

Thriving in Babylon
Recognizing God Rules
Daniel 1:1-2

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / Feb. 25, 2018

I. The Book of Daniel Is First and Foremost about God – and His Sovereign Rule Over All of History!

The main character of the book of Daniel is God from start to finish.

II. The Book of Daniel Is Very Practical for the World We're Living in Today as Christians

A. Don't Let Your Joy or Hope Ever Ride on Any Political Leader – Because They Are Always Coming and Going

Despite political preferences, as Christians our hope should be fixed on someone greater, outside this world, who rules with unlimited terms, and cannot be voted out.

During a time of political unrest there's a temptation to place over-exaggerated emphasis on human leadership, as if everything that matter most rides on that.

Daniel reminds us that we have an Almighty God who's in charge of this universe, including the United States, and He's sovereign over every single thing that's happening.

No matter how dark things appear on the surface, no human kingdom can ever thwart the sovereign plan and purpose of our Almighty God.

Whether you lean left, right, or somewhere in the middle, the book of Daniel repeatedly brings back into focus God's eternal plan over history and His unshakeable Kingdom.

B. Don't Keep Expecting to Be Treated Well Here – Because You're Not Home Yet

III. The Book of Daniel Is Filled with Prophecy that Can Feed Your Faith

IV. The Book of Daniel Has Some Personal Applications that We Better Get a Hold of as Christians Here in America

In this fallen, broken world many of us are in the midst of something painful and confusing or live with some burden, pressure, or sorrow that we'd like resolved.

If you'll listen well to the people around you and if you read your Bible carefully, you'll see that most of us are either in the midst of a trial, coming out of a trial, or heading into one.

In **Matthew 6**, Jesus spoke to the early Christians who were living in the midst of a brutal Roman Empire and had some of the same fears that we do today.

Matthew 6:25-34 ²⁵ “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ... ³¹ “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² ... For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things... ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”

What is your trouble today? Has your faith been shaken by something outside of your control and you’ve felt fear and worry wrap themselves around your heart?

The book of Daniel can help us as we remember that God is sovereign and in control of all things.