

Pastor Ron Case
8/7/11

“Lessons from Nebuchadnezzar” (8)

“Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!” (Psalm 80:3)

Lesson #8: God is into Restoration

Daniel 4:24-26, 36 – (24) “this is the interpretation, O king: It is a decree of the Most High, which has come upon my lord the king, (25) that you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. You shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and you shall be wet with the dew of heaven, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, till you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will. (26) And as it was commanded to leave the stump of the roots of the tree, your kingdom shall be confirmed for you from the time that you know that Heaven rules.’ (36) At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me.”

Key Point: God’s Restorations far exceeds our Devastations

Past Humiliation

Genesis 41:51-52 – (51) “Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh. ‘For,’ he said, ‘God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.’ (52) The name of the second he called Ephraim, ‘For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.’”

Genesis 46:29 – “Then Joseph prepared his chariot and went up to meet Israel his father in Goshen. He presented himself to him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.”

Present Frustration

Isaiah 49:4, 6 – (4) “But I said, ‘I have labored in vain; I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my right is with the LORD, and my recompense with my God.’ (6) (God) says: ‘It is too light a thing that you should be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to bring back the preserved of Israel; I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.’”

Future Compensation

Mark

10:28-30 – (28) “Peter began to say to him, ‘See, we have left everything and followed you.’ (29) Jesus said, ‘Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, (30) who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life.’”

Response:

Believe

Psalm 27:13 – “I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!”

Be Patient

Psalm 27:14 – “Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”

Be Ready for Disproportionate Distributions

Job 42:10, 16-17 – (10) “And the LORD restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends. And the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before. (16) And after this Job lived 140 years, and saw his sons, and his sons’ sons, four generations. (17) And Job died, an old man, and full of days.”

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Is God a lavish rewarder? (Is. 60:14-20, 54:1; Eph. 3:20)

Am I angry and/or resentful over present afflictions and/or past ordeals, or do I see them as God-given opportunities for promotion?

Past Lessons:

Lesson #1: Ease Breeds Disease – 4/10/11

Lesson #2: Revelation – Response = Rough Treatment – 5/15/11

Lesson #3: Replace Evil with Goodness – 6/12/11

Lesson #4: The Influential do not Fall Alone – 6/19/11

Lesson #5: Without God I’m a *Driven Beast* – 6/26/11

Lesson #6: God is the Most High/I am ‘Most Low’ – 7/10/11 __

Lesson #7: Those who walk in *pride*, God will Humble – 7/17/11 __

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)