Daniel - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 6

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“The kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him” — Dan. 7:27.

TWICE in the book of Daniel God has given great prophetic outlines of the course of world empire, culminating in the setting aside of all earthly dominions and the setting up of the long-looked-for kingdom of God in this scene, the kingdom of the Son of Man which will be as the days of heaven upon earth. This will be at the second advent of our Lord Jesus Christ when He will descend from heaven with all His saints to put down iniquity and establish righteousness throughout all the world. For this all creation sighs, and to this all instructed believers look forward. Then those who have suffered with Christ in the hour of His rejection shall reign with Him in the day of His glory.

—I. Watts.

Daily Sacrifice, May 10

“At the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes unto heaven, and mine understanding returned unto me, and I blessed the most High, and I praised and honored Him that liveth forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom is from generation to generation: and all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and He doeth according to His will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?”— Daniel 4:34, 35.

FAITH delights to contemplate the way in which God so overrules in the affairs of men and nations as to lead them to fulfill His will even when they think they are acting solely from the standpoint of their own selfish interests. In this way He uses one nation to chastise another because of its manifold iniquities and then in its turn that nation which had been His instrument is chastened by another group. This is the true philosophy of history which has been manifested through all the centuries of human government. It means much to realize this. It delivers the soul from worry and anxiety, enabling one to rest quietly in the assurance that the divine counsels will all be carried out however much Satan and his minions may seek to hinder. Isaiah wrote, “In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.” And he who sees God’s hand in all the events of history knows that it is all His story.

—Charles Wesley.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 5

“He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods” — Dan. 3:17,18.

THERE is something very fine about the confidence expressed by these three young Hebrews. It was not necessary for God to deliver them from the furnace, if it were not His will. They could trust Him anyway. If He did not quench the flame He would give grace to endure, and they knew that in another world all would be appraised at its true value. It is a great lesson we all need to learn.

—Margaret Denison Armstrong.

Daily Sacrifice, May 9

“He revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him” —Daniel 2:22.

IT is God of whom Daniel speaks. All things are known to Him. Though He is absolutely holy He knows every sinful thought and action of which men are guilty; though He is perfect light, that light penetrates into the darkness, revealing every secret thing; “For whatsoever doth make manifest is light.” Yet none need fear to come into His presence if he but judge his sin and own his guilt, for God Himself has devised a plan whereby all iniquity may be dealt with and sin forever put away. The precious blood of Christ cleanses from every stain all who trust in Him.

—J. G. Deck.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 4

“Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king’s meat nor the wine which he drank” — Daniel 1:8.

DANIEL and his three friends, and Paul the apostle, are striking examples of men who would not risk the ruin of their testimony by self-indulgence or pandering to “fleshly lusts, which war against the soul” (1 Peter 2:11). Christians cannot afford to be careless as to these matters. The body is the Lord’s. It is the temple in which the Holy Spirit dwells. To defile it by any form of unclean living is to dishonor God and to render one powerless in the hour of stress.

In the world we hear much today of efficiency experts. Men realize that if a workman, a clerk, a professional man, or an executive, is to be at his best, he must eschew many things that others indulge in who think only of momentary pleasure and sensual gratification. The man to be trusted is the man who rules himself and holds all his appetites in subjection. In spiritual things the same rule applies. He who purposeth in his heart that he will not “defile himself,” but yields to the control of the Holy Spirit, is the one who will be most used of God on earth, and some day will “stand before the King” to be rewarded in the day of manifestation.

—Anon.

Daily Sacrifice, May 8

“Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king’s meat; and as thou seest, deal with thy servants”— Daniel 1:12, 13.

IN the story of youthful Daniel and his three like-minded companions we have set forth most vividly the blessings attendant upon sobriety and clean living generally. These youths, taken from home influence and exposed to all the license and frivolity of a worldly court, purposed in their hearts to refrain from all that was defiling and debasing, thus cleaving to the high standards set forth in the precepts of the law, and the instruction received from their spiritual leaders in the land of their fathers.

God honored their self-denial, and caused even those who might naturally have been prejudiced against them to acknowledge that their way of living was far superior to that of those who permitted appetite to rule them.

—Byron.

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 7

“Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words”— Dan. 10:12.

A GREAT mystery is unfolded here in regard to prayer. Daniel had been praying “three full weeks” about a certain matter, and when, finally, the answer came, he was told that at the beginning of his supplication God had heard, but an angel from heaven had been twenty-one days fighting his way through the evil hosts of Satan in order to reach him. The prince of the kingdom of Persia referred to in vs. 13 was one of these wicked spirits evidently seeking to hinder God’s plan. This should throw light on many delayed answers. God has not been indifferent, but a conflict is going on in the heavenlies (Eph. 6:12), because of which there seems to be delay, but God’s purpose is sure, and His plan will be carried out.

—Mrs. Ophelia C. Adams.

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