

Daniel 2:24-49

"The Revealer Of Secrets"

Left off like the mid-season finale of your favorite show, it's been a bit since we've been here! But let's recall the fact that there was a sudden & serious shift in the atmosphere coming *out* of Daniel Ch 1 & into Daniel Ch 2. We went from security & recognition to insecurity & trepidation. A foreboding *consternation* was before us due to the fact that Neb had had a disconcerting dream & was demanding the interpretation.

Now in & of itself that doesn't sound so bad. **But when you factor in the detail that he was refusing to tell what his dream was, it adds a whole new dynamic to the equation. He brought in the main body of his governmental cabinet; the magicians, the mediums, the soothsayers, the sorcerers, the Chaldeans & astrologers & told them that if they could tell him his dream & the meaning thereof that he would honor them, promote them, power & wealth would be theirs.** But if they couldn't, he'd have them all torn limb from limb, have their houses burned to the ground & made into an ash heap...

To put it plainly, they couldn't do it. So the king demanded the execution of all the wise-men of Babylon. That presented a problem because Daniel & his buddies were lumped into that group. **Nevertheless, the executions commenced & when Arioch (the chief executioner) came to Daniel, Daniel was like, "What's going on & why is there such urgency placed on the execution of all these people?" Arioch told Daniel what had gone down & so Daniel asked the king for a little time & told him that he would give him what he was asking for.**

The king granted Daniel's request & so Daniel called his friends & said fellas, we need to pray or we're going to perish. So they asked God to reveal the king's secret... look at **Vs 19.**

I love that. God ministered to Daniel, Daniel blessed the God of heaven. How many times we ask God to minister to *us* but we don't take the time to bless *Him*? To worship Him (truly & from the heart), to praise His name & thank Him for His grace & His mercy toward our lives. Daniel did not neglect to give God praise...

Even before he confirmed his information w/Nebuchadnezzar. Ladies & Gentlemen; that's faith. If we won't praise God before the answer is in hand, we have a low level of faith. Greater faith hears God's word, receives God's promise & gives God praise...

Let's remember the progression. Daniel's *problem* moved him to *pray*, his answered prayer moved him to *praise*, which intern (as we'll see) lead him to *proceed*.

& I want to draw attention again to Vs 23. Daniel gave God *Thanks*. Something I believe we should be careful to offer to Him. We take so much of God's goodness for granted. (I know you just made your way to Daniel, but let's leave Daniel & look quickly at **Luke 17** Vs 11-19).

Leprosy; an incurable disease. Yet when cleansed by Christ only 1 out of the 10 took the time to thank Him for His work in their life. Sin is a lot like leprosy. It's numbing, desensitizing, fatal & incurable apart from an encounter w/the Savior. Now, I presume that you have lifted up your voice & cried out asking Jesus to have mercy upon you, to cleanse you from corruption & make you whole. Quick question. Are you more like the 9 who were totally stoked & went on their way, or the 1 who returned to the feet of Jesus to thank Him & offer his life as a testimony to the glory of the grace of God?

Well... after taking the time to express praise & thanksgiving to God we pick it up in Vs 24. **Vs 24-28**

Stop right there. Let's take a moment & compare/contrast these 2 men before us. Arioch seeks to glorify himself, Daniel seeks to glorify God. Arioch wants to *receive* some credit, Daniel *refuses any* credit.

In Vs 25 Arioch says, "I have found a man..." But in Vs 24 we read that in reality it was *Daniel* who found *him*. But one of the things we come to love about Daniel is the fact that he doesn't really care who gets the credit so long as God gets the glory.

Vs 26 is one of those pivotal scenes that if it were in a movie I'd make sure that all the dramatic undertones were happening right here. The executions have been placed on hold, Daniel is brought before the king & all the chips are on the table. The king looks at Daniel & says, "Well boy, what's it going to be? Can you tell me the dream that I've seen & give me it's interpretation?" & This is literally the moment that will determine whether or not he & every other wise-man in Babylon will live... or die.

& We love how Daniel handles himself. He says, "Truth be told, there's not a man alive (I don't care how 'wise' he may be) who can declare the secret that the king has demanded..." (& That's where [in my mind] there was a dramatic pause & Arioch swallowed real hard).

He says, "But there is a God in heaven (music begins to change) who reveals secrets, & He has made known to the king what will be in the latter days."

“It’s not in any of your men to do this, nor is it in me. But I serve a God for whom nothing will be impossible & *He* has given me the desire of your heart.” Daniel is witnessing to the most powerful man on the face of the earth. Declaring that there is no power in any other, but the True & Living God can do (& has done) the impossible.

