**Gifts of God**

***46****Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him.****47****The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”****48****Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.****49****Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court. (Daniel 2:46-49)*

For us believers, it is incredibly important that we praise God as the Giver of gifts. May the Lord bless you dearly beloved as we continue to see the Lord’s blessings through each passage that we examine in the prophecy of Daniel (the whole book, that is). Today we’re going to focus on King Nebuchadnezzar’s behavior towards Daniel, specifically once Daniel had said to the king both what the dream was and what it meant. Hopefully you will see that both the king and Daniel gave praise to the same Person, the True God. It is my hope that their attitudes will be an example and an inspiration to us when we need to respond to God’s miracles in our respective journeys of faith. Again, our theme is that it is important to praise and to recognize the True Gift-Giver, the Lord God (of the Bible). Let’s take a few minutes and go deeper into the topic…

God gives gifts, and our calling is to be thankful to Him and praise Him in response. As we had mentioned last time, the prophet Daniel was going through quite a difficult time while in exile in Babylon. He and his three friends had been in such dire straits that if God had not intervened with the miraculous revelation of the king’s dream, they would have been executed along with many others by the king’s order. That intervention happened exactly as needed, which lead to the events of the passage above.

So, what did the king do? He fell on his face – but why? Many have misunderstood this act and have tried to reinterpret or even discredit the validity of the Scripture. Some thought that the king was worshipping Daniel himself, but this is not the case, and the proof is in the king’s words, in which he said that Daniel’s God was the greatest God. We know from verses prior to today’s reading that Daniel’s attitude and words were very consistent with a devoted faith in God, and that he would have in no way accepted any form of worship or semi-worshipful veneration – because he wouldn’t want to steal the glory that belongs to God. The king recognized that the God of Israel was the greatest god. However, he still did not believe that there was only one True God. In other words, God showed His power both to a believer and an unbeliever, and both recognized God within the event, each according to their faith, as the Giver of Gifts.

This is like when kids open their presents on Christmas and they go to kiss someone and thank them, but that person turns out not to be the giver of the gift. They need to go to the right person and kiss them.

We also, need to go and kiss the right Person and worship God. We may have extraordinary wisdom, and yes, sometimes the one with no faith or weak faith around us is going to praise us and only give partial glory to God, or not. However, we as God’s free people have a calling to be thankful for our gifts. We’re called to praise God through both our works and words. One without the other remains incomplete. Yes, the deeds are important, but the right prayer, the right declaration, and the right spiritual expression shows our hearers the truth and trains our own self up into greater Godliness and humility.

May God give us the heart to be able to do His will and to let Him get the glory.

The Lord Bless you all. Amen.