

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

TITLE: Program 16 – Bless The Lord!

MONDAY

OPEN

You know we live in a day when we really don't want to be accountable to anyone, even ourselves. We try to say, well, I'm not accountable because it was so and so's fault; it was my parents' fault; it was, it was my background; it was my lack of whatever. We are accountable, but we don't want to know that. And we say even if God is sovereign, then how can I be accountable? Well that's the question we'll answer today.

PART ONE

When we came to the end, to the close of Daniel, chapter 4, we saw that magnificent, magnificent statement of Nebuchadnezzar's. Remember, Daniel, chapter 4 is Nebuchadnezzar's story told by Nebuchadnezzar and he tells how when he finally came to his senses, when his mind and his reason was restored to him, when he was no longer acting like an animal; crawling around on the ground, eating the grass of the field, having his hair grow like

feathers and his nails like claws, but finally when he came to his senses and his sovereignty was restored to him, he made this incredible, incredible statement; and I would suggest my friend that you memorize Daniel, chapter 4, verse 34, 35. Now you don't have to memorize the first part of the verse that says but at the end of that period I, Nebuchadnezzar raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever. But this is where I would start memorizing: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion. Now let's just pause there for just one minute. I want you to see something. God has always reigned and God will always reign. That means that He is sovereign over all. It goes on to say His kingdom endures from one generation to another generation, from generation to generation. He's always been sovereign. He will always be sovereign. Now if that is true and it is true, it ought to cause you just to, breath a deep sigh of relief because so many times what we think is, we think the devil has blindsided God. We think that fate has, overcome God and, and this is fate that has happened to us. Now if you want to be in the hands of fate, fine. If you want to be in the hands of the devil, fine. But I want to tell you something; God is over fate. God is over the devil. And we're going to see that as we go through some very important scriptures. But as I told you in our last program, people have told me no other teaching has helped me as much as understanding, understanding for myself, that the Word of God teaches that God is in charge, that He rules supremely. You say, but does He hold me accountable? Yes He holds you accountable and we're going to see that. You say, but those two things don't fit together. I know in your finite human mind and my finite human mind it does not fit together, but you see we're not God and God says in Isaiah, My ways are not your ways and My thoughts are not your thoughts. My ways are so much higher and My thoughts are so much higher than yours. So what we have to do is we have to come to God and say God, you know, I can't figure this out. I can't figure out if You're sovereign and if Your dominion is

from everlasting to everlasting and Your kingdom endures from generation to generation, that, You being God would allow what You've allowed. I can't figure that out. And God says you know you don't have to figure it out. All you have to do is believe because the Christian life is lived by faith. It says we believe and in believing then we receive Christ. And it says the just shall live by faith, from faith to faith. It's always by faith. It's always finding out what does God say and then living accordingly, applying it in every aspect of our lives, applying it at home, applying it at the work place, applying it in relationships, applying it in parenting, if you're a parent, applying it as a single, if you're a single. We are to find out what God says and then we're to do it. All right it goes on to say this, verse 35 and you ought to memorize this too. In all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing. In other words, who is going to give God counsel? Who is going to tell ah, God what to do? I mean, he goes through this scenario in the book of Job and He says Job where were you? Where were you when I made the heavens? Where were you when I suspended the earth in space? Where were you? You weren't there. He says who's My counselor? There's no counselor. So God regards, all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but He does according to His will. Now I want you to see where He does according to His will. He does according to His will in the hosts of heaven. That means, if you would take a triangle and you would put it at the top of the page and that triangle would represent God and then down at the bottom of the page you would put a semi circle that represented earth and you would put some people down there on earth. Then you would come back up and between God and heaven and earth what you would see is there's a whole angelic hosts. There's a hosts of good angels. There's a hosts of bad angels. The head of the, good angels you would put a halo on top and a smile on their face. The bad angels you would put a down turned mouth and the halo under their chin because they're fallen angels. You would put over those fallen angels a, picture of the devil would show that God is over

