12 Months Later

Tony Mauck · Daniel 4:29–34

INTRODUCTION

- Nebuchadnezzar lived from 634 BC to 562. Jerusalem was destroyed in 586.
- People will question that, which is a threat to the life that they want to live. And that's what they'll attack.

1 Is This Not Babylon the Great?

Daniel 4:30; Daniel 4:31; Daniel 4:34

- He is mentioned so often in the Bible because of his unique relationship with the history of God's covenant people.
- Is this not Babylon the Great, which I myself have built as a royal residence by the might of my power and for the glory of my majesty?
- A voice came from heaven. Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is declared, sovereignty has been removed from you.
- When you raise your eyes toward heaven, that's when you get your reason.

2 Twelve Months Later, He Has Forgot

Daniel 4:29; Psalm 139; Matthew 12

- Before I ever say a word, God knows it, and he records it.
- 12 months later, he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon.
- Twelve months later, he has forgot. A year's not a long time. But it is. It's enough time to forget.

3 Who Is Really in Control

Jeremiah 29:11; Habakkuk 1; Deuteronomy 28:47–49

- What Nebuchadnezzar and most others struggle to appreciate is who is really in control.
- He gives him an opportunity to acknowledge that Jehovah is the real God.
- When God decides enough is enough, that's going to be the end of it.
- Because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and a glad heart for the abundance of all things.

4 This Is Why We Sing In His Time

Romans 11:33

- Malachi is saying, I know things don't look great right now. But in the future, great things are going to unfold.
- We are more prone to say, God, if you love me, I want you to fix it. And I want you to fix it right now.

- God's activities and purposes are accomplished in his time, not mine.
- Your job and mine is in our sphere of influence, however small it may be, to live the Lord's will, imitate Jesus, advance his cause to the best of our ability.

5 Time Does Not Erase Sin

Ephesians 5; James 3

- Time alone doesn't fix evil. If there is evil in our past, it isn't removed simply because we stopped doing that thing.
- The prerequisite to cleansing is repentance. Godly sorrow that works repentance.
- True circumcision can start right here, right now, today, and you can say, Whatever was in my past, I can be forgiven and cleansed of that and never look back.
- Some good deeds are no substitute for sowing discord and hatred.

6 Time Can Erode Knowledge and Faith

2 Corinthians 6; Psalm 139:23–24; Romans 12

- This is what Nebuchadnezzar teaches us. Time can erode knowledge and faith.
- You're not going to experience transformation in a way that pleases God unless you're anchored in the right things. Anchored in God's word, anchored among God's people.
- We have to constantly be assessing where we are.
- Search me and know my heart, the psalmist said. We need God's help.
- We have to keep tuning in to the right channel. Keep doing the next right thing, first things first.

THE CHALLENGE

Where are we going to be in 12 months? I do know this. We need to start right now and make sure we're on the right path.

MY NOTES