**THE ONLY KINGDOM**

**THAT WILL STILL BE STANDING**

**Daniel 2:1-49**

* *“So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”* (Colossians 3:1-2)
* *“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.”* (Romans 12:1-2)

**THE BIG IDEA: The kingdoms of this world will all pass away, but the Kingdom of God will last stand for eternity.**

**SOMETIMES GOD ALLOWS IMPOSSIBLE SITUATIONS TO REVEAL HIS POWER AND GLORY**

* *“’The Chaldeans answered the king, ‘No one on earth can make known what the king requests. Consequently, no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked anything like this of any magician, medium, or Chaldean. 11 What the king is asking is so difficult that no one can make it known to him except the gods, whose dwelling is not with mortals.’ 12 Because of this, the king became violently angry and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13 The decree was issued that the wise men were to be executed, and they searched for Daniel and his friends, to execute them.”* (Daniel 2:11-13)
* **In a world where “belief in self” is repeatedly reinforced, we may find ourselves in humanly impossible situations that have been divinely orchestrated by God Himself for His purposes.**
* *“But Joseph said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people.’”* (Genesis 50:19-20)
* **Difficult situations in life are not always “the devil” attacking us; sometimes God is working out His divine plans and purposes, even through the evil actions of others.**

**OUR RESPONSE TO THE IMPOSSIBLE SHOULD BE PRAYER AND PRAISE**

* *“Then Daniel went to his house and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah about the matter, 18 urging them to ask the God of the heavens for mercy concerning this mystery, so Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of Babylon’s wise men. 19 The mystery was then revealed to Daniel in a vision at night, and Daniel praised the God of the heavens 20 and declared:*

*‘May the name of God be praised forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to him. 21 He changes the times and seasons; he removes kings and establishes kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. 22 He reveals the deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and light dwells with him. 23 I offer thanks and praise to you, God of my ancestors, because you have given me wisdom and power. And now you have let me know what we asked of you, for you have let us know the king’s mystery.’”* (Daniel 2:17-23)

* **It is only when we come to the end of our self-sufficiency and lean completely on God that we are able to see the supernatural hand of God at work in our situation.**
* *“Rejoice always, 17 pray constantly, 18 give thanks in everything; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)
* **Prayer and praise should not contingent on *how* God responds, but *who* He is.**
* *“I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”* (Psalm 34:1)

**CHRIST IS THE CORNERSTONE OF THE ONLY KINGDOM THAT WILL LAST FOR ETERNITY: THE KINGDOM OF GOD**

* *“In the days of those kings, the God of the heavens will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, and this kingdom will not be left to another people. It will crush all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, but will itself endure forever. 45 You saw a stone break off from the mountain without a hand touching it, and it crushed the iron, bronze, fired clay, silver, and gold. The great God has told the king what will happen in the future. The dream is certain, and its interpretation reliable.”* (Daniel 2:44-45)
* **We don’t put our hope in earthly kingdoms or rulers because we know the only Kingdom that will still be standing in the end is God’s Kingdom built on the Rock of Jesus!**

**FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF GOD WILL BE REWARDED**

* *“Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell facedown, worshiped Daniel, and gave orders to present an offering and incense to him. 47 The king said to Daniel, ‘Your God is indeed God of gods, Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, since you were able to reveal this mystery.’ 48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many generous gifts. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and chief governor over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 At Daniel’s request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to manage the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king’s court.”* (Daniel 2:46-49)
* **God can cause even the fiercest of enemies to honor and bless His children when they are faithful to Him.**
* *“Because he has his heart set on me, I will deliver him; I will protect him because he knows my name. 15 When he calls out to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will rescue him and give him honor.”* (Psalm 91:14-15)
* **Whether in the here and now, or in the hereafter of this life, God always rewards His children!**
* *“What no eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived—God has prepared these things for those who love him.”* (1 Corinthians 2:9)

**Connect Group Discussion**

**Understanding:**

* What does Daniel 2:1-49 teach us about God/Jesus?
* Why did the king not tell the “wise” men what his dream was?
* How did Daniel come to know and interpret the king’s dream?
* What is the main message of Daniel 2:1-49?

**Digging Deeper:**

* Share about a time when you were in what seemed to be an “impossible” situation. How might, or did, God use that situation for your good and His glory?
* Share some incorrect ways of dealing with “impossible” situations. What do these incorrect responses reveal about our heart? Our faith?
* When you face difficult situations, what role does prayer have in your response to the difficult situation?
* Why does God allow people to rise to leadership and high ranks? What responsibilities come with those positions?
* Every Christian is a leader. In what ways should you steward your “leadership” in your daily life?
* What do you need to do differently as a result of this study?

**Loving Outward:**

* Who do you need to share the gospel with this week?
* Who do you need to follow-up with regarding the gospel?
* Who are you bringing to church next Sunday?

If you are not in a Connect Group and would like to get connected to grow in your relationship with God and others, contact the church office at 225-272-3740, and we can help find a group that fits your schedule.