

The Daniel Generation: Releasing Heaven and Changing History

I. Like Daniel, we can pray for revelation and wisdom during great difficulty. Sometimes we are just a word of wisdom away from a powerful deliverance or blessing.

- A. When Daniel was a young man (605 B.C.), he and his three friends were recruited to be officials in the great Babylonian Empire after the conquest of Israel (Daniel 1:17-21).
- B. Soon they needed to receive supernatural revelation to interpret King Nebuchadnezzar's dream—or die (Daniel 2:1-6).
- C. Daniel's response was to appeal to the King of Kings for revelation and mercy. The result was sudden promotion and blessing, because God revealed the King's dream and its interpretation to Daniel (Daniel 2:16-23, 46-49).
- D. Just as it was for Daniel and his friends, revelation is the spiritual inheritance of every believer, especially when wisdom is needed in a time of trouble (James 1:2-8).

II. Daniel's lifestyle shows us the power of deliberate prayer in all our affairs, secular or religious. His conviction was so deep, he risked his life to continue to pray openly to God after the Persians and King Darius conquered Babylon. Daniel would not stop praying for his nation, even when his life was threatened in the lions' den (Daniel 6:6-8, 17-28).

- A. The "Lions' Den Story" happened near the end of Daniel's life in 539 B.C., after the Medo-Persian Empire had conquered Babylon. Daniel's 70 years of continual prayers for Jerusalem played a part in bringing the end of Babylon's power and Israel's 70-year captivity to a close. The Jews were released to go to Israel if they desired to go (II Chronicles 36:22-23).
- B. The lifestyle of intercession and revelation in our time
 1. God uses human instruments to fulfill his purposes in history.
 2. Through prayer and repentance, the Church (The Daniel Company) can call down good government and blessing on our country (I Timothy 2:1-4; II Chronicles 7:14-16).

III. Prayer and the mystery of divine partnership

- A. Prayer is the seedbed for the revelation of God's purposes (Cornelius and Peter in Acts 10:1-9 and the release of the Church to the Gentiles). Evidently, prayer and ministry to the poor are extremely important to God.
- B. Daniel's practice of praying three times a day toward Jerusalem sensitized his awareness of God's timetable. He realized the time of Israel's release was near. His response was to humble himself and pray for God's word to be fulfilled (Daniel 9:1-6, 15-19).
- C. Daniel's intercession even affected the movements of angels (Daniel 9:20-25; 10:1-6, 12-14).
- D. The Church's inheritance is to "pray in" and recognize the promises of God for our generation (Matthew 6:9-10; 24:14; 9:37-38; Isaiah 54:13-17; Philippians 4:4-7, 19).

*Mike Hudgins
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