to heaven. The Holy Spirit came to earth and organized the prepared material, which Jesus had left, into the first church. There were three thousand believers added on the first day of its organization, and this number was increased daily. The church at Jerusalem, then, was the first church of God on earth which had Christ as its head.

Peter, by the Holy Spirit, preached the first gospel sermon in its completeness on this Pentecost, and the people heard, believed, repented of their sins, and were baptized into Christ; and "the Lord

added to them day by day those that were saved." (Acts 2: 47.) They did what they were instructed to do, and the Lord added them to his church; and that is the way the Lord adds people to the church to-day. He does not have a different way of adding people to the church from the way in which he added them on the day of Pentecost.

II. Growth of the Church

The two parables given in our lesson illustrate the growth of the church. In each one of these parables the church is spoken of as "the kingdom of God." "So is the kingdom of God," and, "How shall we liken the kingdom of God?" Both these expressions lead us to understand that "the kingdom of God" here refers to the church. The point in the first parable is that as a man sows such grain as wheat, barley, or oats, and waits, sleeping and rising night and day, until the time of harvest, and as the seed grows, he knows not how, "so is the kingdom of God." "The kingdom of God" grows in gradual development from the seed, which is the word of God. (Luke 8: 11.) We sow the good seed in the ground and go about other duties, not watching to see it germinate and grow; and the earth then does the rest, bearing "fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear." The earth does not bear "fruit of herself" without the seed and without the seed having been sown. These are the processes of germination, growth, and development of seed planted in the earth. Then when the harvest comes he must reap it. So one sows the word of God, the seed of the kingdom. He does all he can and passes on to other duties. In due time the seed germinates, grows, develops, and produces a harvest. It requires time to produce a harvest. In like manner it takes time to sow the seed of the word of God and let it develop and bear fruit in the Christian life. As the number of Christians is multiplied, the church grows.

The parable of the "mustard seed" also illustrates the growth of the church. The mustard seed is a very small seed, "which a man took, and sowed in his field." It is the smallest or least of all seed which were sowed in the field or garden in that country. It was not necessarily the least of all seeds known to botanists, but just the least of seeds planted in that country. From this very small seed grows a very large herb, "greater than all the herbs" grown in that country, "and becometh a tree"—not like the cedar or oak, but so large that birds lodge upon its branches. So the kingdom of heaven, or the church, from an insignificant beginning, has grown to a huge magnitude. From a Babe in a manger has grown this mighty kingdom. The despised Nazarene, with a few unlearned Galileans about him, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, poverty, without political or military power, set in operation a kingdom that is destined to fill the world. (Dan. 2: 25-49.) The church, or kingdom of God, is the most powerful and greatest kingdom in the world to-day, and it is destined to fill the whole earth.

III. Christ the Head of the Church

God put "all things in subjection under" the feet of Christ, and "gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body,

the fullness of him that filleth all in all." (Eph. 1: 22, 23.) Christ is the head of the church (Col. 1: 18); he is "head over all things to the church;" he is its sole lawgiver, with "all authority . . . in heaven and on earth" (Matt. 28: 18, 19). The word of which "church" is a translation means "called out." The church is Christ's "called-out" ones—called out of darkness into light (1 Pet. 2: 9; Col. 1: 13), called out of the world (2 Cor. 6; 14), and called out to remain out and to keep unspotted from the world (James 1: 27). They have been called by the gospel of Christ. "Whereunto he called you through our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." (2 Thess. 2: 14.) As they are called out by the gospel of Christ, they are constituted into his body, the church, over which Christ is the head.

This church over which Christ is the head is called the "house" of God (Heb. 3: 6); "the temple of God" (1 Cor. 3: 16); "a spiritual house" (1 Pet. 2: 5); "a habitation of God" (Eph. 2: 20-22); "God's husbandry" (1 Cor. 3: 9); "the flock of God" (1 Pet. 5: 2; Acts 20: 28); "the body of Christ," and Christians are "severally members thereof" (Col. 1: 18, 24; 1 Cor. 13: 12-14, 27); "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3: 15); "the church of God" (1 Cor. 1: 2; 2 Cor. 2: 1); "the church," and the churches at different places make up "the churches of Christ" (Rom. 16: 16). All of these names and titles show divine wisdom, divine origin, and divine relationship. They emphasize the fact that Christ is head of the church. When one becomes a Christian, he acknowledges Christ as the head of the church.

