



From Our Vicar

Rev. Wayne Walters

'Faith Under Trial' - Part 1

Daniel Chapter 2

On Wednesday, Bishop Paul expounded Daniel chapter 2, the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and the interpretation given by God to Daniel for the king.

The thrust of the whole story was to impress on the king that it is God who sets up and brings down rulers. Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful man in the world at that time in terms of the nations and resources under his absolute command.

In the face of the king's command that all the wise men, magicians, enchanters and astrologers be killed because they could not tell the king his dream, Daniel showed no fear but spoke with wisdom and tact. He asked the commander sent to execute them why the king had issued such a harsh decree.

Daniel then asked the king for some time and urged his friends to plead to God for mercy so that their lives and the lives of all the other wise men be spared.

God revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel. The lesson drawn was that the kingdoms of this world are all flawed, and none will last forever. It is only God's kingdom that lasts forever.

Many people are distressed and fearful at current world events. The bishop admitted that he is distressed, but not fearful. Many nations are going through elections at this time and their results can either increase or decrease instability. We are to pray for leaders and nations for stability, so that people may live peaceably, and the gospel be freely shared (1Tim 2:1-4). But also, we can pray that in unstable times people will turn to God, where true stability lies. God is the one we are to hold in awe and reverence, so that we are not shaken by the changing fortunes and evil in the world.

Daniel's life of prayer and his refusal to take credit himself, but always point the king to God, is instructive for us. How 'big' is the God we pray to? How solid is our trust that he can unravel the knottiest of problems and bring about a good result, whether in world affairs, the church or our families. We are to pray to the God of heaven who is both merciful and powerful, trusting that the expectant, fervent and persistent prayer of God's people has great effect. James 5:16b.

Next week: Daniel 6 - Daniel in the Lions' Den.

Wayne