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Viewpoints

Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.

Surviving Political Implosion ~ April 22, 2016

We learn from Daniel how to survive these treacherous times.

[Online Version & Archive](#)

Even if you're trying to ignore all things political, you probably can't escape knowing that America's political kingdoms on both sides of the aisle are aflame.

On the left side of the aisle is the famous liberal Camille Paglia writing in the liberal Salon magazine, as she scorches the left's frontrunner, Hillary Clinton. The title and subtitle of Paglia's editorial gets right to her point: "Enough with the Hillary cult: Her admirers ignore reality, dream of worshipping a queen - *Clinton voters overlook money lust, shadowy surrogates, sociopathic policy shifts, horrific overseas record. Why?*"

And on the right side of the aisle is David French, a conservative staff writer opining for the conservative National Review magazine, as he scorches the right's frontrunner, Donald Trump. French entitles his article, "Donald Trump Isn't Politically Incorrect, He's Just Wrong." The third sentence of his article reads: "Trump isn't half as 'fearless' as he claims to be, and when he does try to be bold he's bold in all the wrong ways."

Some people tell me that they've never seen so much smoke rising from both sides of the aisle at the same time. So they're worried that our nation is about to implode. If this describes your outlook either wholly or partially, you'll want to become more familiar with Daniel.

Daniel had been carried away from his family and homeland by the mighty Babylonians who had conquered Jerusalem. Daniel was then conscripted to serve in the administrative ranks of King Nebuchadnezzar's advisors. If this wasn't already a severe test of young Daniel's faith in the Lord God of the Bible, what happened next sealed the deal.

The King had a terrifying dream and he wanted an interpretation. So he summoned his advisors. But, apparently because he didn't trust his own advisers, the king played political hardball: he kept his dream secret and yet commanded his advisers to first tell him what he dreamed, and then interpret what it meant. The advisers of course objected that this was impossible. "There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks," they protested. "No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing..." Nebuchadnezzar, however, disagreed and ordered the execution of all his advisers, across all ranks and divisions. The sweeping death sentence also included Daniel, even though he was still only in training. Daniel spoke "with wisdom and tact" with the commanding officer charged with carrying out the executions, and then Daniel was granted extra time by the king to return

with the answers. So with his own life and the lives of many others ticking away, Daniel was in a desperate rush to seek the Lord's help. Look carefully at what happens next. **“Daniel returned to his friends. He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery...”** (Daniel 2:17-18).

Even though he was in desperate need to find quick help, Daniel stops dead in his tracks and confesses that he deserved nothing from God. To seek mercy, Daniel was honest and admitted that the only things God actually owed Daniel, would have been to hand him over to the executioner, by whose work Daniel would be exiled from God's presence forever. The same for us today: pleading for mercy begins by admitting our unworthiness... but then continues to completion when we put our faith into God's reputation as the one and only one who freely gives unearned love to all who confess unworthiness.

The Lord heard and answered Daniel's and his friends' pleas for mercy. In fact, the God of heaven not only gave Daniel all the information he needed to stop the executions, God even used this treacherous time to elevate Daniel to a high rank in the king's administration.

So if we feel like Daniel as we watch smoke billow up from our current political landscape, don't despair. Instead let's follow Daniel's example. Let's plead for the Lord's mercy like Daniel did. And the God of heaven will answer our pleas. How he will answer our pleas, we don't know exactly. But we do know this: his answer will be dripping with mercy, just as surely as mercy dripped from Jesus' saving cross. †

Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)

*Camille Paglia is a well-known liberal professor and writer. Although an atheist, she frequently shows the ability to expose and reject the fallacy of moral equivalence (that denies absolute right and wrong). For example, she unequivocally states that abortion terminates a baby's life, although she still supports abortion on demand. [Read more at my blog: Murder Her Baby?](#)

[“Enough with the Hillary Cult”](#) by Camille Paglia @ Salon.com

[“Donald Trump Isn't Politically Incorrect, He's Just Wrong”](#) by David French @ NationalReview.com

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Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz

