



THIS IS WHAT THE LORD SAYS WEEK TWO

Bible Reading

Daniel 2

In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

Psalms 100:5

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Mark 1:15

"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Observation questions

1. In Daniel 2, what makes Nebuchadnezzar's demand of the wise men impossible and dangerous?
2. What three actions does Daniel take after receiving time from the king, and in what order does he take them?
3. Whose lives does Daniel want God to spare as he and his friends pray for mercy, and what does this show about Daniel's concern for others?
4. What does the statue and the stone in Nebuchadnezzar's dream reveal about the future of earthly kingdoms and God's kingdom?

Interpretation questions

1. Daniel responds to a real death threat with wisdom and tact rather than panic or outrage. What does this suggest about the kind of strength God gives his people in fearful situations?
2. Daniel gives God credit before Nebuchadnezzar for revealing the mystery. Why would it matter that Daniel points to God rather than presenting himself as wiser than the other advisors?
3. Daniel seeks mercy for people whose spiritual practices oppose God. How does this shape the way believers can take evil seriously without treating people as nothing more than enemies?
4. Jesus announces that God's kingdom has come near, while its full completion still awaits his return. How can this "already and not yet" reality give hope without pretending that present troubles do not matter?

Application questions

1. Which emotion tends to rise up most often when you encounter cultural conflict— anxiety, anger, exhaustion, or isolation? What might that emotion reveal about where you have been looking for hope?
2. Think of a recent conversation, post, or news story that made you reactive. What might it look like to pause, pray, and praise God before responding to it or talking about it with someone else?
3. Is there a person you have begun to see mainly as a problem, opponent, or label? How might remembering that this person bears God's image and is sustained by God's grace change the way you speak about or to them?
4. Where are you most tempted to place ultimate hope—in a political leader, policy, nation, financial security, reputation, or your own ability to control outcomes? What would it look like this week to place that hope back in God's lasting kingdom?
5. Daniel did not face the crisis alone; he called his friends to seek God's mercy with him. Who could you invite into honest prayer when anxiety or anger begins to take over?
6. What is one practical change you could make with your screen time this week so that fear or outrage is replaced with space for prayer, praise, and attention to God?