

**The Most High God**  
**Ruler of Heaven and Earth**

**The Sovereign of Babylon Meets**  
**the Sovereign God**

**Daniel 4**  
**Lesson 4**

*Trinity Bible Church Sunday School*  
*June 22, 2014*

# Why did God create the heavens and the earth?

- ▶ An eternal holy kingdom for Christ on earth
  - Revelation 11:15
  - Isaiah 9:6-7
- ▶ Revelation of God the Creator and Savior
  - Revelation 4:11; 5:9-14
  - John 17:4
- ▶ Christ is the Sovereign King and the Lamb

# Daniel in historical context

- ▶ The fall of Jerusalem (605 B.C.)
- ▶ Hebrews 13:20-21 – the Everlasting Covenant
- ▶ Genesis 3:15 – the Seed of the woman
- ▶ Genesis 9:8-17 – man, animals, the earth
- ▶ Genesis 12:1-3, 7 – blessing, great nation, all nations, the Seed
- ▶ 2 Samuel 7; 23:5 – eternal kingdom of David

# Daniel and the Course of History

- ▶ Daniel 2 – outline of world history
- ▶ Gold – Babylon
- ▶ Silver – Medes and Persians
- ▶ Bronze – Greek
- ▶ Iron – Roman
  - Iron mixed with clay
  - 10 final kings
- ▶ Everlasting Kingdom

# Lessons from Daniel

- ▶ The sovereignty of God
- ▶ The believer in a sinful world
- ▶ The coming Son of Man

# Outline of Daniel

- ▶ Daniel 1 – Resolve not to be defiled
- ▶ Daniel 2-7 (Aramaic section) – the course of world history with Gentile rule
- ▶ Daniel 8-12 – the place of the holy people (7:27) and the Beautiful Land (8:9)

# Daniel 2-7 – Aramaic/Chiasm

- 4 Gentile Kingdoms (2)
  - Deliverance from Gentile wrath (3)
    - Gentile rule under the Sovereign God (4)
    - Gentile rule under the Sovereign God (5)
  - Deliverance from Gentile wrath (6)
- 4 Gentile Kingdoms (7)

# Daniel 4

- ▶ The golden age of world history
- ▶ The most sovereign of the rulers
- ▶ A counterfeit kingdom
- ▶ The absolute Sovereignty of God



# **Nebuchadnezzar – God’s agent (4:1-3)**

- ▶ Claims high honor on the earth
- ▶ Tells of God’s signs and wonders done for him
- ▶ Proclaims God’s power and sovereignty
- ▶ Philippians 2:9-11 – all will confess Christ

# **A fearful dream to a man at ease (4:4-9)**

- ▶ The power of God's Word
- ▶ The mystery of God's Word
- ▶ Daniel – God's minister

# Nebuchadnezzar's dream (4:10-18)

## ▶ The tree

- Ezekiel 31:1-14 – Assyria
- Matt 13:31-32 – Kingdom of Heaven

## ▶ The watcher

- Cut down the tree
- Leave the stump
- A man with the mind of a beast for 7 periods of time

## ▶ Most High rules over the realm of mankind

- Bestows on it whom he wishes
- Sets over it the lowliest of men – lowliest of station
- Double meaning: Nebuchadnezzar or Christ (Phil 2)

# Daniel's Interpretation (4:19-27)

- ▶ Daniel's compassion for Nebuchadnezzar
- ▶ The tree is Nebuchadnezzar
- ▶ Insanity for 7 times (years) – until lesson learned
- ▶ A call to repentance

# **Nebuchadnezzar's Humiliation (4:28-36)**

- ▶ Ignored the dream
- ▶ A voice from heaven
- ▶ Insanity – a hopeless estate
- ▶ Rescue – sovereign grace

# The new Nebuchadnezzar

- ▶ Blessed, praised and honored the eternal God
- ▶ Acknowledged God's rule and Kingdom
- ▶ Insignificance of inhabitants of the earth
- ▶ Absolute sovereignty
- ▶ Praise, exalt and honor the King of heaven
  - All His works are true and just
  - Able to humble the proud

# The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind

- ▶ Embracing the Sovereign God
  - “No one can ward off His hand, or say to Him what have you done?”
- ▶ The next step:
  - We praise, exalt and honor Him for the way that He leads us
  - We believe all His works are true and His ways are just