



Prophecy in Perspective

Dr. Scott Gregory Downing
An email newsletter

Daniel: Our Godly Pattern for The End Times

We do not need to give into the spirit of fear in these days since the Word of God has given us many amazing promises and insights as to what to expect in the last days. We know that God will never be defeated nor overthrown from His ultimate authority over the earth, nor from His immediate authority over His own committed people. God's people need always to follow the pattern that is set out by Daniel, the prophet, who was mightily used by God during the uncertain times when the Jews were in exile in the land of Babylon. There were many that wanted to kill of the people of God in those days and many who sought to manipulate kings. There are four things we can learn from Daniel as we prayerfully seek God's counsel in these perilous days that we are living in today.

In the book of Daniel we find that Daniel was dedicated to God. "***But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portions of the King's meat...that he might not defile himself***" (*Daniel 1:8*). He refused to eat the king's food. Why? Because the food of the King of Babylon was unclean to a dedicated Jew! But God blessed Daniel with health, strength, and spiritual authority to receive God's Word and to influence kings for God's glory. Be very careful about what "food" of the world that you consume: spiritually, politically, socially, culturally. As Christians we need to be fully dedicated to God and to His Word, for we are living in days filled with the unfolding of Bible prophecy, and the dedicated Christian will be able to do the next thing that we see in Daniel's pattern for the end times.

We find next that Daniel was discerning about the ways, and will of God. "***In all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm***" (*Daniel 1:20*). As believers who are looking for the coming of the Lord at any moment, we need to be discerning witnesses in a world that is growing darker and more chaotic, godless and more wicked and violent with each passing day. Preachers, and leaders in the church, especially need to be deeper in the study of the prophetic Scriptures and indeed the whole counsel of God, as well as to preach it now more than ever. The news of the day will always bring a sense of uncertainty, especially when we see the kind of candidates that are presented to America in these days. We must discern who to support for leadership based on their position on **protection of the lives of the unborn**. I discern simply that those who are pro-death, pro-abortion, pro-choice are already wicked. I will not vote for nor support them in any way! Daniel heard of the King's intended termination of life, discerned the immediate need for wisdom which could only come from God, and ACTED! He didn't say, "Oh I can't get involved -- I'm sitting this one out!" He prayed fervently and gave great counsel and answers to the King! We must pray for and respond to the needs of leaders (perceived or not), presidential and vice-presidential candidates, for instance, with wisdom from the Word. Daniel was able to discern the needs of king Nebuchadnezzar through prayer and the leading of God's Spirit. He impacted the world with the prophetic truth God revealed through Him. We need daily to seek God's spirit through the faithful reading of the Bible, and through dedicated prayer for discernment.

Jesus said to His disciples in Matthew 24:15 that the reader of His prophecy should understand what He was talking about when He predicted the rise of the Antichrist as world leader. Jesus said that the reader should refer to the discerning prophecy of Daniel, who speaks of this coming wicked world ruler in the latter days in chapters two, seven and nine of his prophetic book. I believe that preparations are now being made for the rising of the Antichrist and Babylon, and nothing exemplifies the nature of both of these more than the modern Democrat Party! Therefore we must read the Bible to discern the times. And Daniel is an amazing pattern to follow for dedication and for discernment. This is how you and I will have a sure word of prophecy for those in the world today who need to hear and heed God's warnings as to the tide of our times.

It is certain that Hillary Clinton, who is wickedly pro-abortion, and running mate, Virginia Senator, Tim Kaine, who is ok with those who support abortion and who has some deep ties with pro-Muslim groups in America (see, <http://www.breitbart.com/2016-presidential-race/2016/07/23/clinton-vp-pick-tim-kaines-islamist-ties/>) appear to have no real regard for hearing the warnings of the Bible. But, I believe, Donald Trump along with Mike Pence, will listen to prayerful and discerning counsel from truly dedicated and discerning Christians. We cannot tell how closely they will follow this counsel, but the opportunity to make Bible truths known to Trump and Pence as related to world and personal issues seems to be present.

Then, also, we should follow Daniel's pattern of deliverance. Daniel's deliverance from perishing with his fellows and the rest of the wise men of Babylon by concerted prayer and God's revelation of His prophetic plan (Daniel 2); Daniel's deliverance from the lion's den for His righteous stand (Daniel 6); as well as his three friend's deliverance from the fiery furnace (Daniel 3); all demonstrate how God has promised deliverance to those who seek to be dedicated to God and to discern His ways. And, God also promised to deliver the Jews from their 70 years of bondage to some of the most vicious kings that the world would ever see (Daniel 9:2). He also predicted their deliverance from the future Antichrist (Daniel 9:24-27; Revelation 7). In a similar way, the Lord has promised to deliver His bride, the church, from the great tribulation, ***"Because thou has kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth"*** (Revelation 3:10). Trusting God for His delivering power for His people, you do not need to fear the events that you see today, for the Lord will prevail over all evil and will deliver you and I in His perfect time and way. Are you fearful? Are you confused? Are you angry? Are you frustrated? These are devices of your enemy, the Devil. But the Word of God will assure you and God's Spirit will direct you. Trust in the Lord, for He said: ***"Surely I come quickly!"*** (Revelation 22:20). So remember Daniel's pattern for these latter days: Dedication, Discernment and Deliverance.

These days are full of prophetic significance! Imagine how amazing it is that God would allow us to live in times such as this. If we as Christians seek to faithfully follow Daniel's pattern for life in prophetic times, Dedication to God, Discernment of the times, and Deliverance from/through trial, I believe our walk in these days will be filled with victory over defeat and faith over fear. Seeking the coming of the Lord to rapture His church to heaven, we will be a dynamic part of the great things God is doing today to make His Son, Jesus Christ, known to a lost and needy world.

Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding. "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him.

Daniel 2:20-22

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