

Sermon Series: Daniel: Christ Among the Exiles

Sermon Text: Daniel 5:1-31 Feast of Sacrilege

God requires the rulers of earth to promote Christ's honor among the nations.

1) Royal pride leads to the dishonoring of Christ (5:1-4).

- a) Royal Pride:
 - i) Feasting when he should have been fasting (5:1)—city is under siege by Cyrus
 - ii) Profaning sacred vessels (5:2-3)
 - iii) Idolatrous blasphemy of the God of Israel (5:4)
 - iv) Rejection of piety of Nebuchadnezzar (1:2)
- b) Dishonoring Christ:
 - i) Vessels from the temple in Jerusalem, the house of God in Jerusalem (5:2-3)
 - ii) Temple building and instruments typified incarnation (John 1:14)
 - iii) Temple sacrificial system typified passion of Christ (Hebrews 9-10)
 - iv) Temple vessels typified Lord's Supper as the feast of communion with Christ in His passion (Deut. 12:5-7; 16:7; Matt. 26:27-28)
- c) **Application:** Third Commandment; warning against "royal pride"

2) God condemns authorities who impenitently dishonor Christ (5:5-29).

- a) Christophany=preincarnate appearance of Christ
 - i) Christophany in judgment (5:5)
 - ii) Christ undoes Belshazzar (5:6)
- b) Prophecy
 - i) Inability of wise men (5:7-9); Queen commends Daniel (5:10-12); Belshazzar insults & consults him (5:13-16)
 - ii) Daniel Prophecies against Belshazzar (5:17-28)
 - (1) He refuses the rewards of the king (5:17a), but agrees to interpret (5:17b)
 - (2) He rebukes Belshazzar (5:18-23)
 - (3) He interprets the writing from God (5:24-28)
 - (a) Mene-God has numbered the days of your kingdom and brought it to an end
 - (b) Tekel-you have been weighed in the balances and been found wanting
 - (c) Peres-your kingdom is divided and given to the Medes and the Persians
 - iii) Daniel promoted to third in the kingdom (5:29)
- c) **Application:**
 - i) God is not mocked.
 - ii) Christ holds those in authority responsible for their influence on others.
 - iii) The Father vindicates Christ and condemns those who dishonor Him.

3) Christ will execute God's sentence of condemnation against impenitent blasphemers (5:30-31).

- a) The Fall of Babylon/Belshazzar
 - i) Belshazzar was killed
 - ii) Darius the Mede (Cyrus) received the kingdom
- b) **Application:**
 - i) Judgments against nations and rulers within history and final judgment (Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 19:19)
 - ii) Comfort of vindication (Rev. 6:9-11) and call to public witness to hostile nations (Rev. 11:1-14)
 - iii) Separation of the powers of Church and State; not separation of Christ from the State

God requires the rulers of earth to honor Christ among the nations.

Doxology: Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples! For great is His steadfast love towards us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD! (Psalm 117)