

Light In Darkness
Week 2: Lift Up
Daniel 2:1-30

INTRODUCTION:

- A. What do you do when the bottom falls out on your life or the life of someone you love?
- B. This passages teaches two important things about God: He is in control and His Kingdom will never be destroyed.
- C. There is something else we learn from Daniel that is very important and often overlooked in this chapter: how we respond when we find ourselves in a dark and difficult situation.

KEY IDEA: We cannot control our circumstances but we can control our responses to them.

DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS FOUND THEIR LIVES IN JEOPARDY (vs. 1-13)

- A. Nebuchadnezzar was troubled in spirit and unable to sleep because of some dreams he was having (vs. 1-3).
- B. Nebuchadnezzar was willing to do whatever it took to get what he wanted (vs. 4-6).
- C. Nebuchadnezzar was ready to kill all the wise men of Babylon because of their failure (vs. 10-13).

DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS DIDN'T PANIC...THEY PRAYED (vs. 14-18)

- A. Daniel replied to Arioch with prudence and discretion (vs. 14-15).
- B. Daniel requested the king give him some time so he might show the interpretation of the dream (v. 16).
- C. Daniel and his friends relied on God to help them during the dark time they found themselves in (vs. 17-18).

WHAT DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS TEACH US ABOUT PRAYER (vs. 17-30)

- A. Prayer should be our first line of defense.
 - 1. The first thing Daniel did after convincing the King for more time is pray (vs. 17-18).
 - 2. God wants us to pray no matter our circumstances (Phil. 4:6; Thess. 5:17).
 - 3. We should not always be the focus of our prayers. We should pray for others as well (Col. 4:2-3).
- B. Our prayers should be big and bold.
 - 1. Daniel hadn't interpreted any dreams at the point of his request to Nebuchadnezzar (vs. 14-16).
 - 2. We need to go boldly before God's throne (Heb. 4:16; Jam. 1:5-8; Matt. 7:7-8; I Jn. 5:14; 2 Chron. 7:14).
 - 3. A.W. Tozer – "Nothing is impossible to the man who prays in faith, just as nothing is impossible with God."
- C. We should always praise God for answered prayers.
 - 1. Before Daniel went to Arioch and requested a presence with the King, he offered up praise to God (vs. 19-23).
 - 2. While we may think Daniel's praise for the interpretation was easy because God answered him, consider the answer he was given. He was now going to have to reveal the meaning of the dream to the King.
 - 3. Let's point people to our great God - "But there is a God in heaven..."(vs. 27-30).

CONCLUSION:

- A. When we find ourselves in darkness, we can choose to panic or we can choose to pray.
- B. Daniel and his friends chose to be a light by lifting up prayers to their God.
- C. May we learn from Daniel and lift up prayers and praise to our almighty heavenly father.