

Parson to Person

“This dream I, King Nebuchadnezzar, have seen.

***“Now you, Belteshazzar, declare its interpretation,
since all the wise men of my kingdom are not able to make
known to me the interpretation;***

“...but you are able, for the Spirit of the Holy God is in you.”

Daniel 4:18

Good morning, Candlelight!

Pastor Jason here. We are so glad you're with us today. If you're reading this, you're about to worship with us, and then you'll share in a Bible study I'm presenting at Pastor Paul's request. Paul has asked me to challenge us today about revival.

Revival. Revival has lots of echoes and associations. The first one I think of is old-time church meetings designed to get everyone back in church. Remember those revivals? That's not what our pastor was talking about—though we do hope you'll come join us if you've been “out.” Another association is about letting God “revive us again,” as the hymn says. That's much closer to what Paul and the elders have been praying about.

I searched the Bible for instruction and encouragement about “revival.” Of course almost everything in the Book is about getting back, if you will, with God. So where would we look for a very precise, powerful Bible study that would revive us in our faith, our walk, our talk, and our service?

I settled this week on Daniel.

We are used to looking closely at Daniel, especially chapters 7-12, most specifically the prophetic topics enumerated there. We note Daniel's seventy weeks, the seventieth week(!), the abomination of desolation, the antichrist's covenant with the saints (made and broken), the great going here and there to increase knowledge, the sealing up of prophecy until the time of the end, and many other more detailed matters.

So it's of great interest to me to look at the life of this man who perhaps saw and knew more of God's prophetic calendar than any other saint save Ezekiel in Babylon and John on Patmos. What kind of man was Daniel?

If we took a close look at this saint, would we find encouragement, equipping, and enablement of what we would biblically call "revival?" I think so. Consider this...

- *Daniel was carried into exile along with God's people.

- *Daniel was young when it happened and the course of his life altered beyond imagination.

- *Daniel had three friends who shared this experience with him and who served with him.

- *Daniel and his friends were immediately, and long afterward, noted as standouts not only among the exiles but among his captors.

- *Daniel, in encounter after encounter, was shown to be a man who served God, and served God to great effect.

*Daniel's impact was pure, lasting, far-reaching, and real, and it arose from his relationship with the living God.

As a born-again believer in the church age, saved by Grace Alone through Faith Alone in Christ Alone, as described in the Bible Alone to the glory of God alone, Daniel stands as a type for us: "Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come" (I Corinthians 10:11).

I want to benefit from Daniel's example! I think his example is a pointer in the direction of revival! I hope you think so too. We'll look at it closely this morning. By the way, if you are listening and you have questions or comments, email them to questions@candlelight.org! Stop at the front for prayer and to meet me. Once again, I am so glad you're here! It's not by accident!

I love you each one,

Pastor Jason