

Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2016 9:42 PM  
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Daniel 7

Last nite's MOB study on Daniel was a "flashback" to 553 BC--14 years before the great feast of Belshazzar, and the fall of the Babylonian Empire, recorded in Daniel 5--but after Nebuchadnezzar's dream (in Daniel 4) of the "great tree" that was "chopped down," depicting him (Nebuchadnezzar) being "driven away from mankind and dwelling with the beasts of the field," for a period of 7 years, "until he raised his eyes toward heaven...and had his reason returned to him...and then praised and honored the Most High!" Still with me? It was after Nebuchadnezzar died (probably about 562 BC) that Daniel had this dream, recorded in our text tonite – a dream that closely parallels the dream (or vision) given by God to Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 2! Whew!

Remember the dream in Daniel 2, given many years earlier, in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign (around 602 BC) that so troubled his spirit and left him sleepless? The dream was about a great "statue" of awesome splendor--with a head of fine gold; a breast and arms of silver; a belly and thighs of bronze; and legs of iron, with "feet partly of iron and partly of clay"--that was struck down and crushed by "a stone!" that ultimately became a great mountain and filled the whole earth!" (Dan. 2:31-35) The "mystery" of the dream could only be "revealed and interpreted" by Daniel, who received it from the "God of Heaven" in a night vision!

The dream, as it turned out, contained a message from God to Nebuchadnezzar, to reveal the mystery of "things to come"! And for us, some very important things still to come! This included the rise and fall of four successive empires, beginning with Babylon, followed by Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome! The latter, Daniel writes, would be "extended" and last the longest, but "become divided" and result, ultimately, in the God of Heaven "setting up a kingdom which will never be destroyed...and endure forever! (Dan. 2:36-45)

The "dream and visions" witnessed by Daniel reveal six different kingdoms, the first four of which were represented by "beasts" rather than the individual parts of an image, as in chapter 2. The four beasts--the lion, the bear, the leopard, and the "whatever," represent the same empires of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome! But the fourth one--"dreadful and terrifying"--was different from the rest, with "ten horns," with another "little one" coming from among them! And that "horn"--representing the Anti-Christ (still to come)--"waged war with the saints" and was "overpowering them...until the "Ancient of Days" came and "passed judgment in favor of the saints of the Highest One, and the time came when the saints took possession of the kingdom!" (Dan 7:19-22) Are you still with me?

Daniel "prophecies" further that the so-called "little horn" (or Anti-Christ) will "speak out against the Most High and "wear down the saints..." but that "his dominion will be taken away and he will be annihilated and destroyed forever! Then the sovereignty, the dominion and the greatness of all the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be given to the people of the saints of the Highest One; His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all the dominions will serve and obey Him!" (Dan. 7:25-27) Whew!

The bottom line is that we're living in the days of the "whatever" (cited above)--in the "last days," we believe, before the "rapture of the church" (as depicted in I Thessalonians 4:16-18--and noted by Christ in John 14:1-3)--and before the 7-year period of the "tribulation," and the coming of the Anti-Christ, as prophesied by Daniel in Daniel 7! And, more significantly, before the "second coming of Christ" to defeat the Anti-Christ and establish His "millennial kingdom" on this earth!

All of this – and more – will, hopefully, become clearer as we continue in our study of the "prophetic" portions of the book of Daniel!

The implications for us as believers are clear! It will affect how we live! And motivate us to want greater understanding of what the Bible has to say about things to come! And make us want to share the "good news" of God's grace with those God has placed in our lives! And it gives new meaning to that part of the Lord's prayer where it says: "Thy kingdom come! Thy will be done! On earth as it is in heaven...!"

On to Daniel 8!

May God bless your week!

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