**Small Group Notes – 6 June 2021**

**Word - While you were sleeping – Daniel 2:24-49**

What was the purpose of God giving King Nebuchadnezzar a dream?

* **A reminder for Nebuchadnezzar**

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon, the one that had defeated Israel. Although Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful and wealthiest man on the earth at that time he couldn’t interpret his own dream and he could get anyone else to tell him either. All his authority and money could not help him to understand his dream. The purpose of the dream for this king is to remind him that he is human after all and that all earthly kingdoms will be crushed and smashed, including his own and that only The Lord’s Kingdom is eternal.

* **A reminder for Babylon’s wise men and astrologers**

God was showing them who the One True God is. He was showing them that all their wisdom, all their gods and everything they placed their faith and trust in amounted to nothing, but the God of Daniel was alive and active.

* **A reminder for Daniel & his friends**

Daniel and his friends were young men exiled in Babylon in horrendous circumstances. They probably felt they stood alone in a society that worshipped and honoured many Gods. But through the dream God was reminding Daniel and his friends that he was the one who was in control. He ordained the rise and fall of kingdoms. Though Israel had been defeated and they were exiled, God was in control, he was at work behind the scenes.

* **A reminder for us (Mankind)**

History is not determined by earthly rulers but by the hand of God.

Even the evillest empire serves God’s eternal purposes.

All empires are temporary. None will last forever.

God’s kingdom is an everlasting kingdom.

Our God is a God who speaks & reveals the future

He speaks through his Word – Psalm 119:105

He speaks through his Son – Hebrews 1:1-3

He speaks through the Holy Spirit – John 16:13He speaks through his people (Preaching, Prophecy, words of knowledge & wisdom, wise counsel)

He speaks through creation – Psalm 19:1-2

He speaks through dreams & visions – Matt 1:20 & Acts 16:10

**Questions**

What do we learn about God from Nebuchadnezzar’s dream?

What do we learn about the future from Nebuchadnezzar’s dream?

What are the various ways that God speaks to people today?

In what ways have you personally received Gods guidance?

When was the last time God spoke to you?

**Reminder**

Zoom prayer meeting tonight – 8pm -9pm

No Church meeting on Wednesday 9 June