

*Welcome to the church of Christ at Alisal*

**Sermon for the Lord's Day  
"The Church at Thayatira" (2)**



**Worship today will be via Zoom @ 9:00am**

*Write and let us know if you would like an invitation.*

**Bible Class** -Jordan

**Hymn**- Kerry

**Opening Prayer** -Nito

**Hymn**- Kerry

**Lord's Supper** -Kerry

**Morning Lesson** -Paul

**Hymn** - Kerry

**Closing Prayer** -Jordan

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*... And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;...*

*2 Peter 1:5*

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***We are praying for you!***



*Our Lord's Day  
Plan...*

- Raymond Elliott** -for complete success for his hip replacement next week.
- Judy McCollum** - for safe traveling and a joyful visit with our family in Oregon.
- Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Inc.** - for continued help for those in need.
- Manuelito Navajo Children's Home** - for help and blessings as they serve the children.
- Don Blackwell** - for God's blessing on his new ministry position.

**We pray for all people to seek God and obey his commandments.**

**The Sovereignty of God**

Raymond Elliott

"God is the supreme authority and all things are under His control. God is claimed to be the "sovereign Lord of all by an incontestable right [as the] creator . . . owner and possessor of heaven and earth." This is one concise definition of God's sovereignty. God is infinite in His power and wisdom. He has the authority to do whatever He chooses. The sovereignty of God is one of the primary themes of the great book of Daniel as found in the Old Testament. This truth is found in the first five chapters of the book of Daniel.

In chapter 1:1,2, it is written, "And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his (Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon) hand, with some of the articles of the house of God..." in verse 9, we read, "Now God had brought Daniel into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs." None of these events happened by mere chance, it was Almighty God working in the lives and affairs of men for a purpose, and this will occur throughout the book of Daniel.

In chapter 2:17, 18, we learn that Daniel and his three Jewish friends sought God to reveal to them the disturbing dream that Nebuchadnezzar had. and its interpretation. In verse 19, we read, "Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven." In verses 20-23, Daniel, in his praise to God, mentioned that God "changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings..."

In chapter 3:28, 29, Daniel, in speaking to the king, said, "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, Your dream and the visions of your head upon your bed..." Daniel also informed the King that it was "the God of heaven" who had "given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory (v. 38). Because of what God had planned according to His great power, "the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all wise men of Babylon (v. 49). And Daniel had the king to appoint Shadrack, Meshach, and Abed-Ned-Nego to positions of authority in Babylon.

In King Nebuchadnezzar's praise of God he said, "I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. How great are His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, And His dominion is from generation to generation" (Daniel 4:1-3). Because of the arrogance and pride of Nebuchadnezzar, God sentenced him to "graze with the beasts on the grass of the earth", have a "heart of a beast, and let seven times pass over him" (vs.15,16). The reason for this action was that the king wanted him to learn, "In order that the living may know that the Most High rules in the kingdom of men, Gives it to whomever He will, and sets over it the lowest of men" (v. 17). This great truth is also emphasized in 4:32. In honoring and praising God, Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have you done?" (4:35).

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In chapter five, verse 1, Belshazzar “made a great feast for a thousand of his lords, and drank wine in the presence of the thousand.” He also had the “gold and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken from the temple which had been in Jerusalem, that the king and his lords, his wives, and concubines might drink from them” (v. 2). When they drank, they “praised the gods of gold and silver, bronze and iron, wood and stone” (v. 4). It was then that a hand appeared on the wall and wrote, “MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN” which being interpreted that he had been weighed in the balances of God and was found wanting. Not only that, His kingdom was to be given to Medes and Persians (vs. 25-28). Belshazzar had not heeded the lesson that his father had to learn, and that was, “the Most High God gave Nebuchadnezzar your father a kingdom and majesty, glory and honor” (v.18). Because Nebuchadnezzar’s “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” (v. 20). It was 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” (v. 21).

In the writings of the prophet Isaiah, we read these wonderful truths, “Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure” (ESV, 46:9,10). It was Jehoshaphat who said, “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you” (2 Chronicles 20:6).

In my finite mind, I cannot comprehend the sovereignty of God, neither do I understand His thoughts or His ways (Isaiah 55:8, 9). Rulers of the kingdoms of men come and go, but the King of Kings and Lord of Lords remains the same. It is from the depths of my very being that I state how thankful I am to be a citizen of the kingdom Daniel wrote concerning, “And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever” (Daniel 2:44; John 3:5; Colossians 1:13, 14). As believers, we bow in worship with reverence and awe the great and Almighty God, creator of the heavens and the earth.

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*Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.” -  
C.S. Lewis*

**April 11, 2021**



‘Madame Alfred Carriere’

**Zoom Times...**

**Meeting Days and Times**

**Sunday ..... 9:00 am**

**Wednesday ..... Bible Class, singing & prayer - 6:00 pm**

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