IV. The Unity of the Church

Nothing is so plainly taught in the New Testament as the unity of the body of Christ and the oneness of the church. Paul uses seven "ones" to emphasize this unity. There is "one body," "one Spirit," "one hope," "one Lord," "one faith," "one baptism," and "one God." As there is but one God and one Lord and one Spirit and one faith and one baptism and one hope, so there is but "one body," and that "one body" is the church, or kingdom, of God on earth. Jesus said: "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and they shall become one flock, one shepherd." (John 10: 16.) So Jesus teaches that as God's people are to have but "one shepherd," so his people are to be but "one flock." Christ is that "one Shepherd" and his church the "one flock." This is also in harmony with his prayer that all who believe on him through the word of the apostles may be one. "That they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee; . . . that they may be one, even as we are one; . . . that they may be perfected into one." (John 17: 21-23.)

"There is one body." "All the members of the body, being many, are one body; so also is Christ." (1 Cor. 12: 12-14, 20.) Hence, there can be but one church of Christ, and that is the same in all places and in all centuries. Its head, its constitution, its laws, its worship, and its work cannot be changed to suit the civilization or barbarism of any age. It transforms all into the divine nature and image of Christ. All religious denominations have sprung up since Christ built his church. Christ is the true vine, and every child of God (not every denomination) is a branch. (John 15: 1-10.) When one be-

comes a Christian, one becomes at the same time and in the same way a member of the church, a child of God, a citizen in Christ's kingdom, a lamb of God's flock, a soldier of the cross, and a member of the household of faith. There is nothing of divine origin for people to join. They obey the gospel, become Christians, and the Lord adds them to his church.

V. The Work of the Church

In the early church were placed "apostles," "prophets," "evangelists," "pastors," and "teachers." These are all in the church to-day in their teachings. The apostles are still in the church, the prophets are still in the church, so are evangelists, pastors (or elders), and teachers. They are all working "for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ." The purpose of all this work is the edification and development of the church and to attain "unto the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a full-grown man." All are to speak the truth in love and "grow up in all things into him, who is the head, even Christ." Each member is to sustain such relationship to Christ, the head, and to every other member, so that the church may become a body, "fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplieth, according to the working in due measure of each several part," making "the increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love." This is a beautiful picture of the close relation that each Christian sustains to each other and the coöperation in worship and service in the church of our Lord.

The life of the church and work of the church are the same, being the life all Christians must live and the work all Christians must do. "Church work" is nothing more or less than the work God commands Christians to do, whether private or public. Making an honest living in obedience to God, paying one's debts, building a Christian home, rearing children in the fear of the Lord, visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction, keeping unspotted from the world, helping the poor, sympathizing with the sorrowful, cultivating a meek and quiet spirit, adorning oneself in modest apparel, worshiping God on the first day of the week as he directs, preaching the gospel in the love of truth, winning souls to Christ by private influence or public speech, etc., are all "church work." No one can say that any one of the above is more important than another. All of them belong to the will of God and the duties and responsibilities of man; all should be done in the name of Christ and to the glory of God. "Unto him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations forever and ever." (Eph. 3: 21.)

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS

1. God has made it possible for all who need salvation to enter the church and receive remission of sins. He has taught how to enter the church, and one must enter according to God's will. There is no such thing as getting into the church of God except through Christ.

2. No one can be loyal to Christ without being loyal to his church. No one can be unfaithful to the church and at the same time be faithful to Christ.

3. Since the church is the body of Christ, the house of God, the family of God, and the kingdom of God, to be in the church is to be in his body, in his house, in his family, and in his kingdom. If people could be saved out of the church, then they could be saved without being members of his body, members of his household, members of his family, or citizens of his kingdom.

4. All glory should be given unto God and Christ through the church. We are unfaithful as his children if we do not so give it. There is room in the church for every one who will enter; there is work for every one who enters. There is no need of Christians' going into any other institution to do any good work. They can do all that they should do in the church of our Lord.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON

Give the subject.
Repeat the Golden Text.
Give the time.
Locate the places.
Name the persons.

Introductory Thoughts

What was the cost of the church?
How can God's estimate of it be made?
What was the foundation of the church?
In what two senses is the word "church" used?
Give Scriptures showing its general sense.
Give Scriptures showing its local sense.

