

# What To Remember To Face The Future

November 1, 2020

## God Controls the Rise and Fall of Kings by His Plan and Timing for the Nations

- *One of the most indisputable and strangely comforting truths in all of God's Word is that He is in control of the times and the nations.*
- *There are no mistakes, accidents or failures in His master plan for the human race.*
- *If evil seems to "win," it doesn't mean that our discernment and assessment were wrong, it simply means that God's ways are not our ways.*
- *The times when we don't understand His ways are the times we walk by faith, knowing that He is always right and always good. We don't demand that His plan be approved by us first.*

*Daniel 2:20-22 ESV*

*20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.*

*21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;*

*22 he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.*

*Daniel 4:28-37 ESV*

*28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar.*

*29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon,*

*30 and the king answered and said, "Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?"*

*31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, "O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you,*

*32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."*

*33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.*

*34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation;*

*35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"*

*36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.*

*37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.*

## **We Wrestle Not Against Flesh and Blood**

- *We might think that disposing of the human vessel would eliminate the problem, but it never does.*
- *The problem is not the human vessel, the problem is the satanic hierarchy of demonic forces in the spiritual realm using human vessels to carry out their evil strategies.*
- *Our warfare is in the spiritual realm, not the natural realm.*
- *We need to take our fight to the real battleground.*

*Ephesians 6:10-12 ESV*

*10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.*

*11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.*

*12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.*

*Daniel 10:7-15 ESV*

*7 And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves.*

*8 So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength.*

*9 Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground.*

*10 And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.*

*11 And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling.*

*12 Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words.*

*13 The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia,*

*14 and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days. For the vision is for days yet to come."*

*15 When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute.*

## **We Must Not Take Vengeance Into Our Own Hands**

- *Though what others say and do can cause us great distress, fear and harm, we must never allow the spirit of anger, hatred and revenge to take root in our hearts.*
- *To respond with angry, vengeful malice is to be of the same spirit and motivation as the evildoers. We have been overcome by their evil in the worst possible way; by becoming one of them.*

*Romans 12:17-21 ESV*

*17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.*

*18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.*

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."

21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## **We Can't Save Our Nation, Nor Transform The Culture, Nor Change People's Hearts, But We Are Accountable To Care For Those God Places In Our Lives**

- *In times when we feel completely out of control (and we are), helpless and hopeless, we must focus on what we can do, what we're commanded to do.*
- *In the ministry of Jesus and the early Church, God's primary method of ministry is relationship, changing hearts and lives one relationship at a time.*
- *God's method of ministry has never been the American media circus of celebrity pastors, entrepreneur ministries and worldly marketing strategies.*
- *If you really want to change the world, it's going to be one life at a time.*

Luke 12:42-46 ESV

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time?

43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.

44 Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions.

45 But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and get drunk,

46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful.

Psalms 71:18 ESV

18 So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.

Psalms 78:2-7 ESV

2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old,

3 things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us.

4 We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children,

6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children,

7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.

Joel 1:2-4 ESV

2 Hear this, you elders; give ear, all inhabitants of the land! Has such a thing happened in your days, or in the days of your fathers?

3 Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children to another generation.

4 What the cutting locust left, the swarming locust has eaten. What the swarming locust left, the hopping locust has eaten, and what the hopping locust left, the destroying locust has eaten.

## **We Have No Control What Happens In The Natural, But Our Prayers Can Move Mountains**

*James 5:16-18 ESV*

16 The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

*Mark 11:22-24 ESV*

22 And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God."

23 Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.

24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.