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In the King's Court, Daniel 2:24-45

By Aaron Shamp

Introduction

- How do you live in a culture opposed to your faith?

The Judean in the Court

- Let's begin by taking note of Daniel's two names in the court (26).
 - Daniel's name was Hebrew, meaning "God is my judge." His Babylonian name was *Belteshazzar*, meaning "Bel is my god."
 - What is Daniel doing there? Neb had defeated Judah and took 10,000 of their leaders back to turn them into Babylonians.
 - However, we know that it was part of God's plan for them to live in this pagan city (Jeremiah 28-29).
 - God wants them to learn that their only options aren't assimilation or separation.
 - He has a plan for them and for the pagans. He tells them to seek the peace and prosperity of the place they are living.
 - Therefore, Daniel mastered the material in his Babylonian education, yet retained his biblical worldview.
 - This isn't easy to do, but you should be wrestling with the practical questions of how these things work out in your specific vocation.
- "I am not praying that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world... 18 As you sent me into the world, I also have sent them into the world." -- John 17:15-16, 18

The Kingdoms of Clay

- Neb essentially knows the meaning of the dream, which is why he's freaking out. He can't quite articulate it.
 - He had a dream to build his own kingdom... many of us have dazzling dreams for our own kingdoms too.
 - Whatever we build our kingdoms upon are fragile and will be destroyed.
 - "Therefore, if you want to understand what it means to be a Christian in a non-Christian world, look at your foundations. Don't just look at what rules you're breaking or not breaking. Look at the foundations. Ask those basic questions. Why are you doing it?"
 - Every kingdom of man will pass away. Daniel's boldness to the king.
- Whatever you build the kingdom of your life upon will crumble. Our message to the kingdom of man.

The Everlasting Kingdom

- First of all, the rock is the kingdom of God. It is not cut out with human hands. It's completely supernatural.
- Secondly, the rock is the least valuable substance in the dream.
- Third, the rock grows into a huge mountain.
- Secularism gives you no certainty. There's no reason for morality or character without God. Practicality? Feel good?
 - The gospel gives us certainty in the truth.
- The kingdom is already but not yet. That means that churches hold an element of this truth.
 - You'll never find the ultimate church because they all hold an element of the not yet. But if you don't ever commit to an imperfect church you won't experience the already either.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of all these points.
 - He's God and man. He's the glorious king made of gold from top to bottom. He's the rock that the builders rejected.

- The tyrant's nightmare is the believer's hope.
- We pray "Thy kingdom come!"

Conclusion

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End Notes