

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

**TIMES OF SERVICES:**

*Sunday*  
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.  
 Worship ..... 10:00 A.M.  
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

*Wednesday:*  
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



*Weekly Bulletin*  
 July 2, 2023

**The Fascinating Book of Daniel**

*by Bryan Gibson*

Daniel certainly presents some challenges to our understanding, especially the latter six chapters, but consider just a few of the fascinating details provided in this book.

How about those four young Jewish men taken into Babylonian captivity, trained to serve in the court of an infidel king, the end game being to completely immerse them in the culture of the Chaldeans? Despite numerous temptations, these young men did not forget WHO they were and WHOSE they were—they did not forget the One whom they served. We will not defile ourselves (1:8); we will not bow before any other god (3:14-18); we will not stop praying to the one true God (6:10). Yes, they served well and they served respectfully, but they did not compromise their commitment to God.

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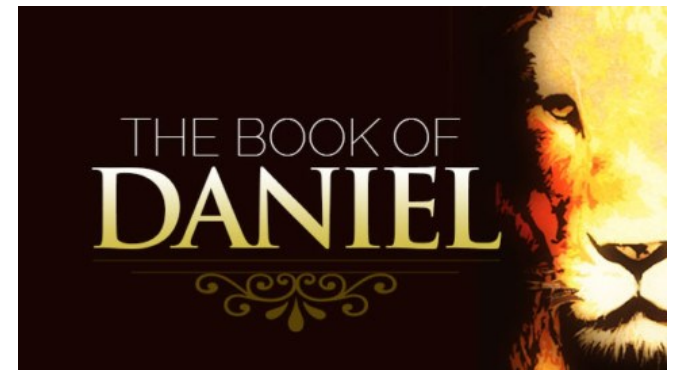
Think about the unlikelihood of an unbeliever like Nebuchadnezzar offering praise to the one true and living God, and yet that's exactly what he does in 2:47, and again in 4:34-35, 37. Later, when Daniel served under Darius the Mede, this unbeliever issued a kingdom wide edict exalting God (6:25-27). How could they NOT say such things, when they had come face to face with the wisdom and power of God! No, these men did not turn from their idols—they were not converted, but think about the potential impact these words of praise had on others, how these words helped spread the knowledge of God. How great is our God, that He could use even unbelievers to lead others to Him.

The kingdoms of men, they aren't built to last—Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome—Daniel foretells the rise and/or fall of all four kingdoms. Daniel foretells, though, the rise of another kingdom, one completely different than the kingdoms of men. Established in the days of the Roman Empire, this kingdom would be built “without hands,” established without force, and yet so powerful that no force could ever destroy it (2:44-45; 7:13-14). There's no better place to be, no more secure place, than in the kingdom of God.

Daniel also foretells the rise of certain kings within these empires, kings who would persecute God's people, kings who would stand in opposition to God and the establishment of His kingdom. Think God will stand for that? Not on

your life! “Through his cunning he shall cause deceit to prosper...shall exalt himself in his heart...destroy many in their prosperity. He shall even rise against the Prince of princes; **but he shall be broken without human means**” (8:25). “He shall speak pompous words against the Most High, shall persecute the saints of the Most High...but the court shall be seated, and **they shall take away his dominion, to consume and destroy it forever**” (7:25-26).

Of all the persons described in the Book of Daniel, the One who stands



above them all, the One with whom we're most impressed, is “God Most High.” Four times we hear the words, “The Most High rules in the kingdoms of men” (4:17, 25, 32; 5:21), a point powerfully illustrated throughout this fascinating book. But He doesn't just rule in the kingdoms of men, He rules in the lives of His servants, too! Just ask Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego—they can testify that God rules over all for the benefit and care of His people.

