



January 12/13, 2019

Sermon Title: Living Inside Two Stories

by: Pastor Rock Dillaman

Scripture: Daniel 2:27-28a - Daniel answered before the king and said, “As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days.”

1. Every one of us has embraced a defining story - a narrative we use to explain our existence and navigate life.
2. The story we adopt has a profound effect on how we engage culture.
3. Those who follow Jesus have to live inside two stories – the one supplied by God and the prevailing story of the culture in which they live.
4. God calls us to witness to those who’ve embraced the counterfeit stories of culture while assuring us they’ll seek to silence His story.
5. Those who embrace God’s story are able to show true tolerance to those who live in another story.
6. Tolerance is shown when God’s people show love to people living in a contrary story.
7. Those who live in God’s story never stand alone.
8. God has purposes we don’t understand, and they’re wider than our politics and our prejudices.
9. The rock in Daniel’s vision symbolized the coming Kingdom of God.
10. The future belongs to the Kingdom of God!
11. Believers can live with the metals if they remember the rock has landed!

Growth Group Questions

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WARM-UPS

1. Are you often aware of your dreams when you awake? Do you generally remember your dreams in the morning and think about them during your day?
2. Do you believe God speaks to us today through dreams? Why or why not?
3. Has God ever given you a dream that you knew was from Him? If so, are you willing to share it and its intended purpose?



DISCUSSION

1. What did you find most challenging, helpful, or troubling in the sermon today and why?
2. What do you find most challenging about living inside two stories?
3. As people living inside two stories - do you think it's easier or more difficult to live inside the cultural story of today compared to Daniel's day, and why?
4. Do you sometimes get discouraged trying to live for God while the culture of the other story presses in continually? If so, how do you best deal with your discouragement?

IN THE WORD

Read some of the passages below and discuss any insights into today's message.

- Acts 2:17
- Matthew 2:13
- Job 33:14-18

PRACTICE

- Who are the people in your life living in the "contrary" story that you need to tolerate more by loving them better? Are you willing to pursue doing so with God's help?
- Like Daniel and his friends, do you sense God leading you to engage increased "civic responsibilities" for the purpose of sowing God's story in the midst of the other story? If so, what is it, and are you willing to be obedient to His call?
- Spend some time in prayer asking God to help you navigate both stories faithfully as Daniel and his friends were able to do.