& He tells Nebuchadnezzar that in his dream, God was making known to him (notice) what will be in the “latter days”. Ultimately, we’ll see (spoiler alert) that God was revealing to him the rundown; the wrapping up & winding down of human history & the establishing of the Kingdom (the rule & reign) of J.C. upon the earth! It’s like He’s telling Nebuchadnezzar that though he reigns *upon* the earth, there’s Another coming (namely Jesus) who will rule *over* the earth, & of His Kingdom there will be no end.

But notice this & then we’ll move on. “There is a God in heaven who reveals secrets.”
#1 There is a God in heaven, One w/whom we all have to do. We will all stand *before* Him, we will all give an account *to* Him.

There is a God in heaven. Family, that should bring peace to your soul. You are not alone, God is w/you, He is above all, He is over all, He is in control, & He will never leave you nor forsake you. He’s not a fairytale, He’s not a myth, urban legend or folklore. He is God & He is in heaven.

#2 He reveals secrets. What does that mean? 2 Things. #1 He alone knows *everything*; therefore He can reveal *anything* to us that otherwise we’d never know. (Just as He’s done w/Nebuchadnezzar). We read in the book of Jeremiah, “*Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.*”¹ He is a “revealer of secrets”.

#2 The things we do in the dark will be brought into the light, those things we whisper in the ear will be shouted from the rooftops. There is nothing that we do that goes unwitnessed by Him. He sees all, He knows all. Hebrews 4:13, “*And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*”

Family, I realize that we all do silly things when we think no one is watching. But sometimes we do serious things, sinful things when we think no one is watching, but Someone is *always* watching.

¹ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Je 33:3]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

& Sometimes those things we do in secret can be the root of our problems. Ezekiel Ch 8, write it down, read it later. Don't deceive yourself into believing the Lord doesn't see, He sees the secret things. He's aware of everything we think, everything we see, say & do. His desire isn't that we seek the cover of darkness, but that we walk in the light...

Eph 5:8, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light..."

There's no part of you (physically, mentally, spiritually) that He's not intimately familiar with. David said that like *this*, *"O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O Lord, You know it altogether."*²

You see, God not only revealed a secret to Nebuchadnezzar, but Nebuchadnezzar had a secret that God revealed to Daniel. He's "a revealer of secrets".

Vs 29-30

Family, the more we *study* Daniel, the more we *love* Daniel. He says, "Look the reasons that God chose me aren't in me. They're in Him." Ladies & Gentlemen, such is always the case. God doesn't use you, or work through me because I'm so cool, or super spiritual. But because He's gracious & full of compassion.

Daniel says, "God loves us (those whom you're threatening to kill) & so as to spare us by His grace He's revealed this to me & God loves you. You had questions in your heart & in your mind about your kingdom & what's going to happen after you're gone, what's to come of your kingdom, how will the world end... & God loves you & chosen to reveal the answer to you."

Nebuchadnezzar was wondering *then* about what people still wonder about *today*. "How is all this going to end? What's the point of life? What's going to happen after I'm gone?" & The Word of God addresses all those things.

I'm sure that Vs 29 drew Nebuchadnezzar right up on the edge of his seat. He'd asked for the revelation & interpretation of his dream. Daniel took it a step farther by addressing what he was even thinking before he fell asleep. "What would come to pass after this..." So the dream was prophetic, it was about things to come.

² *The New King James Version*. (1982). (Ps 139:1-4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Specifically the prophetic panorama of Gentile history from his time clear up until the time Jesus rules the earth (& of *His Kingdom* there shall be no end). So we're talking here about what Jesus called (Luke 21:24) "the times of the Gentiles."

Vs 31-36a

If he wasn't on the edge of his seat already, he's glued there now I'll guarantee it! ☺ He says, "There you were & suddenly you were beholding this massive, great & awesome image. But you noted it was made of different materials, head of gold, chest & arms of silver, belly & thighs of bronze, legs of iron & feet of iron mingled w/baked ceramic clay. Then suddenly a stone was cut out of a mountain but w/out hands (it was a supernatural, not of this world kind of happening) & this stone struck the image on its feet of iron & clay & the whole thing shattered & became like chaff off the threshing floor & the wind carried them away until there wasn't so much as a single trace. **Then the stone that struck them was like a living stone & had a worldwide scope in that it grew until it became a great mountain that filled the whole earth.**" "Sound about right?" ☺ The king is there nodding, no doubt glued to his every word.

Now, take note of a couple quick things. #1 The materials decreased in value but increased in strength on the way down. Gold, silver, bronze, iron. Yet for all that (#2) it's foundation was incredibly weak, there was strength in the iron, but an incredibly fragile element in the clay. (Let's continue)

Vs 36b-45

& Daniel drops the mic... ☺ Listen, there are a lot of things about the bible that people will debate, this really isn't one of them. History has borne witness to the accuracy of this prophecy.