The Church Began on Pentecost

What is called "the birthday of the church?"
Who prepared the first material for the church?
How was this material organized into a church?
Where was the first church organized?
How did others get into the church?
How do people get into the church today?

Growth of the Church

What two parables are in the lesson that show the growth of the church?
What is the chief point in the first parable?
What is the seed of the kingdom?
How does it grow?
What is the chief point in the second parable?
How did the church begin?
What is it destined to do?
What is now the most powerful kingdom in the world?

Christ the Head of the Church

Who has been made the head of the church?
Who gave him this position?

What is the church?
How are they "called out?"
What other names and titles belong to the church?
What do these show?

The Unity of the Church

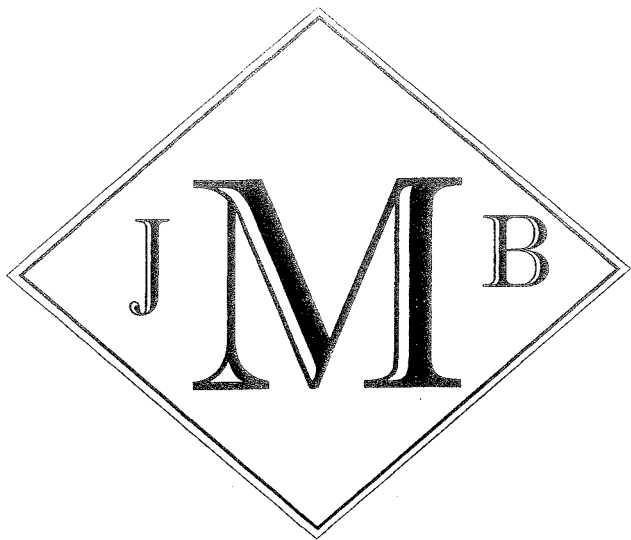
How is the unity of the church taught?
Mention the seven "ones."
How many shepherds did Jesus say God's people would have?
How many flocks?
How many bodies has Christ?
How many churches?
When did religious denominations begin?
How does one become a Christian?
How does one become a member of the church?

The Work of the Church

Who were placed in the early church?
Is the work of these still in the church?
What was the purpose of this work?
What is the relation of Christians to each other?
How are they all related to Christ?
What is church work?
Mention some church work.
Which is the most important?
How should all church work be done?

Practical Suggestions

Who may enter the church?
How may they enter the church?
Is there any other way?
Can one be unfaithful to the church and faithful to Christ at the same time?
If people can be saved out of the church, what will they not have to enter?
How should all glory be given to God?
Is there need for a Christian to enter any other institution to do good?
Can a Christian enter any other institution to do good and be faithful to God?



LET'S GET ON WITH THE KING'S BUSINESS

Dan. 8

- I. I want to encourage our continuance & even enlargement of godly works.
 - A. Do it by telling long story of another's trials.
 - B. Then briefly citing what we can do - realizing time is an enemy of both points.
- II. See the Struggles of One Man.
 - A. Daniel's vision during reign of Belshazzar.
 1. Daniel is 69 yr. old.
 2. Vision from Babylon eastward to Persia.
 3. Shushan 130 miles east of Babylon - 120 miles north of Persian Gulf.
 4. Some say Ulai a mystery - unknown; others a 900' wide canal near Shushan.
 - B. Saw a Ram.
 1. Ram symbol of Medo-Persian gov.
 2. Had 2 horns.
 - a.) One higher than other.
 - b.) Highest horn came out last.
 - c.) 1st Medes.
 - d.) 2nd Persia.
 3. Ram pushed successfully.
 - a.) Went all directions except East.
 - b.) It's already in East.
 4. Eminently successful.
 - a.) No beast stood before him.
 - b.) Nothing delivered from him.
 - c.) "Did according to his will."
 - d.) Was "great" (V. 4).

D. Next saw a He Goat.

1. Came from West (Europe)

2. "Touched not the ground."

a.) Little or no opposition.

b.) Fast & furious.

3. One horn between his eyes.

a.) This was Alexander the Great.

1.) Daniel speaks of him 100 yrs. before born.

2.) Then it is accurate prophecy, else it's fraudulent stating it is prophecy when in reality its history written after events take place & pretending to be prophecy.

3.) Alex not their 1st Kings but 1st ruler of great empire.

