

Today, God wants to show us how to navigate our lives down the correct path by giving us four ways to utilize His good Godly counsel.

1. Vs 1

- a. Nebu only has peace to offer.
- b. Yet Paul opens all 13 of his letters with grace and peace.
 - i. The true peace only comes thru God's rich grace
 - ii. **John 14:27 – Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**

2. Vs 2-3

- a. 'everlasting' – This means past and future
 - i. Sometimes we think of one but not the other.
- b. Nebu is seeing something spiritual here.

3. Vs 4

- a. When we're comfortable...look out for temptation to strike.
- b. Think of David
 - i. II Sam 11 tells of him tarrying in Jerusalem when there was war to be won.
- c. These are the times we're tempted to think that WE have it all figured out on our own.
 - i. Look ahead to Dan 4:30

4. Vs 5-7

- a. **1st way to utilize God's good counsel is to reject worldly counsel.**
 - i. **Nebu continued to receive worldly counsel.**

1. Even after seeing their failing and God's prophet's workings.
2. Yet how many Christians turn back to the world's counsel too?
 - a. Why go to a non-Christian psychiatrist?
 - b. How many Christians look at horoscopes?

5. Vs 8-9

- a. Nebu believed in the true God but couldn't let go of his false gods.
 - i. So how much did he really believe about the true God?
 - ii. Did he believe what God had told Isaiah 100 years earlier when He said that "before Me there was no god formed, neither shall there be after me."? (Isa 43:10)
- b. **There are many opinions given to us about what to do in our circumstances.**
 - i. **Nebu seems to get many opinions so he can choose which one he likes and do that one.**
 - ii. **Do we shop for opinions about our circumstance so we can get just the right one and then feel justified in making the ungodly decision that we're about to make?**
- c. Proverbs (19:20-21) tells us "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end. *There are* many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand."
- d. Nebu will now get God's opinion and direction thru Daniel
 - i. **2nd way to utilize God's good counsel is to be a yielded Christian willing to serve others.**
 1. **God's not obligated to speak directly to any non-Christians.**

2. If you're yielded, you will be the instrument to give God's counsel to a non-believer...are you ready?

ii. Daniel can receive counsel from God b/c of the Spirit of God in him.

1. Christians like Phillip (Acts 8:26) get God's opinion and direction directly.

2. When was the last time God gave you His opinion on a matter...directly?

iii. Listen to the Spirit in prayer, don't listen to our flesh

6. Vs 10-18

a. Who are the watchers and the holy ones? Angels

i. They do God's commands hearkening unto His word (Psm 103:20)

ii. We're made a little lower than the angels (Psm 8:5) so they can make degrees

b. How long is this "7 times"?

i. Not 7 days or 7 weeks, b/c verse 33 says his hair and nails grew long.

ii. Could be 7 years but there's another option

iii. Babylon only recognized two seasons; summer/winter so this could be 3.5 years

1. Sir Henry Rawlinson (1851)

a. Credited with deciphering cuneiform

b. Deciphered inscriptions on the Babylonian walls talking of Nebu "doing nothing for 4 years"

c. What is this that's happening to the king?

i. Today, it's called Boanthropy

ii. Interesting that it is classified as a mental condition.

1. God clearly is telling us that it is a spiritually caused condition.
2. How many of today's "mental illnesses" are actually a spiritual condition that is trying to be explained by some humanist doctor as a metal deficiency?
3. We need to pray for the spiritual condition of our friends and family and many of the "mental illnesses" may just clear up.

d. Why will this happen to Nebu?

i. God tells us in verse 17!!

ii. That God rules "in the kingdom of men" and gives it to whomever He wants to; even to untoward men.

1. Not just in heaven, God can overrule anything Satan wants to do in this world.

2. Why let base men rule? So people will look for something more.

7. Vs 19-23

a. Daniel was astonished for one hour.

i. We must think before we speak.

b. **3rd way to utilize God's good counsel is to be faithful only to pass on to others God's true position and not our opinions.**

i. **Don't pray having faith in what you want.**

ii. **Pray in faith asking God to reveal what is true.**

c. **Why didn't Daniel pray and ask God to divert this from coming true.....b/c God already revealed to him that it was going to happen.**

8. Vs 24-25

a. John 9:1-3 – "And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him saying, Master who did sin this man or his parents that he was born

blind? Jesus answered, neither this man nor his parents but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.”

- b. God has different ways of making Himself known to different people. **He will show his glory to all people so they'll have a choice to make.**

9. Vs 26-27

- a. **4th way to utilize God's good counsel is to choose to receive God's counsel and change what we're doing**
- b. **It not hard to receive and do God's counsel. The only thing stopping us is....that we don't want to receive and do it!**
 - i. **Read Deut 30:11-15**
 - ii. **We make such excuses why we can't obey God's will**
 - 1. **My girlfriend can't move out, she won't have a place to live!**
 - 2. **After we treat someone bad we say, "Oh, he 'deserved' it".**
- c. **WE MUST CHOOSE TO PUT OURSELVES OF THE RIGHT PATH WHEN WE ARE DIVERTED.**

10. Vs 28-30

- a. **He choose to reject God's counsel to him**
- b. **Doesn't this sound just like Isa 14:13-15?**
 - i. **Read Luke 9:57-62**
- c. **What we should say is, "nevertheless, not mine will but Thy will be done."**

11. Vs 31-32

- a. **We should receive God's counsel b/c He's the only One, whose counsel is true and will stand forever.**
- b. **God is in control of ever situation, His counsel matters.**
 - i. **Read John 19:11 - ...you could have no power except...**

- c. The more we fight to stay on our path for our live, the more it becomes apparent that it isn't the path of God's choosing.

12. Vs 33-37

- a. When will we learn that God is right and true and has the right to change anything that He wants to in our live?
- b. He deserves praise regardless of our status or state of well-being.
- c. Vs 37 – pride – Micah 6:8
 - i. Vs 27 refers to doing righteousness and being merciful
 - ii. Read Micah 6:8
- d. Walking with the Lord means letting His lead.

13. **If we want our lives to be navigating down the best possible path, then we must seek to utilize God's good counsel by:**

- a. Rejecting worldly counsel**
- b. Be a yielded Christian willing to serve others the truth.**
- c. Being faithful to only pass on the truth & not our opinions**
- d. Choosing to receive it and change what we're doing!**