

## Kings and Prophets 16-10-20a

This is October the 20th, 2016, and we're continuing our study of Kings and Prophets. We are at the juncture between Daniel chapter 4 and Daniel chapter 5. We'll take a moment to ask God's blessing on our study, and then we'll begin. Father, thank you for this opportunity to spend time together studying your Word, enjoying fellowship and the benefits of the contact we have with one another, the spiritual gifts that function, the encouragement and the support that we share as together we come before your throne and appreciate the Lord Jesus Christ and the tremendous grace and love that are reflected in your plan for us.

We thank you for this portion of Scripture, for the significance it has to us and for us, and we pray that as we look at it together that your Holy Spirit will bless it to our hearts, that each one of us will find it helpful and motivating as we seek to live the life that is assigned to us, to avail ourselves of the potentials and the resources and the opportunities that you have planned individually for each one of us so that we can reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus and through him be pleasing in your sight. We pray these things in Jesus' name, amen. So in the fall of the Southern Kingdom, Judea and Jerusalem have been conquered now by Nebuchadnezzar.

He came first in 605 B.C. and we think it's at that time that Daniel and Hananiah and Mishael and Azariah and many other of the flower and nobility of Israel were taken captive, sort of the, what they like to say now, the low-hanging fruit, those that were obvious as serviceable in Babylon, they recognized that talented people come at a premium and regardless of the source, they can bend their talents and skills to the betterment of Babylon. Then again, the second incursion in 597 where even more individuals were carried away, more destruction and more pressure was placed on the kingdom, they still were unsubmitive, they did not heed the prophetic oracles and exhortations from Jeremiah and other prophets to submit, to recognize that it was God's time for a pruning and a cleaning out of the dead wood in Judah. And so Nebuchadnezzar returns a third time in 586, 587, that year timeframe and utterly destroys Solomon's Temple and the environment around it in Jerusalem, breaks down its walls and yet a third wave of enslaved bondmen come from that area back to Babylon.

It is during this time that the book of Daniel is set, we have covered now the first four chapters and we're on the cusp of chapter 5, one of the most famous stories in the Bible, the handwriting on the wall, mene mene tekel ufarsin, and with all of its interest and fascination, we will not be getting to it tonight because these first four chapters have an additional dimension that we want to look at biblically speaking and I'd like to suggest this to you. If you don't find it helpful, you can blame me because it is a concoction of my own devising. It's just something that struck me in looking these things over and I thought, well, if it's going to circulate in my mind, it might as well circulate in yours.

So what we want to look at here is this concept of dreams and dream interpretation. Hands up anybody that has not dreamed. See, I know I'm safe, we don't have to have any show of hands, everybody has dreams.

Now, how many of you hands up people that had a dream and you knew it was from God and you had a divine revelation of its meaning and it had significance not only for you but for people beyond you and it ended up in the Bible? Again, no hands, right? So it is a fascinating subject though, isn't it? To look at God's communication in this book through dreams. So our curiosity is aroused and I ask myself the question, which you know this is the question I so often end up asking myself, well, so what? Should we be expecting to have dreams that have prophetic import? Should we expect God to communicate to us by these supernatural visionary nocturnal visitations or not? And I can start off by saying I don't think that is anything we should expect. I think it is extraordinary as the miracles in the Bible tend to be.

But the ones that are recorded in scripture I think have an additional benefit to us beyond just seeing here was a king that had a dream, here is a guy that interpreted the dream and lo and behold it came to pass. All of these things were written for our instruction and they have a second and third sometimes level of significance. So I suggested to you last time as we looked at Daniel chapter 4 the dream of Nebuchadnezzar about this great tree.

Remember the great mighty tree that he saw in his dream? If you turn back a page to Daniel chapter 4 verse 10, these were the visions of my head while on my bed. I was looking and behold a tree in the midst of the earth and its height was great. The tree grew and became strong.

Its height reached to the heavens and it could be seen to the ends of all the earth or all the land, the arrets. Its leaves were lovely, its fruit abundant and in it was food for all. Beasts of the field found shade under it.

The birds of the heavens dwelt in its branches and all flesh was fed from it. Well you remember last time when we analyzed this and saw the interpretation given to Nebuchadnezzar through Daniel by God that this tree which begins so well is ultimately cut down and chopped off but not permanently. It looks as though it has disappeared but there is a stump and there is this secure bronze band around the stump to preserve it and prevent it from being damaged or losing its life and you get the idea that the preservation of the stump is to enable something new to grow up from the roots.

