

The Gospel, 1844 and Judgment Lesson 3 3Q 2006

Daniel 2

SABBATH

Read memory text – what type of kingdom will God set up?

Daniel two was the dream of a statue, review the statue and its meaning

SUNDAY

Read bottom paragraph – what about the idea that God is in control?

What CAN God control if He wants? Everything and everyone!

What DOES God control? Himself – anything else?

The forces of nature? Does God control these? Are the insurance companies right that when natural disasters strike they are acts of God?

"I was shown that the judgments of God would not come directly out from the Lord upon them, but in this way; They place themselves beyond His protection. He warns, corrects, reproveth, and points out the only path of safety; then if those who have been the objects of His special care will follow their own course, independent of the Spirit of God, after repeated warnings, if they choose their own way, then He does not commission His angels to prevent Satan's decided attacks upon them.

"It is Satan's power that is at work at sea and on land, bringing calamity and distress, and sweeping off multitudes to make sure of his prey, and storm and tempest both by sea and land will be, for Satan has come down in great wrath. He is at work. He knows his time is short and, he is not restrained; we shall see more terrible manifestations of his great power than we have ever dreamed of."

Manuscript Release vol. 14, p. 3

What about the 3 ½ years of draught during the time of Elijah? Who was that from? And then when the rain came? What about when Christ said peace be still? Did God bring the storm? Did God make it go away? Does God micromanage everything that happens or does He choose select places to intervene? Does He control every molecule that moves by Divine choice or does He create the principles and provide freedom for His intelligent creatures to

operate within and He intervenes selectively according to His knowledge of what is best for His creatures?

What about governments? Does He set up governments? All of them? Some of them? Did He set up the nation of Israel in ancient times? What about the others? Did He set them up? What about when Nimrod set up his kingdom?

Do such prophecies as Daniel 2 reveal a controlling God who is manipulating and micromanaging everything the way He wants it to go OR do they reveal a God who provides real freedom and even when His creatures rebel He knows their choices, He knows the future, nothing catches Him by surprise and He is constantly there to work for the restoration and healing of His creation? And that when necessary He can and will intervene to protect His children?

Is it God who moves on an earthly king and causes them to go to war and kill and rape and pillage and destroy? Or is it that God doesn't intervene to prevent such activities and Satan is the instigator of war and violence?

Did Babylonia have to give way to Media-Persia because God prophesied it and now God must make sure it would happen this way or did God provide the prophesy of what His foreknowledge saw would happen?

Do prophecies like Daniel help us understand God more fully? Does it give us insights into God's ability to know our choices before we make them? What difference does it make if God knows or doesn't know our choices before we make them?

TUESDAY

What is the significance of Rome in the Bible? What Bible texts refer to Rome? Daniel 2, Daniel 7, Revelation 13 – and how is Rome described in these passages? As persecuting the saints, as blaspheming against God, as changing times and laws, bringing the place of God's sanctuary low. And why does the Bible speak so badly against Rome? Because the system misrepresents God, His character methods and principles and obscures God's plan to heal and restore. It actually replaces the truth about God's character with the qualities of Satan's character.

When you think of rising and falling of kingdoms, what is typically involved? War, and what type of war? With military arms and physical fighting. But what about the fourth kingdom, while it started out its

warfare that way, is its most deadly warfare one like men on earth fight or is there another aspect to this warfare? What?

How is the warfare between Christ and Satan fought? Is it a battle over might and power? What is it over? Truth, Love, Freedom, Righteousness versus lies, selfishness, coercions and control and wickedness. This is a battle in the hearts and minds of God's intelligent creatures.

Are there many Christian people who look for the final battle between Christ and Satan and their forces to be a military one fought on a plain in Palestine? Is there danger in this approach? What?

In the teacher's guide on Tuesday is the following comment: "For more than one hundred forty years the Seventh-day Adventist evangelistic meetings have featured, as their opening night's lecture, a survey of Nebuchadnezzar's dream of Daniel 2. This often includes a discussion of end-time events, the Second Coming, and God's control of history. Does this message still impress modern listeners? Which aspect of this amazing prophecy do you find most compelling? Most comforting?"

Thoughts? What do you think about the current method of evangelism? Is the message which we are taking to the world by focusing on the images and the beasts the message of present truth to prepare a world for God's return? Is there a better way to evangelize and if so what?

"It is the darkness of misapprehension of God that is enshrouding the world. Men are losing their knowledge of His character. It has been misunderstood and misinterpreted. At this time a message from God is to be proclaimed, a message illuminating in its influence and saving in its power. His character is to be made known. Into the darkness of the world is to be shed the light of His glory, the light of His goodness, mercy and truth...The last rays of merciful light, the last message of mercy to be given to the world, is the revelation of His character of love." Christ's Object Lessons, p.415

Thoughts on how to include this emphasis in creating an evangelistic program? What obstacles do you see to this approach? Is it necessary to make everyone an SDA to evangelize?

WEDNESDAY

Bottom green – read – thought? What is the purpose of apocalyptic prophecy? Is it to enable us to know the future? Is it for us to prepare and set dates and times? What is it for? Is it to instill faith and confidence in God that nothing catches Him by surprise?