

DANIEL (DARE TO BE GOD'S MESSENGER)
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SERIES: Daniel (Dare To Be God's Messenger)

TITLE: Program 19 – People Who Know Their God

THURSDAY

OPEN

Tell me about God. If I ask you to explain to me who God is and what He is like, what would you tell me about Him? And then if I turned and I said to you, but show me how His power has been expressed. Show me how His wisdom has come to pass. Explain to me in living terms His sovereignty. Could you do it beloved? Today's lesson will help you even more.

PART ONE

You know the whole purpose of this program is that you might know Gods precepts for life, that you, as a woman, that you, as a man might be able to discern His truths and understand His ways so that you can put them into practice in your life in very practical ways. I want to jump to Daniel, chapter 11 for just a minute. It's the second to last chapter in the book of Daniel and we're going to have an awesome time. It's going to blow your mind when we get to Daniel 11 and Daniel 12. And you are going to be able to discern

the times and discern whether it is time for Jesus to come or not. But in Daniel, chapter 11, there is a verse and I want you to see this, in Daniel, chapter 11 in verse 32, it's talking about a figure in history. And we're going to study that and you're going to see later on that this is Antiochus Epiphanies and he lived in the intertestament period and he was part of the Greek Empire or part of the rearranged Greek Empire. And it says in verse 32: And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant. In other words here is a man through his words and through the smoothness of the words he's going to be able to take people who profess to know God and turn them to godlessness, to turn them against God and against the covenant of God. And it says but, and once again there's one of those buts. But the people who know their God, the people who really know Him, really understand Him will display strength and take action. They will display strength and they will take action and those who have the insight among the people will give understanding to the many. In other words, these are people that are able to stand because they know God. Well what I want us to do is I want us to go back to the end of Daniel, chapter 5. And I want us to go back to the end of Daniel, chapter 5 because a very significant thing is occurring here and I didn't know if in the last program you really caught the significance of it all or if I even made it clear because we were really tracking there. So let's go back to Daniel, chapter 5 and to verse 30. Now you remember that there has been a party. Belshazzar, who was one of the kings of Babylon and was the last king of Babylon, threw a party. He threw a party although the enemy was outside the city because he thought that he was part of a city that could never, listen carefully, that could never be conquered. He was like Nebuchadnezzar in his early days; he thought this kingdom is going to continue forever and ever and ever never. Let me ask you a question: Do you think the United States is going to continue forever and ever and ever? Do you think Canada is going to continue forever and ever and ever? Do you think your country's going to

continue forever and ever? I have in my living room a vase that my mother gave me and it's just special because mother gave it to me. But what else makes it special is if you turn it over and look at the bottom it has the word Prussia. Prussia used to be a kingdom. Prussia no longer exists. Now we know from the Word of God what kingdoms will continue. But I can tell you this, that no place in the Word of God does it mention the United States of America. Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar thought that Babylon would go on and on and on. And knowing that, they just kind of in a sense, kicked back; they were at ease. You know it's kind of like what happens in our lives. We think we're going to continue forever and ever. We think hey, you know, I'm only 20, I'm only 25, I'm only 30 or 40 or whatever and I've got many more years. Look at my dad lived this long. My mom lived this long or, or you know, I exercise, I've taken care of myself. And yet, it's like my friend Dorie, her dear husband and he lived for the Lord, and he was happy to see the Lord when he saw Him, but I mean he ran everyday. And he went out the door, he kissed Dorie goodbye and he said I love you sweetheart and I'll be back in, in just a few minutes and he was jogging. A little while later Dorie Van Stone, who's on our staff and who has written the book Dorie, the Girl that Nobody Loves, and other books, but anyway, so Dorie heard a siren in the background and something just kind of twinged in her heart, but then she went on. And then the phone call came. Lloyd was jogging and the doctor told her, as Lloyd jogged, that he just jogged right into heaven, that in the midst of that all of a sudden he was dead. We think that life is longer than it is and that's what they thought about Babylon, that it would live; it would go on longer than it did. So he gives this party; Daniel comes in; interprets the handwriting on the wall and says many, many, numbered, numbered, tekem, upharsin; you've been weighed and found deficient and you upharsin, your kingdom will be divided; it will be given to the Medes and the Persians. And it says in verse 30 that same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king or the king of Babylon was slain. So Darius the Mede

