

DIVINE WARNING

Daniel 4:1-18



SYNOPSIS

This past Sunday, we continued on in our Daniel series as we are faced with a second dream that King Nebuchadnezzar has. This dream deeply troubles him and sets off an alarm in his spirit. We see how God has sent this dream to warn King Nebuchadnezzar of the coming judgment upon him. We see the mercy of God that alarms us, particularly when we are headed the wrong direction. Sometimes it may come in the form of a dreams or sometimes it comes during our times of prayer. Often times, it comes from the community around us, the body of Christ that lovingly corrects and rebukes us. It may be uncomfortable at the moment, but is truly the mercy of God.

As we continue on in the dream, we see how God lays out requirements for nations - to do what is good and just. Because of these requirements, there are natural and supernatural consequences for the actions of nations. There are divine blessings and divine curses that nations can reap, and though we may not know how the nations are judged, we see throughout scripture that God does in fact judge the nations.

Finally, we see the danger of pride that ultimately leads to the fall of Nebuchadnezzar. Few of us may identify with the position of Nebuchadnezzar, but all of us should heed the warning of a haughty spirit that he possesses.



OUTLINE

1

THE MERCY OF GOD THAT ALARMS US

As God shines His light in the dark areas of our lives, let's welcome the correction, the rebuke, the alarm of God - trusting that it is the mercy of God that means to lead us to repentance. God will give us adequate warning, but the question is will we have ears to hear it?

2

ROLE OF NATIONS

Just as individuals are responsible for the fruit that they bear, nations will also stand before the judgment seat of God. As individuals in these nations, our role is to be salt and light - to seek the prosperity of the nation we are in. We are meant to act justly and propel our nation towards righteousness, taking it upon ourselves to be faithful intercessors.

3

DANGER OF PRIDE

Pride is much more difficult to discern than any other corruption because we can often justify what we think about ourselves. Scriptures make it clear that God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Let's be willing to come to God in humility and allow Him to search our hearts and make our offensive ways known.



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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

Icebreaker: What's the most obnoxious alarm sound you've heard before? (Feel free to play it for the group)

2

What are ways that God sounds "alarms" in your life? People, dreams, God's word, etc. Share an example.

3

Do we welcome the rebuke or correction of God in our life? How do you typically react to those moments?

4

How do you perceive your role in society? Something you feel strongly about? Removed from? How can you be more engaged?

5

Knowing that our role matters within our nation, how might that change the way we live our lives as believers?

6

What is one area you need to be careful of allowing pride to creep into your life?



BIG IDEA

King Nebuchadnezzar's second dream is one of a warning - seemingly pointing to an 'ego check' that is coming down the line. Through this dream, we see that God alarms us when we go wayward out of his great mercy. We also see how God may be patient and long-suffering, but He is also a judge (that not only judges individuals, but nations). May we be people that humbly seek Him, inviting Him to search our hearts so that we may walk in the grace He gives to us.