There is still life but it's invisible. The interpretation of the dream is Nebuchadnezzar this is you and we see the fulfillment. He is walking around proud in his own accomplishments and he suddenly goes mad.

For seven years he crawls around on all fours and he has this affliction. There are scientific names that have been given to it but he basically eats grass and the dew of heaven falls on him. They can't keep him in a bed.

He wants to sleep outside and his nails grow long and he is just a crazy man. After seven times pass over him a set period of time he is restored and regains that which he didn't so much lose as became separated from by this malady. What changes is as you read this chapter the

experience changes Nebuchadnezzar and he has a fresh appreciation for God and a fresh humility and a fresh recognition that there is no God but the God of Israel.

Not that he hasn't had plenty of demonstrations earlier he has already seen three guys and a fourth walking around in a hot fire that killed people that just got near it. He has already seen Daniel's ability to interpret a previous dream but it just didn't print it didn't impress itself into his mind and into his heart. This is so much the case today.

There is abundant evidence. I'm not talking about argument I'm talking about evidence. There is physical evidence for a designer and a creator.

But there are people who are just insensible to that. It just doesn't print it doesn't make a difference. It does not compel it does not persuade.

So God will use other means. But what I wanted to suggest and did at the close last week is beyond the significance of the dream to Nebuchadnezzar because ask yourself this question. Why does this happen to him? Why does he turn you know he goes native he goes animal.

Everybody says we're just glorified animals you know humans are just the most advanced of the animals well he actually turns into an animal. Eats like one sleeps like one thinks like one looks like one smells like one for these seven years. The smell is something I just threw in but I think it's safe to say.

But why obviously this is of God and God says it's going to happen before it happens it comes to pass and he also says that it will resolve and it has a godly purpose and a godly effect on Nebuchadnezzar right. All of that's great but again we're back to our question so what like the book of Jonah like so many other things in scripture all of this that happens to Nebuchadnezzar is coded communication to God's people. First and foremost God's people Israel think about this tree.

Jesus himself is going to compare the kingdom of God the millennial kingdom to a small seed that is planted and becomes a great tree under which beasts take their shelter birds roost there is fruit it's a wonderful thing but we also know that that millennial kingdom is going to come to a fiery conclusion and I'm not talking about the earth melting with a fervent heat I'm talking about the fiery conclusion at Gog Magog the millennial kingdom ends in fire and destruction because at its close when Satan is released the camp of the saints is surrounded by all of those who have been grinding and chafing and gnashing their teeth and this is why you know that it isn't just a preponderance of evidence necessary to convince people will see the benefit they will see the Lord Jesus Christ and the sons of David ruling on the throne they will see perfect justice they will see perfect provision they will see the remediation of disease and death and poverty and hunger and all the rest of it they will see crime disappear for a thousand years ten centuries and yet at the first opportunity they will in mass rebel if they surround the camp of the Saints what does that tell you about the proportion of Saints versus non Saints if there were a bunch of Saints and a few rabble rousers they couldn't very well surround them unless it did

