

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Part 3

Introduction: Last week in our study we looked at how Daniel and his friends had come under a death sentence. It was not because of anything they had done but it was because the wise men of Nebuchadnezzar could not tell the king his dream and could not interpret his dream. The king had a problem with his anger and when the wise men asked for him to reveal the dream so that they could interpret it, the king became angry and ordered all the wise men as well as Daniel and his companions to be put to death.

Notice Daniel 2:11-13

This was the second test that Daniel would face. The first test was the king's food in chapter 1 and now it is a death sentence placed upon them. Daniel however walked with God and therefore there was no panic in Daniel. He knew God had allowed the test to come for a purpose. Daniel did not know the purpose, but we do. This would be used to elevate Daniel in the king's court so that Daniel could be used by God in a place of authority while the Jews were in the captivity. Daniel requested to see the king and he was granted permission. Daniel had the faith to tell the king that if he was given time, he would tell the king the dream and he would interpret it as well.

Notice Daniel 2:14-19a

Daniel then called his companions, and they prayed and God revealed the dream in a vision to Daniel. This now brings us to where we are tonight.

➤ **Daniel worships God**

Notice Daniel 2:19-23

The worship that Daniel gives to God in this passage is directly related to the vision which God gave him. Daniel declared in verse 29 that wisdom and might are His. Daniel uses the same words in verse 23. These Words are bookends in the worship Daniel offers to God. We need to notice that the worship that Daniel offers here is completely God centered. Notice the words of Pentecost.

"You will notice Daniel's initial response is theological. Because you might have expected Daniel to say, God, thank you for saving my neck, I'm not going to be torn limb from limb."

That was not his response. He exalts and magnifies God because of who God is and the kind of God He is."

Much of the "worship" that is offered in churches today is man-centered. It is all about what God has done for me. True worship is God-centered, and it is to glorify Him and who He is.

Notice Daniel 2:20 again.

Daniel worships God by declaring that wisdom and might are His. God is the source of all wisdom.

Proverbs 2:6-7

⁶ For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

God is the True source of wisdom and therefore He knows what is best. Daniel also worships God for His might. Not only does God know what is best He also has the might/power to carry out what is best. There is nothing or no one that can stay the mighty power of God. You and I can rest assured that as God knows what is best for us, He also has the power to carry out that which is best for us. We may not always understand what He is doing but we can be sure that in His wisdom He is doing what is right and what is best.

Isaiah 46:9-10

⁹ Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

¹⁰ Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Psalms 115:3

³ But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

Notice Daniel 2:21

Here we see that God changes the times and the seasons. This is a reference to the ruling empires of the world. God allows nations to exist for the time period that He has

appointed and when that time period is over, He allows another nation to rise up. All of this is in the controlling hand of our God. Notice the words of Archer.

"God determines when in history events are to take place and how long each process or phase in history is to endure. Thus Yahweh not only decreed the fall and destruction of Jerusalem in 587 B.C.—an event future for Daniel in 602 B.C.—but also the exact number of years the captivity would last."

God is in control of history, and He controls the future. There is nothing that happens by chance. God in His perfect wisdom and with His perfect might directs the events of our world to carry out His plan. This, however, does not mean that we sit back and do nothing. That is fatalism. We have responsibilities. We are to pray, we are to share the Gospel, and we are to live our lives to glorify our Lord.

Daniel also tells us that God removes kings, and He sets up kings. God places into power the people whom He desires to be there. This will be seen when we get to the interpretation of the dream, and we see the Times of the Gentiles all laid out in God's plan. While God sets up kings and removes kings, He also controls the hearts of the kings.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.

God will later move the heart of Cyrus to send the captives back to Jerusalem. In the tribulation he will move the hearts of ten kings to give their authority to the Anti-Christ.

Psalms 75:5-7

⁵ *Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck.*

⁶ *For promotion cometh neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south.*

⁷ *But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.*

This is true for every nation including the United States. God places into power the person He wants to be there to accomplish His purpose. It can be an evil ruler to bring chastisement, or it can be a gentle ruler to bring blessings.

Daniel also worships God because He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding. Why would the wise need wisdom and why would the knowing

need knowledge? Because no matter how wise we might be we are still lacking wisdom. No matter how much we know there is always more that we do not know.

Application:

The deeper our walk grows with the Lord the deeper He takes us. Do you see this? When we learn He teaches us more. When we gain His wisdom, He makes us wiser. The deeper we grow in our walk the deeper our Lord takes us into wisdom and knowledge. The Well from which we drink is bottomless and inexhaustible.

Isaiah 12:3

³ Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Notice Daniel 2:22

God had revealed to Daniel that which was impossible for human wisdom to find out. The light of God had illuminated the darkness and revealed to Daniel the dream that had happened nights before. Notice the words of Barnes.

"A species of knowledge which lies beyond any natural compass of the human powers, and in which a supernatural influence is needed - such things as the Chaldeans and astrologers claimed the power of disclosing. The assertion here is, that when the highest human wisdom showed itself insufficient for the task, God was able to disclose those deep truths which it was desirable for man to understand. Applied generally, this refers to the truths made known by revelation - truths which man could never have discovered by his unaided powers."

Notice Daniel 2:23

Daniel praised God for the revelation. God had given Daniel wisdom and might to know the dream and to understand the dream. This all came through the mighty power of God.

Application:

Let us learn from Daniel's worship that when God answers our prayers, we are to give to Him the worship that is due. Too many times, when God rescues someone from a high-pressure situation there is little if any worship or thanksgiving offered to God.

➤ **Daniel before the king.**

Notice Daniel 2:24-28

Arioeh pointed the king to Daniel and told him there was a man who could do what he required.

Application:

I see in this a picture of what often happens when God uses a man to accomplish His will. The people around the individual want to lift the man up and give praise to him. I love what Daniel does in this situation. He deflects all the glory to God. Daniel is quick to tell the king that there is a God in heaven that reveals secret things. That is, things that were before unknown. This is what God desires in our lives, that we would be sure to give Him all the glory. God uses people that often have little training to accomplish His purposes so that He gets the glory.

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

²⁶ For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

²⁷ But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

²⁸ And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

²⁹ That no flesh should glory in his presence.

Notice Daniel 2:29-30

I want you to notice what Daniel says in verse 30. He had the interpretation of the dream but not because he had more wisdom than all the others, but it was because God had revealed it to him. Daniel was a very humble young man, and he understood that apart from God there was no way he could know the dream.

Application:

I am reminded here of how the Well of wisdom is available to each and every one of us. If we desire to know the wisdom of God, He will reveal it to us so that we might go deeper in our walk with Him. We often think that God's wisdom is only for those who are very intelligent, but the Truth is that the same Holy Spirit that indwells the super intelligent believer indwells us as well.

John 14:26

²⁶ But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Combine the Holy Spirit within us with a desire to learn and we can be sure that God will teach us.

Proverbs 2:1-7

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

² So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

³ Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

⁴ If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

⁵ Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Conclusion:

There is so much potential for us as believers. God wants to give us wisdom and understanding if we will only study His Word and ask Him for wisdom.

Isaiah 55:1-2

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Next week we shall get into the interpretation of the image that the king saw in his dream.