

The P's That Amass All Misunderstanding

Part 1: Unprincipled Power

Daniel 11:2-35

Introduction:

- A play on words is a witty way of communicating
 1. The sermon title plays on the words of Phil 4:7
 2. There are three unprincipled “p’s” in Dan 11 that many pursue for a desired outcome but ends badly
- Daniel 11:2-35 is future from Daniel’s viewpoint but is h_____ from our standpoint.
 1. Skeptics claim Daniel 11 is the work of someone looking back on history not someone unfolding the future; their claim has no b_____ (no data to back it up)
 2. History shows that the Book of Daniel was already complete
 - a. By 250 B.C. – an ancient letter (Letter of Aristeas) states that the Hebrew O.T. was translated into G_____ in the reign of Ptolemy I (284-247 B.C.)
 - b. By 323 B.C. – Josephus, a Jewish historian, records that the Book of Daniel was shown to Alexander the Great who died in 323 B.C. (Josephus, *Antiq. Book 11 Chapter 8:5*)
 - c. Therefore there is no reason to doubt the authorship of Daniel as being Daniel himself who died sometime during Cyrus reign (536 – 529 B.C.)

Unprincipled Power Serves Self at the Expense of Others (2)

- The fourth king of Persia arising after Cyrus was Xerxes I (G_____ name for Ahasuerus, which is Persian)
 1. Ezra 1:1-4 – in the third year of his reign (484 B.C.), Ahasuerus threw a party for all his important people displaying his wealth for _____ days
 2. Herodotus, *Histories, Book 7:8* – the purpose for this party was to gain support for his campaign against G_____
- Ahasuerus’ campaigns against Greece
 1. Were un_____
 2. One campaign he came against Greece with a army of over one _____ and returned with 5,000.
- Application
 1. Everyone is in some sort of position of power
 - a. P_____
 - b. Teachers, counselors
 - c. Employees
 2. Those who abuse that power hurt others to serve themselves

Godly Power Serves Others at the Expense of Self

- Examples of those who exercised godly power
 1. Esther willingly risked her l_____ to go before the king unannounced to save the J_____ from extermination (Esther 4:16)
 2. Jesus came not to be served but to serve and give His life as a r_____ payment for our sins (Matt 20:28).
 3. Only godly power produces strong f_____, strong marriages, strong companies, and strong nations.

Unprincipled Power Is Expendable (3-5)

- King Ahasuerus’ was killed in his b_____ by his own trusted officer (recorded by Ctesias, a Persian historian)
- The mighty king of verse 3 refers to Alexander the Great
 1. He became king of Macedon at _____ years old

2. He executed his father's plans to expand the Empire of Greece
 - a. He was s_____ wherever he warred
 - b. He brought the Persian Empire to its end in ____ years
 - c. He conquered most of the known world in _____ years
3. He died before reaching his 33rd birthday by a disease
- Alexander the Great's death resulted in a battle for power (4)
 1. His sons were not recognized as successors and were k_____
 2. His four generals divided the Empire into _____ corresponding to the major directions of the compass and each ruled a territory
- The king of the South (5)
 1. His name was Ptolemy
 2. He had a prince named Seleucus
 - a. Seleucus started out as king of the _____
 - b. Seleucus lost his kingdom and fled to Ptolemy for refuge
 - c. Seleucus made a prince and was helped by Ptolemy in regaining his lost territory
 - d. Seleucus expanded his territory absorbing the territories of the king of the N_____
 - e. Seleucus became more p_____ than Ptolemy
 - f. Ptolemy and Seleucus produced powerful dynasties that were often in conflict with each other.
- Application
 1. History records over and over that those with unprincipled power eventually end in tragedy
 2. Experience shows that parents, teachers, supervisors, etc. that abuse their power eventually lose it.

Godly Power is Eternal

- The New Testament word translated "godly"
 1. Literally means "good w_____"
 2. Practically describes conduct that reflects that a person is a true worshipper of God.
- Everything connected to God is e_____; all that is disconnected from God is temporary (see I Cor 3:13-15)

Assignment

Ongoing areas of power (check boxes that apply to you)

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parent | <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Employer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee | <input type="checkbox"/> Supervisor | <input type="checkbox"/> Counselor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Temporary transfer of power:

- Over people (e.g. baby sitting)
- Over things (e.g. house sitting; using a vehicle; running an errand)

*Pray that you will consciously exercise your power
in a way that reflects that you love the Lord.*