like ring around the Rosie you know you would just be like Red Rover come over and you know break two guys and you're no longer surrounded this is a large proportion because it has ever been thus a lot of people just don't get it don't want it aren't interested and that's the nature of free will and it doesn't matter the amount of evidence the Pharisees watched Jesus heal the man with the withered arm there were eyewitnesses to Lazarus after four days coming back from the dead there was a whole crowd of people the young man they were carrying out to bury he's dead he's stiff he's blue he's cold he's being carried out Jesus walks up touches the stretcher and the guy sits up people saw this and yet they refused to accept because it isn't a matter and somebody that doesn't want to believe and see something like that what will they say trickery deceit sleight of hand it's you know Criss Angel it's you know David who's the David Copperfield yeah I started to say Livingstone I knew that wasn't right Copperfield same syllables that you know it's it's been faked it's been it's not real I can't trust my own senses if my senses tell me that happened because I just don't believe that and I don't want to accept the conclusion that it forces so I will find a way to eviscerate the evidence eliminate the evidence undercut the foundation supporting the evidence because I don't like where that evidence takes me and this happens today there's manifest evidence that there is design and not just design intelligent vastly superior intelligent design behind the living things and the DNA code and and all of the the setup of this universe you don't get these things by accident and they know that that's why they say well there's actually billions and billions and billions of universes and we just happen to be in the lucky one that just happened to hit everything right there's no evidence for billions of universes there's no evidence for any universe other than this one that's why they call it you know you know what a unicycle is right one wheel you know what a universe is one verse so here's the thing this is an attempt these dreams and this experience of Nebuchadnezzar is communication to those who have an ear to hear those whose eyes are open those whose hearts are amenable and susceptible who have the humility to be teachable and haven't arrogantly assumed that they've got it all figured out like the Pharisees and the Sadducees and the scribes and the leadership of Israel who were so sure that they were so possessed of all of the necessary facts that the Messiah of Israel the Lord Jesus Christ the divine Son of God stood before them in the flesh and they did not recognize him he did miracles in their presence and they refused to accept him why didn't fit the desire of their heart we are driven by our own compass our own desires our own conclusions and you cannot convert a man because you have silenced all of his objections there's a real famous quote it was in one of my art course books you've not converted a man because you've silenced him someone made a poster out of it I forget who said it but it's true you can knock every pin every argument every support out from under somebody and if they do not want to accept a thing they just won't so this is what God's people have done in Judah this is what they have done in the northern kingdom of Israel and God says I am going to have to put you through such an experience why does this last 70 years we say well because they the land didn't get it Sabbaths they ignored the the Jubilee Jubilees and and every every 50 years there were supposed to be a year of Jubilee and every every seventh year the land was supposed to be given its rest and God said it's gonna be 70 years because the land hasn't had its rest why is it 70 years because the generation turns over just like those who left Egypt that generation dropped in the wilderness 40 years later you

have another generation well 70 years later you've got a mature second generation who has learned the lessons of captivity who appreciates freedom who appreciates opportunity who will go back into the land free of idolatry free of the pride that says I'll pick my own God I'll construct a God of my own making I don't like the God of Moses I don't like the God of Abraham Isaac and Jacob I'll make my own God I got a log here I'll chop up half of it to cook my dinner and the other half I'll make a God that I like he'll have pleasing features I'll give him a name that I like and attributes that I like and I'll put him in charge of stuff that I like and he'll never argue with me and he'll never disappoint me because he's a God of my own fashioning so this set of experiences in the book of Daniel really doesn't have that much to do with Babylon it has everything to do with Israel so what is the tree at first blash it represents Nebuchadnezzar and by extension his kingdom but it is cut down and then restored in the same way Nebuchadnezzar will be this applies at first hand to him but ultimately it is God's people the root shoot from the stump of Jesse is going to come back and through that supernatural recovery there will once again be a people of God Jesus made that comparison so what we're going to do tonight is how did Daniel come to know this was it just a supernatural blinding insight that you know sometimes you see the angel Gabriel coming in in Daniel chapter 7 Gabriel's going to come down and tell him what his own dream means but Daniel hears the dream and he understands the dream it's his gift so how did he do this and I'll tell you in advance it reminds me a little bit of the Lord Jesus Christ how did Jesus especially as a boy and coming up to the age of 12 and confounding the experts in the temple and so on how did he know so much about himself how did he anticipate he told the disciples for months before the arrest and trial and crucifixion that he would be delivered into the hands of men he told them how long he would be in the grave he told them that he would be raised again he told them all kinds of things about himself and these were not nocturnal revelations of a of an innovative kind he learned these things from the scriptures I would like to suggest to you that Daniel's interpretation of these dreams is a combination of his unique interpretive gift from God insight given to him by God just like the Lord Jesus Christ with scripture Daniel knows his Bible and part of what he sees in these dreams is founded on his scriptural knowledge God uses prepared people you have scriptural knowledge everybody I'm looking at everybody I know of who's listening to the sound of my voice has had years of Bible study if you are attentive if you are one who reflects if you are one who values that resource in your soul God will combine that with your natural gifts your opportunities his plan for your life and my life and we will be able to bear fruit we will see our way we can be a blessing to others we can be pleasing to our Father in heaven but it includes and incorporates our knowledge of God's Word God doesn't just grab Balaam who has virtually no knowledge at all and use him to lead God's people to the promised land Balaam's a contemporary of Moses why didn't God use Balaam to lead him into the land because Balaam is not Moses Moses knows his Bible Balaam doesn't well it's the same case here so let me suggest to you first of all that we have basically four technically three big dreams in the book of Daniel we've seen two of them and we've got a third one coming up in Daniel chapter 7 you remember the first two dreams right what was the first big dream first of all who had it Nebuchadnezzar has a dream and he gets all upset because he can't figure it out he won't even tell his wise men what the dream is because he so wants to know what it means he's

