

When Victory Looks and Feels Like Defeat

(Daniel 2)

Regardless of how many times it happens, it is hard to remember that impending defeat is part of God's victory plan.

God's victories regularly look and feel first like defeat. Being highly favoured of God does not include free passes from hardship, risk, exile or an endangered life (Dan 1:21).

Although you may have to regularly endure the frustration of being forgotten or ignored, God never forgets who you are or what he has purposed for you (Dan 1:17; 2:1-2, 15).

Because God always has something prepared in the background, God's people are never at the mercy of hopeless circumstances (Dan 1:17; 2:1).

Sinful showdowns and "chance" circumstances are occasions God uses to reveal more of his glory.

Prayer to a prayer-answering God brings about praise and new awareness of God's revealed character (2:17-23).

Victory is not granted for personal praise but that the world might know there is a great God in heaven who presides over the affairs given (2:27-29).

God has planned and purposed all of history and God himself challenges all would-be gods to demonstrate their legitimacy by being prophetic (Dan 2:37-38; Isaiah 41:1-4, 21-24).

The best of man's political manoeuvring and machinery results only in defeat and going from beauty and magnificence to elusive strength (Gold Iron) (2:21-25).

God's kingdom will have both strength and magnificent beauty and endure forever (2:35 c, 44-45 cf, Psm 118:22, Matt 16:18; 21:42-44; 1 Pet 2:6-8).

How great to be used of God within hard times to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat (2:46-47).

From victim of a tyrannical, needy king to promoted to victor over the province of Babylon and senior executive wiseman in charge of the department of wise guys (2:48).

Be careful how you treat people on the way down – you may meet them again on their way up! (2:49)

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign forever and ever."
(Rev. 11:15)