the good angels; God is over the bad angels and God is over Satan, the serpent of old, the devil who has deceived the whole world and who rules over the whole world, under God's authority, the whole world lies in the power of the evil one, 1 John, chapter 5, verse 19 says that. The whole world lies in the power of the evil one. All right, so what you have here is you have God ruling. And no one can ward off His hand. In other words the minute God gets ready to move, the minute He gets ready to act, if He decrees something, no one can stop it. No one can cancel that decree. No one can ward off His hand. And then it says or say to Him, what has Thou done? What have You done? You can't say that to God? I mean you can say it to God, obviously, but you cannot legitimately call God to give an account for Himself because He's sovereign, because His dominion is an everlasting dominion and His kingdom endures from generation to generation because He's God, because He has infinite wisdom, because He has infinite power, because He is omnipresent. There's no place where He's not. There's nothing that goes unnoticed by God. He is all together I Am. I am everything and anything you will ever need. I am, I am the self-existent One. I am Alpha. I am Omega. I am the beginning; I am the end. I am the God who is now, who was and who is to come. I am God. And this is what you and I need to understand because when calamity comes, when circumstances come that we don't understand, so many times we panic. We absolutely panic and we think you know, what's going to happen now. But we can breath a sigh of relief and we can act in faith if we understand that God is sovereign. The Bible says in 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5, verse 18 in everything give thanks; in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. You say but what about all my mistakes? Well you know in the awesome sovereignty of God, God even overrules in all of our mistakes. He covers; His sovereignty covers our wrong decisions. You say well then that, that just gives me an excuse to behave any way I want. Oh no, because don't forget you may not want to be accountable, but

you are accountable. When Jesus Christ comes, Revelation 22:12, he says, behold He is coming and His reward is with Him to give to every man according to his deeds. So your deeds make you accountable to God. You're going to answer for your deeds, for the way that you live. If you purposely choose not to believe God and not to obey God, although His sovereignty rules over all, and although because He's God, He's able to make it work together for good, you will be held accountable. You cannot, hoodwink God. You cannot blindside God. The devil can't blindside God. Fate and circumstances cannot blindside God. You see we came up with that philosophy of fate. It's fate, it's just queue sera, sera, what will be will be. It is not fate, it is God. People, there's a calamity, they say it's Mother Nature. No it's not Mother Nature, it is Father God. And if you can understand that it will bring great peace. I'm going to jump very quickly to Romans, chapter 8 because I want you to see this passage in the context of this. And if you have a Bible and you're able to open that Bible without getting in trouble then open it: And listen to what he says. He says in Romans, chapter 8 and we know, and to know there, is with an absolute certainty. That's the word know. There's several words for know in the Greek, but this is with an absolute certainty. That God causes all things to work together for good. Now causes is in the present tense. God keeps on causing all things to work together for good. The good, the bad, and the ugly, God, because He's sovereign, so weaves those that it's going to end up for your ultimate good or for the ultimate good of others. God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose. And then he goes on to tell us something else that is absolutely awesome. We'll look at it right after this break.

PART TWO

Welcome back beloved. I just love studying the Word of God with you. So many times what happens is we memorize Romans 8:28 and this is a verse

that you need to memorize. It goes hand in hand, it's hand and glove, so to speak, with Daniel, chapter 4, verse 34 and 35. But we stop there we think okay, what happened was, that God, the minute I received Christ, then all things started working together for good, but my past is just doing me in. And so when you come to this verse and you say oh, you're promising me that You're going to keep on causing all things to work together for good because I love You, because You called me, because You have a purpose for my life. You know, and we think it starts there because of Romans 8:28. No, no, no, no, listen to verse 29. It says for whom He foreknew, whom God knew beforehand. God wasn't surprised when you showed up on your knees and knocked at the door and said God, I'm Yours, I'm Yours; here I am; I'm Your servant. God didn't say O my gosh, what am I going to with you now. God foreknew you, because remember His dominion is from everlasting to everlasting. Remember He is omnipresent. Remember He is omniscient. He is all knowing, so whom He foreknew, it says He also predestined. Now that word predestined, a lot of people don't like it because they don't have a biblical understanding of predestination. It means that He marked out beforehand. He marked out beforehand. He marked out beforehand you and me for one purpose and that is to be conformed to the image of His Son, to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He, Jesus might be the firstborn among many brethren. So God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose for whom He foreknew, He knew beforehand before the foundation of the world that you were going to be His, not because you decided to choose Him. Yes, in John 15:16 Jesus said you didn't choose Me, I chose you and I ordained you that you should go and that you should bear fruit and that your fruit should remain and that whatever you ask in My name I will do it. So here is God's promise to His children. In Ephesians, chapter 1 and I want you to go there, and you may have heard me teach this before, but you need to hear it again. Blessed, verse 3, blessed be the God and Father of our Lord

Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places, in Christ, just as He, God chose us, you and me, if we're believers, in Him when, before the foundation of the world. God is sovereign. Well, let's go back and look at some other verses on the sovereignty of God. And I want you to go to Isaiah, chapter 43, and I want us to look at verse 13. And we're going run just a few verses. It says in verse 13, even from eternity, God is speaking, I am He; and there is none who can deliver out of My hand. He says no one can ward off God's hand. I act and who can reverse it? In other words, once God does something then no one can reverse it. So what are you going to do? You can't reverse your past, can you? God knows about your past. It's not that He caused you to sin. You were born in sin; you chose to sin. But you can't reverse your past, but God can take your past because He's sovereign and He can cause all things to work together for good. Go to Psalm 103. And in Psalm 103 I want us to look at verses 1 to 5. Bless the Lord, O my soul and all that is within me. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget none of His benefits. Now what are His benefits? He pardons all your iniquities. He will forgive all your sins. This is what believing in Christ is all about and receiving Him. Who heals all your diseases. Who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion, who satisfies your years with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle? Now this is what he's saying. And now I want you to go to Psalm 103, verse 19. The Lord has established His throne in the heavens and His sovereignty rules over all. You've heard me making that statement. Well you can see that it's straight from Psalm 103, verse 19. It says bless the Lord, you His angels, mighty in strength who perform His word. Remember He does according to His will among the army of heaven. Obeying the voice of His word. Bless the Lord, all you hosts, you who serve Him, doing His will. Bless the Lord, all you works of His in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Beloved, today, no matter what your circumstances are, whether it's difficulty on the job, whether it's difficulty at

home, whether it's problems with the kids, whether it's battling with singleness, whatever it is beloved, you can bless the Lord, O my soul. And you can know that His sovereignty rules over all. I want you to go to Isaiah, chapter 14. In Isaiah, chapter 14, in verse 24 we find this marvelous, marvelous, verse and it's 24 to 27. It says the Lord of hosts has sworn saying surely, just as I have intended, so it has happened. And just as I have planned so it will stand. Now He's talking about breaking the rod of Assyria. Then it comes down in verse 27 and it says the Lord of hosts has planned and who can frustrate it? And His outstretched hand, who can turn it back? Daniel, chapter 4: Who can ward off the hand of God? Go to Isaiah, chapter 46 and let's look at verse 8. Remember this and be assured; recall it to mind you transgressors, those that have goofed, those that have sinned. Remember the former things, long past; for I am God and there is no other. I am God and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times, things which have not been done, saying My purpose will be established and I will accomplish all My good pleasures. Now go back one chapter, Isaiah, chapter 45. In Isaiah, chapter 45 at the end of verse 6 and the beginning of verse 7, it says this: that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun, that there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord and there is no other. The One forming light and creating darkness, the One causing well being and creating calamity, I am the One who does all these things. He creates well-being and He creates calamity or adversity. You say that's not fair. Listen, He's God; bow the knee. Yes, God is in charge and we're going to see more and more as we go on in Daniel, that God's sovereignty rules over all. But we're also going to see that God holds us accountable. God simply expects you to bow the knee and say God, that's what You say so I am going to rest in Your sovereignty and I am going to live in the fact that I am accountable to You and that someday, even as a Christian, I will stand at the judgment seat of Christ to give an account for the deeds done in my body.