taking no chances that they'll just make something up what was the dream it was the image with the head of gold shoulder and arms of silver belly and thighs of brass legs of iron feet of iron mixed with clay how many sections of this image are there so there's a numeric component right five sections each section delineated by a different composition gold is one thing silver is something else bronze is something else or brass iron is something else and iron mixed with clay is something else yet again so if you sort of keep those details in mind what is the what is the idea now here's something if I was God and I was gonna plant a dream in Nebuchadnezzar's mind I mean ask yourself this question see if your mind works like I do these we know that these represent kingdoms right you get the Babylon and you get the Medes and the Persians you get the Greeks you get the Romans and then you get the revival right kingdoms what happens one succeeds the other right and wouldn't you say that the Roman Empire was built on the Greek Empire which was built on the Medo-Persian Empire which inherited a lot of stuff from the Babylon so why aren't the feet gold how come Nebuchadnezzar's not the feet and you build on that with something slightly less great the silver and that he's got knees and thighs of silver and then he's got a belly and chest of brass and he's got a head of iron and he's got hair of iron mixed with clay see to me that would make sense because each builds on the other but God of course sees things from the top down where we on earth see things from the bottom up so I would have constructed it with here's your foundation here's your feet of gold and then you build successively less great things on top of all of that not so God God's looking from heaven he says you get the head and see God doesn't need to put feet under a thing because he's God he can just have the head there by itself but in what sense is Nebuchadnezzar as the head of gold supported by things that come later you know it doesn't it doesn't and this is one of the reasons you know that this wasn't a dream of humanly crafted origin because it wouldn't make sense to a normal human like me and I'm presenting my view of it as normal but don't you think it Nebuchadnezzar just a gold head how's that head floating around with no no Greeks and Romans and and Medes and Persians holding it up he just does not that wouldn't be a human way of constructing it but it's God's way because God's making a different point so what is the idea of these progressively degrading materials and getting closer and closer to the earth and the dirt right that this it's a conceptual degradation from heaven where gold is where the streets of gold heaven where is mud the earth so you get less and less and less as you get closer to earth that's the way God sees things so but what's the idea from one kingdom to the next this is replacement you had the head it's replaced by the shoulders and arms it's replaced by the belly and thighs which is replaced by and each thing that replaces is less and less great more and more functional perhaps you can say well iron is good for a lot of things you know clay is good for a lot of things but it's not gold replacement is the idea here's I'll just tell you where we're going there are these three remember it says these three things that the Lord hate yay or actually these six things the Lord hates seven or an abomination well there's three dreams yay for in Daniel the third and the fourth are in chapter seven they both belong to Daniel it's kind of a two-part thing it's a dream and a vision technically but you've got Nebuchadnezzar's two big dreams in chapter two and chapter four and then you have Daniel in chapter seven right now here's here's the parallel in the book of Genesis how many big dreams do you have you get to Genesis

