

February 12, 2017

It's Love

### DANIEL 2:25-49

If the metals in the statue stand for Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian successors, one might infer that the stone falling from nowhere might be Cyrus, God's means of putting Babylon down. His empire will indeed last for way longer than the Babylonian Empire, but it will be just another human empire, and Daniel's talk of a regime that lasts forever and never gives way to another suggests that the vision has in mind something more radical. "The time of those kings" will turn out to cover more than the Babylonians; it covers the Persians, the Greeks, and the Romans, and the Turks and the British and the Americans. God did assert His kingship through Cyrus, the agent through who the temple in Jerusalem was rebuilt and Judah gained a measure of independent life. God did later assert His Kingship in Jesus. Other empires have continued, but they all have feet of clay - John Goldingay (2016).

**Blessing Babylon:** A job is a vocation only if someone else calls you to do it for them rather than for yourself. Our work can be a calling only if it is reimagined as a mission of service to something beyond merely our own interests. Thinking of work mainly as a means of self-fulfillment and self-realization slowly crushes a person - Timothy Keller (2012).

O God, the Father of all, Whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us—from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us—from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in Your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *(From the Book of Common Prayer)*

**Next week:** *Ezra - the return home.*

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# THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

Daniel served Babylon well, but served God first.

Relationship with God brings love, not fear.

Empires come and go but God's kingdom lasts.

God's love gives strength to endure adversity.

God's love helps us serve others.

When we trust God's love, we are available.

Daniel gave God praise. Daniel 2:27-30

God received the credit, not Daniel.

Am I tempted to take credit for God's work?

How can we serve our culture without compromise?

Who will experience God's love through us today?

God loves our enemies. How will they know?

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