& Let me just get straight to the point here. **Babylon was really the 1st great world empire. Nebuchadnezzar wasn't only above the law, he was the law. The head of gold, absolute authority over any & everything that moved over the then known world.**

But his empire would be succeeded by the Medo-Persian Empire. Still great (even bigger geographically, stronger militarily) but not the absolute authority of Nebuchadnezzar. The King could *make* the law, but then he himself would be subject *to* the law (& we'll see that when we get to Daniel being thrown in the lion's den).

After the Medo-Persian Empire came... (any guesses) Alexander the Great, the bronze.

The Grecian Empire, covering even more territory (Vs 39 even emphasizes how this empire would rule over all the earth).

Then the legs of iron, the iron boot of... Rome. Again each stronger, but the centralization of absolute power getting weaker w/each succeeding empire.

Now we notice that in the end there was iron mixed w/clay. No empire ever really conquered Rome, it fell from within. & Since we see iron in the final phase of this image that's why we believe that there will be some kind of revival of the Roman Empire (be it in the European Union, or something similar that will be led ultimately/scripturally by the A.C.). He will arise as a political leader initially, but demand to be worshiped as God ultimately (we should get a chance to focus on that a little later on in Daniel).

But this vision here, along w/the vision in Daniel 7 & Rev 17 all tie together pertaining to the final world power of man, the confederation of 10 nations which will be destroyed at the coming of Christ (the rock cut w/out hands). **It's during this final one world government (iron mingled w/clay, a showing of strength but in realty incredibly fragile) in which Jesus will return, absolutely obliterate the Empires of man, smiting the nations of this world & rule over all the earth. His coming will be climactic, cataclysmic & catastrophic. He will end the rebellion of man. When Jesus comes again, understand it won't be to *convert* the kingdoms of this world... It will be to *crush* them.** He's the rock cut w/out hands, (Ps 118:22, Is 8:14, 28:16, Matt 21:42-44) the living stone which grows to fill all the earth. & Of that day Isaiah prophesies, ***"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea."***³

Ladies and Gentlemen: a democracy is not the best form of government. Why? Because generally speaking (not categorically, but generally) the majority make the wrong decision (why because we're so easily driven by fleshly impulse). A Theocracy is what's needed. God ruling over the nations, establishing the world in righteousness & that's what Christ will do. He won't have a Congress, a Cabinet, He won't take a vote, He'll rule in righteousness over all the earth. He created it, it's His to reign over.

People like to think that human civilization is strong & enduring. The truth is that it's resting on brittle feet of clay.

³ [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [Is 11:9]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Mankind is not getting better & better as time goes by. Oh, creature comforts are nice (as it's been said, improved means to unimproved ends). But civilization is getting cheaper & weaker... that's how the A.C. will be able to organize & facilitate a worldwide dictatorship which Jesus will destroy at His 2nd coming.

The dream is certain, & its interpretation is sure... Daniel isn't guessing, it's not a Nostradamus type prediction, he didn't receive this word from Mrs. Cleo's psychic hotline, this is the word of the Living God & you can stake your life on it (& that's exactly what Daniel did). God is demonstrating He's in control of human history, He knows the future because He determines its course. That's not to say He's responsible for the evils of man, it is to say that He can accomplish His purposes/plans *despite* of the evils of man.

But this world is on a timeline, the world as we know it will come to a sudden & definitive end & that's why it's so critical that we be light in this dark world, sharing the hope of salvation through faith in J.C. who has loved us & given Himself for us...

How do you think Nebuchadnezzar will respond to what Daniel just said? Let's have a look, shall we?

Vs 46-49

I could be wrong, but I would suspect that when the king hits the floor, everyone around him does to.

It was Daniel's desire that God would be glorified & that's exactly what happened. Nebuchadnezzar isn't a "believer" yet, but he's being drawn in, you can count on it. & I love the fact that Daniel petitioned the king for his friends. They were there *for* him, he would take them *w/him*.

But check it out, what began as potential tragedy was turned to a powerful triumph. We serve a God who is able to turn tragedy to triumph. To take what is initially a bad situation & turn it for our eternal good & His eternal glory.

Nebuchadnezzar doesn't quite get it yet. My question is, do *you* get it? How will you respond to a God who knows all your secrets? He knows everything you've ever thought, said or done... & He loves you, He sent His Son to die on a cross *for* you paying the penalty for all of your sin, & all of mine. Humble yourself *before* Him, give your life *to* Him, it'll serve your *good* & His *glory*...

Prayer Points:

God we're comforted by the fact that You know the end from the beginning. That You have loved us & in Christ have reconciled us to Yourself. We thank You that we don't place our hope in a just cause, or a moral crusade or a political party, but in Christ alone. We pray for this country, we pray for this community, help us to be the light you've called us to be. Renew our 1st love & cause us to be contagious w/the love of Jesus & the good news of the gospel.

If you've not responded *to* the gospel, you've not turned from your sin & placed your trust in J.C. than today is your day. Why wait another minute? Believe on the Lord J.C. & be saved!