chapter 37 with the introduction of the boy Joseph what's the first thing we learn about Joseph his dad likes him and gives him a really great coat and then what he has these two dreams about stuff bowing down right that's a big dream what's the second big dream and actually everything related to Joseph is doubled so that's two dreams remember it's the sheaves bowing down to his sheaf and then it's the sun moon and stars bowing down to him then in the second case Joseph has been enslaved he's gone to Potiphar's house Potiphar's wife falsely accuses him he goes to prison while he's in prison he meets a couple of guys who have dreams what are those dreams I dreamed that there was a vine with three branches it had grapes I squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup I am the butler well I dreamed that there was my head and a basket on my head with bread in it and the birds came down and ate the bread right Joseph interprets those dreams but nothing happens two years later you have the third big doublet or pair of dreams who has those dreams Pharaoh what's the first one I saw the great river the Nile out of it came seven fat cows they stood in the meadow and they were sleek and healthy and beneficent and then out of that same river came diseased mangy bony nasty-looking cows and they devoured the fat cows he wakes up and he falls asleep and he has a second dream the same night which is what I saw from the same stock seven bountiful heads of grain but then seven diseased nasty grains came and ate the seven fat grains right Joseph interprets that dream seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine right for the butcher and the baker or the butler and the baker butler you're going to be promoted Baker it's all over for you right and and the first dream Joseph is an interpreter of dreams and he just communicates this dream without saying so let me tell you the interpretation I'll leave people gonna be bowing down to me he doesn't really have to it's fairly clear so it strikes me that that now there are some other dreams Jacob sees a ladder you've got a Bimelech being worn in a dream about Sarah don't add her to the harem you've got in judges you've got the rolling cake that comes in and knocks down the camp you know some unnamed soldier has a dream and Gideon's guys overhear it there are dreams throughout the Old Testament but in Genesis Genesis you've got these three outstanding examples of dreams and in Daniel you've got these three outstanding examples of dreams and so my little count the one on the fingers of each hand mine says well I ought to compare those dreams and so that's what I've done so Roman numeral number one and it as I look at these they they reverse so the first one in Daniel comports with the last one in Genesis the last one in Genesis was Pharaoh with the seven cows and the seven eared stock right so let's just think about those first of all look at Daniel chapter 2 verse 1 when was the dream somebody tell me when's the dream what does the Bible say Daniel chapter 2 verse 1 Nebuchadnezzar has this dream when say it out loud second year it's in the second year right turn to Genesis chapter 41 verse 1 keep your finger in Daniel and just we're gonna be flipping back and forth here when does Pharaoh have his dream 41 one somebody read it it's like sword drill time who can get there first at the end of two years why do we have this information do I need to know that after two years Pharaoh has this dream but this is sort of a point of identification point of contact isn't it each King after two years has a dream now let's think about Nebuchadnezzar's dream you got an image with five divisions made out of metal and there is progress there is replacement one thing replaces another right the head of gold is replaced with the shoulders replaced with the belly replaced with the thighs replaced with the

legs actually the belly and thighs are one thing replaced with the legs and replaced with the feet right so you have one thing that starts and four replacements so that you end up looking at the feet and then what happens don't forget the rest of the dream after you got this whole image mapped out what happens to the image in its entirety you had gold silver brass iron and iron mixed with clay then what happens something about a stone cut without hands remember the big stone what does it do smashes his nose away with the entire image right replaces it and it seems to be the least valuable out of all of those elements with if I said look I got some stuff here in my pocket you want something made out of gold you want something made out of silver do you want something made out of brass would you like something made out of iron would you like something made out of clay or would you like me to just give you a rock you see the progress that which is least ends up being more powerful and more permanent than all of these things that are valued by the human mind that says well I'd always take gold over a rock not if that rock is Christ and not if the gold is a perishable human kingdom you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver and gold but with the precious blood of Christ right it's not necessarily intuitively obvious that that which seems to be the least ends up being the greatest the last shall be first right so Nebuchadnezzar's dream you got five different things one replacing another and then a sixth smashes and replaces them all and it seems to be the least valuable it's just a rock but it's a special rock it's a rock cut without hands it's a supernatural rock it's a powerful rock and it obliterates everything before it right now what about Pharaoh's dream you got seven fat cows replaced by seven lean cows you got seven plush ears of grain this is not corn this is not yellow corn they didn't have it that these are heads of barley or heads of wheat perhaps replaced by seven nasty ones the cows interestingly come up from the river they almost seem to come out of the river these cows appear almost supernaturally in the same way that this image just seems to appear you know who made it who would make an image this way it's it's an unusual image and that it's not all one thing when Nebuchadnezzar gets ready to make his he makes the whole thing out of gold that's what somebody would do you wouldn't do it this way you don't expect cows to come out of a river and come and stand in the grass you expect cows to come out of other cows these don't they come from a from a river source this is what the Egyptians thought was the source of life but it wasn't they thought the Nile was the source of life because that's as far as they could see they didn't realize that God made the Nile in the same way that the metals replace one another these cows and these heads of grain replace one another in both cases there are numbers in Nebuchadnezzar's dream there are five and then a sixth in Pharaoh's dream there are seven replaced by seven and six followed by seven is a divine pattern as old as creation week right there is a link here you have five and then a sixth and then you end up with seven but in every case there is destruction at the end what happens at the end of the monarchy in Israel destruction what and what happens when it is restored it is eventually going to be destroyed Nebuchadnezzar in his second dream remember he's the greatest most powerful king in all the world and then he is destroyed cut down to a stump for seven years he's gone but then he comes back but then he's gone again right Nebuchadnezzar is not still over there in Babylon he recovered from his seven-year malady and once again was suzerain and and rich and famous all the rest of it but he is eventually replaced that's how you end up with Belshazzar in chapter