4.) In facts about him see:

a.) Born 356 BC.

b.) Gathered 35,000 troops - always outnumbered.

c.) Moved into Persian territory 334 BC when 21 yrs. old.

d.) Fought 3 great battles: Granicus River, Issus, and at head waters of Tigris.

e.) Never lost a battle.

f.) Conquered world in 12 yrs.

g.) Nebuzzar besieged Troy 13 yrs. & failed to take it - Alex built causeway & took it - military genius.

h.) Was invincible.

i.) Wept because no world's left to conquer.

j.) Conquered more territory than anyone else ever did up to Communism.

k.) At 33 all done - conquered world but couldn't self.

l.) Took fever in India & because of youthful drunkenness & debauchery no resistance, died.

m.) Died 323 BC.

E. Ram & Goat Battle.

1. Complete victory for Goat (V. 7).

2. Moved c choler against Darius because Dar. sought to draw off his captives c bribes & knew he tried to hire friends to assassinate him.

3. Darius later murdered by his own.

4. Waxed very great (V. 8).

5. When strong great horn broke.

(a) At height of power died.

(b) Not gradual decay but sudden end - broken.

6. 4 horns came up.

a.) 4 Kingdoms but "not in his power" (V. 22).

b.) 4 generals:

Ptolemy.

Cassander.

Lysimachus.

Seleucus.

c.) They divide after 22 yrs. of fighting.

d.) No general had same Power Alex did - nor could measure up to him.

e.) Also God's invisible hand turns the tide.

(1) Some energized by Satan.

(2) Holy Spirit helps saint.

2 Cor. 4:7-18 "But we have this treasure in earthen v
3:18 "But we all, with open face beholding

7. Out of one of them came a little horn.

a.) This horn c 3rd Kingdom; little horn of Chapter 7 out of 4th.

b.) Horn less than littleness lit. A very little horn or a horn from littleness arising from small beginning & emphasis will be on its growth.

c.) Not same word for horn used in Dan. 7 - not talking about Rome.

F. Identity & Deeds of Little Horn.

1. Most think him Antiochies Epiphenes.

2. No doubt about his actions.

a.) Waxed exceedingly great toward South, East & Pleasant Land.

b.) Pleasant Land one of many names:

Canaan Lev. 14:34

Holy Zech. 2:12

Lord's Hosea 9:3

Emmanuel Isa. 8:8

Israel I Sam. 13:19

Hebrews Gen. 40:15

Judah Isa. 26:1

Promised Heb. 11:9

Pleasant Dan. 8:9

Ps. 106:24

Palestine Jer. 3:19

c.) Truth centre & storm center.

d.) Waxed great to host of heaven.

(1) Antiochus not even rightful heir.

(2) Started small.

e.) Cast down some of host, stars to ground, stamped

on them.

(1) Stars = people of God in Pal.

Jer. 33:22 As the host of heaven cannot be numbered

Gen. 15:5 "And he brought him forth abroad, and said

22:17 "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in

f.) Magnified himself to Prince of the host.

(1) Took on God Himself.

g.) Took away daily sacrifice.

(1) Word = "Whatever continuous in temple ceremonies."

(2) Forcible suppressed worship.

h.) Cast down truth to ground.

(1) Stopping worship hurts truth.

i.) Practiced & prospered.

(1) Wonder why God allows this & other things?

j.) Antiochus deeds.

1.) Had coins Theos Antiochus Theos Epiphanes = God manifest.

2.) Dedicated temple to Jupiter.

3.) Offered sow on brazen altar.

4.) Spread his juice over temple & sacred vessels.

5.) Celebrated feast of Bacchus.

6.) Put harlots in temple.

7.) Forbade reading Scrp.

8.) Burned sacred books.

9.) Forbad circumcision (One mother did - kills both babies, hung them around her neck, marched women thru Jerusalem to highest wall & slung her off head first before all.

10.) World governments depicted as cruel, fierce, brutal, Rapacious, wild beast.

11.) We look at heart of gov.! Selfish, cruel.

III. What's the Meaning?

A. Man stood before Him.

B. Man's voice between the banks.

1. 1st man was Gabriel.

a.) Communicator of divine message.

b.) Named along c Michael as only 2 named.

Luke 1:19 "And the angel answering said unto him, I a

26 "And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel

c.) Name = Hero of God.

