

Context.

- 1] Daniel & Shadrach; Meshach and Abednego Jewish exiles in Babylon
- 2] Emperor Nebuchadnezzar
 - a) Impressed by Daniel and friends as entered service (1:19)
 - b) Indebted to D as saved him from killing wise men by interpreting dream (2:47)
 - c) Admired SM&A and their God for delivering them from furnace (3:28)

nb admiration does not equal commitment

MP *All must acknowledge that God is in complete control*

KV *“7 times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over the Kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes” (25)*

Intro

Choose this day whom you will serve (Josh 24:15)

Structure

- 1] Neb's dream (1-18) 'My pleasure to tell you' (2) - 1st person
 - 2] Daniel's interpretation and the dream's fulfilment (19-27) - 3rd person
 - 3] Neb's response to God (34-37) - 1st person
- Nb Neb is not the centre of the universe - nor are we!*

Service of Daniel (19)

1] Daniel was perplexed for the King

2] He wished the dream on his enemies

Nb Submit to those in authority (Rmns 13:5)

Wives/husband, children/parents, Slaves/masters -As to the Lord (Eph 5:22)

Cf 'Religion is the opiate of the people'

Nb we are called to serve and submit where the Lord has put us

Sovereignty of the Lord (25)

1] All are called to acknowledge the Lord

Nb Every knee must bow (Phil 2:8,9)

2] a personal response

a) before

1) Acknowledge Daniel's God (2,3)

2) While keeping his own (8)

Nb Daniel's Babylonian name Beltheshazzar used 8,9,18,19

Nb guarded & reserved – 'the Lord's and mine'?

What is kept as yours - Money, family, work etc

b) after

1) All people of the earth are regarded as nothing (35)

2) No-one can hold back his hand

Nb whole hearted, total

Cf day when teaching, been a Christian for a few years, I wanted proof that I was a Christian 'I am willing to be miserable if you ordain it..!'

Commitment to the Lord is total surrender

Slowness of action? (28)

1] Twelve months later

Nb A day is as a thousand years (2 Pet 3:9)

Cf playing a fish

He the Lord is not in a hurry but he is in control

2] Words of self congratulation on his lips – the royal decree! (31)

Don't ever think you have outflanked God!

Conclusion

1] Today if you hear his voice do not harden your heart (Heb3:7)

2] Submit to the Father - like Jesus. (Phil 2:5-8)