five so what was the point of Nebuchadnezzar's first dream what does Daniel say why does Nebuchadnezzar even have this dream it is communication to the people of God they have just gone into captivity what is the overarching message when Nebuchadnezzar has this dream Daniel interprets it what are the people of God get out of it when they say well so what what's the answer there is a God who controls history and he does it by unexpected and counterintuitive means I would expect that a mighty metallic image would step on a rock and crush it instead the mighty metallic image is crushed and destroyed by this rock because it's a special rock it's a supernatural God hewn rock rock hewn without hands eternal an eternal kingdom replaces the temporary one so this is a message to God's people telling them what bide your time this looks like a terrible reversal it looks like the power of men has overcome your God and your tradition and your people and your history and your heritage and your covenant promises and your possession of the land and your your dynasties in the tribes and all the rest of it but take the long view yes there will be this image standing strong and it will go down through history but ultimately God will reassert control and will replace this with something unexpected something unforeseen something not graspable to the mere reasoning mind what about Pharaoh's dream nobody could figure it out the wise men of Egypt couldn't figure it out when Joseph comes in what does this do when Joseph interprets the dream and Pharaoh says I get it that makes sense and he believes it what is the result in each of these cases that the result that is in view is the deliverance of God's people did God just want to deliver Egypt and that's why he let Pharaoh have this dream I just don't want those poor Egyptians to go through seven years of famine there have been blights and famines that have lasted for generations look at Afghanistan they can't feed people there till yet and they've been trying for decades upon decades since before I was born there are places in the world that are just pestilence ridden seven years of famine why would God go to all of this trouble to avoid seven years in Egypt because that's where God's people are going to be that's where the future of Israel is going to be and God is going to preserve the whole nation of Egypt just to keep Jacob's descendants alive just to provide a place in a home and protection for them within this thing that he is protecting you think it's all about Egypt no it's all about God's people the same thing is true in this succession of kingdoms whether it is the Babylonians or the Medo-Persian Empire or the Greek Empire or the Roman Empire or the revived Roman Empire what is the constant in all of those the preservation of God's people God doesn't care about these kingdoms you notice he doesn't mention China he doesn't mention the many of these long-standing entities in other places doesn't mention the Vikings he doesn't mention the African hegemonies that were burgeoning and blossoming down in South Africa around this time why God's people aren't there where will God what's what is constant to all of these in every single one of those empires there is a presence of God's people that's where they are located that's where God is preserving protecting providing and encouraging and nurturing them and teaching them and disciplining them he is doing the father thing of both provision and training for his people in each of these and that's why they're the only ones that are mentioned there's been many empires come and go there was a tremendous Hittite Empire it's not a part of the image didn't have any significant presence of Israelites in it so same thing in these two what is the upshot of it in Nebuchadnezzar's dream you are you end up with the promotion and and

what is the final scene as that as that vision and dream closes what's the last thing you see the stone cut without hands replacing and surviving all it's eternal in the heavens so to speak what's the last thing you see in in Pharaoh's dream and and the subsequent plenty and famine Joseph raised second only to Pharaoh in the land so when you line these up the stone cut without hands and Joseph correspond and they both represent the same person capital P net cool and the string through them the thread that runs through them is the meaning and the value and the significance and the application for God's people God controls history God is in the business of preserving and protecting providing for and training up his people and that's us and as we whatever part of this historical plan of God we find ourselves in God is doing the same thing because we are his people great song we sang dance played a couple of really great arrangements of it we are God's people the chosen of the Lord that's absolutely true and the significance of these dreams when you think about them goes beyond Babylon beyond Egypt even beyond Israel this is us this is our God looking out for us having a plan and a purpose for us incorporating us into it we are in him capital H in Christ member Ephesians chapter 1 all of those in hymns he is the stone cut without hands he is the one prefigured by Joseph who has the double portion of everything more about that double portion when we come back from the break