

# Positioning For Positive Impact

Insights from Daniel 2:1-49 (Living Rooted in Babylon pt 3)

Pastor Bob Johnson, September 27th, 2020

## 1. **R**\_\_\_\_\_ **Response** (Dan. 2:1-3)

*In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream."* Daniel 2:1-3 (ESV)

## 2. **L**\_\_\_\_\_ **Response** (Dan. 2:4-13)

*Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." ... 9 If you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. ... Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation." 10 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand! ... 11 The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." ... 13 So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.* Daniel 2:4-13 (ESV)

## 3. **A**\_\_\_\_\_ **Response** (Dan. 2:14-16)

*Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon.* Daniel 2:14 (ESV)

## 4. **P**\_\_\_\_\_ **Response** (Dan. 2:17-18)

*Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.* Daniel 2:17-18 (ESV)

## 5. **H**\_\_\_\_\_ **Response** (Dan. 2:19-28)

*Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. ... 27 Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days."* Daniel 2:19-28 (ESV)

## 6. P \_\_\_\_\_ Response (Dan. 2:28-45)

### Daniel's Interpretation of the King's Dream:

Gold Head	Babylonian Empire	636BC - 539BC
Silver Arms & Chest	Medo-Persian Empire	539BC - 330BC
Bronze Waist & Thighs	Greek Empire	330BC - 63 BC
Iron & Clay Legs & Feet	Roman Empire	63 BC - 475 AD

## 7. S \_\_\_\_\_ Response (Dan. 2:46-47)

*Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." Daniel 2:46-47 (ESV)*

## 8. T \_\_\_\_\_ Response (Dan. 2:48-49)

*Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court. Daniel 2:48-49 (ESV)*

## Practices For Increasing Our Positive Impact:

1. Be P \_\_\_\_\_

2. Avoid P \_\_\_\_\_

3. P \_\_\_\_\_ Specifically

4. Choose P \_\_\_\_\_ over P \_\_\_\_\_

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# GPC's "Living Rooted in Babylon" Small Group Discussion of Daniel 2:1-49

## Week 3 of our Study and Discussion of Daniel 1-6

**Check - in....** What was the high and the low of your week since we last met?

**Pause and Pray:** Be still and know that He is God...God who is present with you, loving you. Surrender yourself to His love. Let's open our hearts, lives and minds to whatever it is He wants to do with us. (pause)... Pray with one another.

### **Re-Read Daniel 2:1-49**

What has continued to resonate with you from Sunday's message? Why?

### **Digging Deeper:**

An important discipline of living life with God is to be at rest in God's love, relinquishing our agenda that keep us from seeking and knowing God each day, and then being open and aware to notice where God is at work and turning oneself to cooperate with Him and His agenda. So let's notice some things in this passage together:

**Nebuchadnezzar:** What was his initial response to God's involvement in His life and God-prompted dream?

**Magicians enchanter, sorcerers, astrologers of Babylon:** What was their image or understanding of the gods of Babylon? What was their response to the dream and Nebuchadnezzar's demands?

**Daniel:** What do you notice about His relationship with God? Who does He believe God is? What does he believe about Nebuchadnezzar? What does he believe about the wise men of Babylon? How does he respond to them? How does He walk with God throughout this chapter?

**Babylon:** What do you notice about the world's system and its impact on Nebuchadnezzar, the advisers/astrologers, and Daniel?

Last week we ended the discussion guide reflecting on surrender: Who is each of the above surrendered too? How do you see that? Isn't it interesting to notice that the captive is the most free? Discuss your thoughts about this.

Do you notice fear in anyone? What was the source of their fear?

Daniel feared the Lord! Matter of fact the entire book of Daniel is a study on the the Fear of the Lord. When we fear God (understand who He is and what He is able to do and stand in awe of His power, purposes, presence and love) then we are free from the fear of anything else.

What we fear is what we are surrendered to....it holds power over our lives?.

What blessing came to Daniel because of His awe, reverence and fear of the one true God...not the fear of man, nor the false gods or powers of the world?

### **Time for personal reflection:**

What character in the story that unfolded in Daniel 2 do you most relate to?

Imagine yourself in this story. How would you respond to all that is going on?  
What do you notice about yourself as you engage what is happening?

What does this reveal about your image of God, your surrender to Him?  
What or who do you fear?

Now imagine Daniel living here, now, in this time in our world.

How do you picture Daniel responding to the present circumstances in our day?

What will you do with these observations? Will you turn aside to God to know Him?  
To praise Him and live for Him like Daniel? What would that look like for you?

### **Practices for Increasing Positive Impact:**

We are God's masterpiece created in Christ Jesus for good works which God has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 2:10).

**The following are practices that can position us to serve God more effectively:**

#### **1. Be prepared**

Discipline in the everyday is what prepares us for the opportunities that show up unexpectedly in our lives. Robert Mulholland in His book, *Shaped by the Word*, gave a litmus test for genuine discipline: *"Are you willing to offer something to God as a discipline and to keep offering it day after day, week after week, month after month, year after year - to continue offering it for God to use in whatever way God wants in your life and have God do absolutely nothing with it?"* Are you willing to be a man/woman of prayer, Scripture, fellowship, repentance, service, etc. no matter the outcome? Jesus' prayer *"Not my will but thy will be done"* is at the heart of being prepared for whatever God has for us.

#### **2. Avoid passivity**

The Bible warns against laziness, foolishness, lukewarmness, and unfaithfulness. These things are a lack of love for God and others. They are a form of embracing our own agenda of comfort, self-protection, pride, and self-loathing. We all struggle with these things...it's called the flesh and it has been crucified with Christ so we might be fully alive to God.

We notice and name these things not for condemnation because there is no condemnation in Christ (Romans 8:1. We notice and name them for awareness, repentance, hope and active life with God.

Let Daniel's action and initiative inspire you. Discuss your thoughts about all of this.  
Is there something you would like to ask prayer for from the group?

#### **3. Pray Specifically**

Reflect on your prayer life, is there something here that you are noticing to grow in. Prayer isn't just about words but about the intent of our hearts to know God's will.

Is this the intent of your heart as you pray and seek God with the specifics of your life? If your heart is to actively do or not do whatever God leads you to, then God in His perfect timing will show you and lead you.

Talk to God openly and honestly. He already knows it all and wants to meet you in it...just as you are, where you are...to heal, transform, inspire. Jesus came to give you abundant life. Do you trust Him to know what that is as you openly pray about specific things, situations, etc.?

#### **4. Choose Praise over pride:**

Who is God to you? What fills your thoughts? Your heart?

Daniel knew who God was - even His mystery...even though He could not understand all of who God was and what He was up to. He trusted and he praised God - even before he had an answer, even in the midst of threatening circumstances and extreme pressure. He knew God, He praised God with His words, His responses and with His life. The Bible helps us know what pleases God. In Micah 6:8, we learn that pleasing God involved - "doing justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with our God".

What does humility and praise look like for you in the midst of 2020?

### **Final Reflection:**

What do you sense God is saying to you in this? How can the group pray for you?