2. 2nd Man God.

a.) Between banks.

b.) Valley over river.

C. Daniel Fainted.

1. Afraid.

a.) Normal experience in presence of Diety.

2. Fell.

3. Deep sleep - face to ground.

4. Touched & set upright.

a.) Restored from faint.

D. Angel.

1. Understand.

a.) Angel explained not via dreams, cognition or divine revelation.

2. "Time of the end" - "last end of indignation" - "time appointed" (V. 19) "transgressors are come to full (V. 23).

(a) 2300 days (V. 14).

(1) 6 yr. 4 mo. 20 days.

(2) Full year 2523 days.

(3) 220 days short.

(4) 6 1/3 years.

(5) Just short of complete no.

(b) Has to do c Greek Kingdom & successors.

(c) No reference to Rome.

3. Identified Medo Persian then Greek.

a.) 200 years before Daniel Greece called Greek people.

b.) Caranus 1st Kings. Was going c a multitude to seek new habitation in Macedonia. Advised by oracle to let Goats be guide. Steven drove them to Edessa & there he established seat of empire & took goat as ensign - Aegean = goat town.

c.) In Dan. time Greece was mere collection of petty, contending states.

d.) Who could foresee their union, Youthful Kings, sudden attack c handful of troops, dying at 33, end not by decay but abruptly, 4 other rulers not of his caliber to follow?

e.) Also armies of east went 1st north, then south to Palestine due to desert, thus spoke of folk from the North.

f.) Alex's son Agus = son of the goat.

g.) Aegean = Goat sea.

4. Little horn.

a.) Fierce countenance.

(1) Heart writes its contention the countenance.

b.) Understand dark sentences.

(1) Penetrating mind.

(2) Twisted & involved.

(3) Capable of solving difficulties in gov.

c.) Mighty power - but not by his own.

d.) Destroy wonderfully.

1.) Separate.

2.) Unique.

3.) Offers peace deceptively.

4.) Proud.

5.) Brings destruction

6.) Daniel's reaction.

a.) Fainted.

b.) Sick.

(1) Had pious, sympathetic heart because of people

(2) Do we feel for others.

(3) Shows sickness, thus not always result of sin.

(4) Do we get ill over what happens to church?

(5) Emotionally ill.

c.) Went back to work.

6. Things to note:

a.) Sanctuary to be cleansed.

b.) God will have the last word.

c.) Man can hinder but not frustrate finally plan of God.

d.) Transgression to full shows there is a ripening of sin & holiness.

e.) Known unto God are all his works from the beginning.

f.) Some say temple to be restored - Why?

g.) Adam Clark had a 1966 date.

h.) Sin gets so strong God's mercy can no longer

tolerate it, nor ignore it.

i.) Shut up = preserve for later time.

j.) Others to whom he told vision didn't understand.

k.) Dan. could see light at end of tunnel.

l.) Time to go back to work.

IV. Let's get to the King's business.

A. Bible School & Ladies Classes.

B. Youth & College Work.

C. More leaders at W.E.

D. Visits to prospects, absentees, weak.

E. Wed. night series.

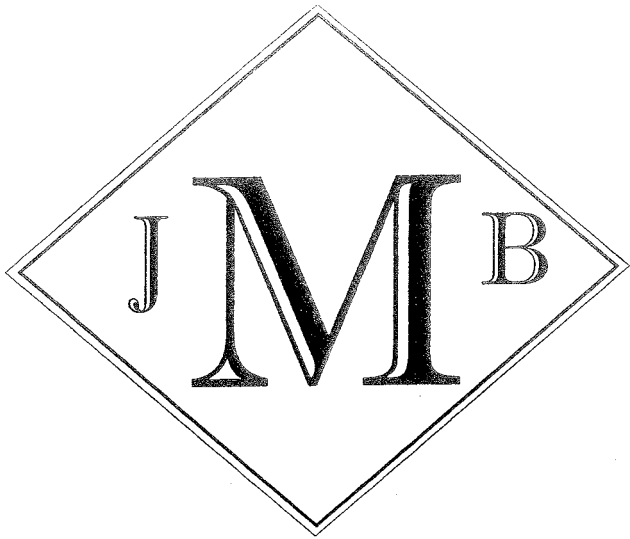
F. Mission Outreach - c coming men.