received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two. What has happened? Babylon the great has come to an end. It is October 13th, 539 B.C. Everything changes. On that day it happens just like God told Nebuchadnezzar it would. Let's go back to Daniel, chapter 2 and let's do a little bit of review. Now let me just say this: It's going to be so important for you to pay good attention to Daniel, chapter 2. It's going to be so important because after Daniel, chapter 6 we move into another segment of Daniel. We move into pure prophecy. We move into all these prophecies that are God's blueprint, as Daniel, chapter 2 is, for the end of the ages. It tells us what's going to happen from the Babylonian Empire all the way up to the coming of the kingdom of God. And so we need to remember these prophecies. So we're going to move into heavy prophecy, exciting prophecy, enlightening prophecy. And I'm not going to tell you who is who. You're going to see it for yourself and that's why you have to be patient with me as we go along, even though you have been taught certain things, maybe you are one that has never read this before. And you want to know that you know truth for yourself so that you can know your God, so that you can be strong, so that you can take action, so that you can give insight to the many. All right now, let's go back to Daniel, chapter 2. Remember in Daniel, chapter 2, Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, it's, it's the year after he becomes king. We know that he conquers Jerusalem in 605 B.C. It's the second year of his reign; he has this dream and God gives Daniel the dream and the interpretation. He in turn tells the king and it's a dream of a statue, a statue with a head of gold, a chest of silver, a belly and thighs of bronze and legs of iron with feet of iron and clay. Now, Daniel's interpreting it and this is what he says: You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom; the glory, the power, and the strength; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold. You are the head of gold. So Nebuchadnezzar knew that

that statue, that the head represented him. It represented his kingdom Babylon. But what Nebuchadnezzar apparently didn't like was the fact that the statue was not all of gold. The statue only had a head of gold. And then he makes this statement and he says in verse 39: And after you there will arise another kingdom inferior to you and then a third kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth. Then there's a fourth kingdom and then there's the final kingdom and that's represented by the stone that hits the statue on the feet, causes the statue to crumble. The wind comes along and blows everything out, away and God sets up His kingdom, which lasts forever. It's the final kingdom. So from Babylon and this should have you thinking, from Babylon to the coming of Jesus Christ to reign on the face of this earth, so that there is no other nation in power in any place in the world, there will be four kingdoms and then the fifth kingdom, the final kingdom, which will be the kingdom of God. You say well there have been more kingdoms than that. Well I'm not going to say anything more now. We're going to look at that as we go along. These are things for you to ponder. These are things for you to question. These are things for you to wrestle with. But what I want you to see is, he says okay, after you will another kingdom inferior to you, then a third kingdom, a kingdom of bronze, which will rule over all the earth and then the fourth kingdom of iron and then iron and clay. All right, now, you know that in Daniel, chapter 3, what does Nebuchadnezzar do? He builds a statue; he builds a statue and the whole statue is gold and he says to everyone in his kingdom, you've got to bow down; you've got to give homage to this statue. In other words, I'm the one and this is the kingdom and you're going to submit to it and there's not going to be any booking of what I'm saying. You're going to submit. He was trying to insure the fact that he would continue forever. The problem was he didn't know God. And he didn't understand the Word of God. Babylon fell; we'll look at it in just a moment.

PART TWO

Daniel, chapter 5, verse 30 and 31 is so tremendously significant prophetically. Think with me. It says that same night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was slain. So Darius the Mede received the kingdom at about the age of sixty-two. What has he just told us? He has just told us that another kingdom has taken over, that Babylon no longer exists and there is another kingdom. Could this be the second kingdom on the statue? Could this be the chest of silver? Could this be Medes and Persians? Could it be? Here is a kingdom now, Babylon, that is divided, a Medo-Persian Empire. Could it be and will God get even clearer and more specific? Babylon has come to an end. Now this is not only a picture of what is happening in Daniel, chapter 2, but it is prophesied in other places. And so what I want us to do is I want us to go to Isaiah, chapter 47. Here is Isaiah, writing about Babylon and showing us what God is going to do to Babylon. It says come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans. For you shall no longer be called tender and delicate. Take the millstones and grind meal. Remove your veil, strip off your skirt; uncover the leg, cross the rivers. Your nakedness will be exposed, your shame also will be exposed; I will take vengeance and will not spare a man. Our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is His name, the Holy One of Israel. He's saying this is what's going to happen to you Babylon. And it's going to happen to you because our Redeemer, and speaking of Israel, our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is His name, He is the Holy One of Israel. And because He's the Holy One of Israel He has brought judgment on Babylon. Remember we've talked about the sovereignty of God. But as we've looked at the sovereignty of God we've also looked at the accountability of man. Now you're going to see that although God used Babylon as His rod of judgment on Israel, still Babylon is going to be held accountable. So he goes on to say in verse 5: Sit silently, go into darkness, O daughter of the Chaldeans for you, will no longer be called the queen of

