

# TUESDAY NIGHT

at the  
Crescent

## "A Question of Values"

An in-depth Study of the Book of Daniel

Subject: "God's View of Culture"

A study of Daniel 4 which contains God's view of art, architecture and lifestyle.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 1989

1. The discipline of God which fell on a Gentile king and the culture he created also fell on the city of God's own people, Jerusalem. The latter discipline was even more severe than the former. In both cases God's discipline ended in restoration.
2. The reason why God had to discipline Nebuchadnezzar was not because he had made a beautiful city (compare Genesis 2:9 with Daniel 4: 9-21). God delights in beautiful things and expends a lot of time on the lilies (considered a weed in Israel) so that even Solomon was'n dressed as well as they are. He disciplined Nebuchadnezzar because:
  - (a) Nebuchadnezzar had allowed iniquity to reign and had not shown kindness to the poor (Daniel 4:27).
  - (b) Nebuchadnezzar claimed he had built Babylon by his own power and for the honour of his own majesty. He had to learn that man is not big enough to be the goal of his own endeavour.
3. More people will be damned by the beautiful things of this life than by the nasty.
4. Daniel cared enough to confront, even if his advice was not taken.
5. God's discipline was that he gave Nebuchadnezzar up to live like an animal. What is the essential difference between man and the animal?:
  - (a) They are different in cleanliness and aesthetics.
  - (b) They are different in manners and morals.
  - (c) They are different in spirituality.
6. God still gives many people up to live like Nebuchadnezzar did. He gives them up in their mind and bodies to uncleanness and vile passions. You cannot live in God's world and reject God and suppose man is going to retain his dignity, beauty and glory. (See Romans 1: 24-32).
7. The lessons of this solemn passage are clear. God's judgement may be slow but it is certain and God has His own ways of showing us that He is Lord.

"Throughout history, our ancestors have derived their inspiration from the infinite riches of the natural world . . . Our age is the first to have seen fit to abandon the past, or to deny its relevance and the lessons learnt over thousands of years. It is the first to have despised the principles of mathematical harmony and proportion and to have embarked on a course which glorifies the triumph of science and mans domination over nature. All this coincides with what can only be described as the denial of God's place in the scheme of things and the substitution of man's infallibility. The result, I would suggest, has been a profound dis-ease amongst countless people who are forced to live in the kind of surroundings sired by this unbalanced attitude."

(HRH The Prince of Wales)