G. Greater love to all.

H. Prayer increase.

I. Elderly & Needy.

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THAT EARNEST PRAYER

Dan. 9:1-4

I. We come to one of most controversial chapters of Bible.

A. Know nothing of Darius other than what Daniel tells us.

B. Daniel now about 69.

II. Questions arise!

A. What should saints do when deep things of God baffle them.

1. Neglect.

2. Distort.

3. Smite brethren.

B. Is the Present rooted in the past?

Deut. 32:8-9 "When the most High divided to the nation

C. Should we be concerned about things of God?

1. Are His people dear to us?

2. Can I fill my mind c God & His cause?

D. Would the example of Daniel help?

1. He studied Scrp.

2. He earnestly prayed.

3. Will God keep His word?

II. Daniel Opened the Books.

A. His reading of Jeremiah caused him anxiety.

1. Jer. 25:11-12 "And this whole land shall be a des

2. Jer. 29:10 "For thus saith the Lord, That after sev

3. This chapter 13 yrs. later than Chapter 8.

4. He saw no indicated release of God's people.

5. Time was specified as being now for the release of captivities.

6. Would God honor His promise?
7. He didn't want his sin to cause the delay.
8. Books was not OT canon because it was not yet complete.
9. Daniel turned to Scrp. for his answer.

B. What would happen if men did this today?

1. Names.
2. Worship.
3. Organization.
4. Terms of Salvation.
5. Return of Christ.

C. He set his face.

1. Definite purpose.
2. Absolute determination.

IV. Next he Prayed.

A. By Prayer.

1. Humble & contrite.
2. Reading & prayer his method.
3. Prayer must not be an exercise of extremity but a constant use - not just a crisis crutch.
4. Pray for temporal & spiritual things both.
5. Prayer = intercession. (Supplication is an entreaty for mercy)
6. Shows determination.

Lu. 9:51 "And it came to pass, when the time was come

Isa. 50:7 "For the Lord God will help me; therefore shall

Dan. 10:15 "And when he had spoken such words unto

7. Prayer more powerful than crowned heads.

B. By supplication.

1. Entreaty to God.

2. Respect Him - not man upstairs, buddy, living doll.
3. Remember we are made of dust.
4. True prayer is founded on the knowledge of God's will.
5. Prayer identifies us c others!

V. Made Preparation for Prayer.

A. Fasting.

1. No New or OT command to do it.

Lev. 23

Luke 5:34-35 "And he said unto them, Can ye make th

a.) Appeal not to men.

b.) No power in ceremony.

Rom. 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and c

1 Cor. 8:8 "But meat commendeth us not to God; for n

c.) Away c Lent, Shrove Thur. & Ash Wed.

2. Rather agony of soul produces it.

a.) So burdened c things of God can't eat.

b.) Room for intense spirit.

B. Sack Cloth.

1. Did not recount his own merit.

Isa. 64:6 "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all

2. An overwhelming, all consuming confession of need.

3. Intense, earnest.

4. Contrite heart.

Ezra 8:23 "So we fasted & besought our God for this: c

Neh. 9:1 "Now in the twenty and fourth day of this m

Esther 4:1 "When Mordecai perceived all that was don

Esther 4:3 "And in every province, whithersoever the ki

4:16 "Go, gather together all the Jews that are p

Job 2:12 "And when they lifted up their eyes afar off

Jonah 3:5-6 "So the people of Nineveh believed God,

5. Imagine Royal Prime Min. arrayed in Sack cloth!

6. Shows humiliation.

C. Ashes.

1. Low as he can go -

2. Worthless smearing of a man.

V. Things About God.

A. Calls Yahweh - uses **YH** only in this chapter.

B. 4 parallel **verbs** of confession to Him.

1. Sinned.

2. Commit iniquities.

3. Done wickedly.

4. Rebelled.

C. Crime - didn't listen (V. 6).

D. Retributions of God justly fall on them (V. 11).

E. God is righteous in all disciplinary action.

F. Finally - V. 17 asks for deliverance. V. 19 a direct appeal. Does not want God to delay timetak

G. Sin not ignorance but willful disobedience.

H. Just such praying sets Heaven in motion.

1. Ans. rapidly came.

James 5:16 "Confess your faults one to another, and pr

2. He always ans.

I. God's no Fatalist.

J. If we have sinned, make confession - don't ignore it.

K. Prayer derives its inspiration from the character & attributes of God.

