

A King Listens to the Prophet

Daniel 2:27-28

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. 28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.

Every good leader will have advisors to help him make proper decisions.

Prov 1:5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel,

Pr 11:14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

But there is also the danger of listening to unsound or evil counsel.

Isaiah 19:11 (NKJV) 11 Surely the princes of Zoan are fools; Pharaoh's wise counselors give foolish counsel. How do you say to Pharaoh, "I am the son of the wise, The son of ancient kings?"

The Bible is filled with instances of kings listening to the prophet or not listening to the prophet.

In our story today, Nebuchadnezzar has had a dream. He does not understand it so he calls all of his counselors together to find out the meaning of the dream. The catch is that he does not tell them the dream. They are to tell him the dream and its meaning.

Of course no one can do this and they tell the king that it is an unreasonable thing that the king asks of them. This enrages the king and he commands that all his counselors are to be put to death.

When Daniel hears of this he asks for time to understand the dream. He and his friends pray all night and God gives Daniel the answer. Then Daniel comes to the king to tell the king what he desires.

But first he reminds the king that all his other counselors cannot tell the dream or its interpretation, But there is a God in heaven.

Daniel does not take the credit to himself but gives that where it is due, to God.

- I. Daniel was invaluable to the government that he was a part of.
 - A. Not because he was wise.
 1. But because he was one of God's children and God had given him a godly wisdom that was 10 times better than the world's best.
 2. God gives a special understanding to His children who seek it.
 3. James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. NKJV

4. 2 Tim 2:7 Consider what I say, and may the Lord give you understanding in all things. NKJV
5. 1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life. NKJV

B. The government of Belshazzar ignored the advise of Daniel and suffered the consequences.

1. After Nebuchadnezzar's death his son took over, but left the ruling of the nation to his son, Belshazzar.
2. Daniel chapter 5 tells the sad story of his sin and his demise because he rejected to the counsel that God had provided through Daniel to his grandfather.
3. Dan 5:18-24 18 O king, the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor. 19 And because of the majesty that He gave him, all peoples, nations, and languages trembled and feared before him. Whomever he wished, he executed; whomever he wished, he kept alive; whomever he wished, he set up; and whomever he wished, he put down. 20 But when his heart was lifted up, and his spirit was hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him. 21 Then he was driven from the sons of men, his heart was made like the beasts, and his dwelling was with the wild donkeys. They fed him with grass like oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till he knew that the Most High God rules in the kingdom of men, and appoints over it whomever He chooses. 22 "But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. 23 And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified. NKJV
4. Dan 5:30-31 That very night Belshazzar, king of the Chaldeans, was slain. 31 And Darius the Mede received the kingdom, being about sixty-two years old. NKJV

C. Under the Persians, Daniel became the ruler second only to the king.

II. Government needs godly Christians to be in it and give counsel to our leaders.

A. It was so in the beginning of this nation.

1. The most influential group in the early colonies was its clergy.
2. They preached to all classes and they were the ones who set the tone for

the idea of freedom and a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

a. John Wycliffe wrote in the General Prologue of his 1384 translation of the Bible: The Bible is for the Government of the People, by the People, and for the People. Federer, W. J. (2001). Great Quotations

3. The Christian influence in America was so great that it permeates our constitution and everything else.

4. In the writings of the founders of this nation, the most quoted work was the Bible.

III. Many times the prophets had an adversarial relationship with the king.

A. Samuel and Saul

B. Nathan and David

C. Ahab and Elijah

D. Ahaz and Isaiah

E. So it is today.

1. Billy Graham has counseled every President since Harry Truman.

2. But in 2012 he and his organizations were targeted by the IRS for an audit, simply because they were saying things that the present administration does not like.

F. Ps 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, And all the nations that forget God.
NKJV