kingdoms, the queen of kingdoms. Now what had God said to Nebuchadnezzar in that dream in Daniel, chapter 2? God had said to Nebuchadnezzar you're the king, you're the king of all the kings; you're the gold. The rest is silver; that's less valuable than gold; the next one's bronze. That's less valuable than silver and gold. The next one's iron. Who wants iron? The only thing good about iron is, iron is just known for its strength. And then you have the iron and the clay. So the head of gold was like the queen, the queen of the kingdoms. And He says, I was angry; God is speaking. I was angry with my people. Now who are God's people? God's people is Israel. And if you go back to the scriptures and you go through the scriptures and you study them and you watch what God says about Israel, because in Genesis, chapter 11 and Genesis, chapter 12 is where you see God making a nation for Himself, a nation out of the nations, the nation of Israel and Abraham is the head of that. And from Abraham will all the nations of the earth be blessed. But Abraham sets up, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the twelve sons of Israel sets up the nation of Israel because Jacob's name is changed to Israel. These are God's people. You may not like it. You may hate the Jews. You may be anti-Semitic, but I'm telling you, if you don't like it, if you hate the Jews and you're anti-Semitic, beloved, you are anti-God. You are anti-God and you are anti the Word of God. And you say but God has Christians in Palestine. Yes He has Christians in Palestine. He has Christians in Israel. He has Christians all over the world, but God has one elect nation that He is working through and that one elect nation is the nation of Israel, His people. And He says I was angry with My people. I profaned My heritage and gave them into your hand. In other words, He says I took My heritage, My people and I profaned them. I brought them low. I brought them into a state of being despised and I gave them into your hand. He did that because of their sin. He did that because they had gone into idolatry, because they had started to worship other gods. Listen to me precious one; listen to me. God will have us have no other idols. Do you

know what Colossians, chapter 3 says. Colossians 3 says that greed is idolatry. Ask me to name the god with a little “g” of the United States of America and I will say that it is money. And I will say that we are adulterers. He says I gave them into your hand. You did not show mercy to them, on the aged you made your yoke very heavy. I gave them into your hand, but you were not compassionate. Even on the aged you made their yoke very heavy, yet you said I will be a queen forever. Nebuchadnezzar was saying, no, it’s a statue of gold, not a head of gold; I will be a queen forever. These things you did not consider, nor remember the outcome of them. Now then, hear this, you sensual one, who dwells securely, who says, in your heart I am, and there is no one besides me. That was Nebuchadnezzar before God reduced him in Daniel, chapter 4. I shall not sit as a widow, nor shall I know the loss of children. And then He says, but these two things will come on you, speaking of Babylon. You should go through here and mark every reference to Babylon. Will come on you suddenly in one day; loss of children and widowhood. They shall come on you in full measure in spite of your sorceries, in spite of your great spells and you will feel secure. And you felt secure in your wickedness and you said no one sees me. Listen, Babylon was known for its vice, for its decadency, for its cruelty. And they thought they could get away with it. They didn’t know their God. They didn’t understand Him. They didn’t have a complete circle. Maybe they thought that God was a God of love and maybe they thought He was weak and He could be persuaded or manipulated, but He couldn’t. They didn’t know their God. They didn’t have a full knowledge. How well do you know God? You’ve got to know God. See, so many people say, well I’m sorry, but if that’s the God you worship, I don’t want any part of Him. The God I worship is a God of love. He’s a God of tolerance. He allows intersex marriage. He allows people to live together. He, He wouldn’t cause a war. He wouldn’t let these things happen. You don’t know God. And He goes on to say, He says you have said in your heart, I am and there is no one besides me. But evil will

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come on you which you will not know how to charm away; and disaster will fall on you, for which you cannot atone, and destruction will come on you suddenly which you do not know. It will come on you suddenly and that's what happened in October, on that night when Belshazzar died. It was the end of Babylon. God had said it would come to pass and it came to pass. Beloved, get to know your God. Stick with me. Let's study together. Let's grow together. Let's be men and women of the Word.