

Daniel's Disturbing Dream

"Visions and Dreams" part 1, from Daniel 7
Pastor Bob Johnson, January 31st, 2021

1. God's C _____
(Daniel 7:1-2, Isaiah 51:15, Isaiah 46:9-10)

2. Four C _____
(Daniel 7:3-7, Daniel 7:17, 1 Peter 1:10-12)

Daniel's Interpretation of the Kings Dream in Dan 2:

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

*And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people.
Daniel 2:44 (ESV)*

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. ⁵God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)

Insights in Light of Daniel's Dream:

- **Live with P _____**
- **Live with P _____**

*God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.
2 Timothy 1:7 (ESV)*

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This Week's Discussion Guide:

Welcome to week 3 of our first small group season for 2021!! It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks. This small group season will be for 10 weeks and wrap up the week of March 21st. After a few weeks studying and discussing some insights found in Psalm 1 and 2, we are now starting to discuss the second half of the Book of Daniel.

God gave Daniel some visions and dreams that were helpful back then and are still helpful for us today as we strive to understand more of God's larger story He is inviting us to be part of.

Getting Started:

What has happened in your life or something that you are aware of that has encouraged you or stretched you lately?

What has happened in your life or something that you are aware of that has reminded you that this world is still broken and stained with sin?

Before we move on, let's stop and pray the way Jesus asked us to in Matthew 6:10, asking for more of God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

As we start our study of the second half of Daniel, what do you remember of the first half of Daniel (Daniel 1-6) that stands out to you?

Daniel was a man who lived for an audience of one. His name actually means "God is my judge." What does your first name mean? If you don't know, google it :). Does what you found about your name encourage you? If you could replace it with any other description, what would you choose?

Quick Review:

Let's re-read a few passages Bob read during his message: Daniel 7:1-7, Isaiah 51:15, Isaiah 46:9-10, 1 Peter 1:10-12, Galatians 4:4-5 and 2 Timothy 1:7.

From these verses and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

Digging Deeper:

In Daniel 2 and Daniel 7, four countries or kingdoms are described that had prominence and then experienced a decline and eventual defeat. When you think of national values, what do you think is needed for a nation to thrive and last?

In 2 Chronicles, we read about the dedication of the temple God had Solomon build. In 2 Chronicles 7:14, God tells Solomon what to lead the people to do if they find that they have wandered from the values God has for them. Today, do you feel this verse can be applied to a country like ours or to those that make up God's church? or both?

What are some specific ways that we can pray for our country?

What are some specific ways that we can pray for the churches in America, including GPC?

One encouragement that Bob mentioned last Sunday related to how to live in light of Daniel's prophetic dream was to live with passion. In the gospels, there are examples where Jesus showed his passion. In the beginning of his ministry and toward the end of his ministry, Jesus showed some passion by doing some house cleaning in the temple.

Read John 2:13-17 and Matthew 21:6-13. What insights would you like to share from these passages? What was Jesus so passionate about?

In John 11, Jesus showed some passion with his tears. Read John 11:32-44.

What insights would you like to share from this passage? Crying is not the only way that passion is recognized.

What other ways can we measure the level of godly passion in our lives?

What are some other passages or stories from Jesus' ministry can you think of that displays his passion? What is one Christ-like passion that you would like to see grow in your life?

The second insight we are encouraged to live by in light of studying Daniel's dream is to 'live with peace.' Every day we are reminded how broken our world is. How can reflecting in what we studied in Daniel 2:1-7 help produce more peace in our lives?

How can knowing that God will accomplish His plan for this world and our lives in the end, affect you?

In John 14, Jesus is wanting to encourage his disciples as they are looking toward their future. Read John 14:25-31. From this passage, what insights related to peace would you like to share with our group?

What other insights from this passage would you like to share?

Does living passion and peace contradict each other?

When would a passion conflict with the peace God wants us to experience?

Related to what we are passionate about, how can we know if it is a God-given passion or something that comes from a self-focused ambition?

Let's be sure to pray for one another before we wrap up :).