



Back to Daniel 2:1-3

¹ Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him.

² Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.

³ The king said to them, "I had a dream and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream."

Now we move to the true nature of bureaucrats.

Nebuchadnezzar knew that if he told them his dreams they would just conjure up some interpretation... so he pulls a fast one on them

Daniel 2:4

⁴Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: (beginning with 'O king' we switch from Hebrew to Aramaic through chapter 7, and we noted in last lesson that this is because this section is concerned with Gentile history)

“O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation.”

(Exactly what Nebuchadnezzar knew they would say. Tell us your dream and we, the learned men, will interpret it for you!)

In laying out his conditions the King out smarts his smartest men.

⁴The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “the command from me is firm: (this is a Kings) decree if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be made a rubbish heap.

They would lose not only their lives but their family’s lives and fortune. They would not have a burial but their bodies would be dumped on that spot so that it would become a dung-heap.

This gives us some idea of the pressure placed on Nebuchadnezzar by God in these dreams, and the absolute power he possessed and how ruthless he was. Under conditions like those, we need the WISDOM of Daniel.

But this is a picture of man throughout history, sooner or later his wisdom fails him and he goes to irrational explanations. Nebuchadnezzar is frantic for truth. He is beginning to lose confidence in all that he has believed and he wants to just smash it all !

Tough qualifications—**ARE YOU TOUGH** on who you listen to teaching you the Word of God?

The reward:

⁶ "But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts (monetary, and) a reward (things like best chariots, housing etc.,) and great honor; (promotions) therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation."

Hopelessness of the cabinet—this is their only hope.

⁷ They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation."

The king will not be swayed and his decree stands

⁸ The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, in as much as you have seen that the command from me is firm,

⁹ that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation."

In verses 10-11 we come to the **hopelessness of human wisdom**, the end of the knowledge of the stars, math, science, wizardry, doctrine of demons etc. Oh, man appears to be so intelligent and he congratulates himself on his ability of observance—he observes human conduct and he observes celestial phenomenon, but when it comes interpreting, understanding, his inadequacies are revealed. All this gives him the wisdom, the appearance of superiority but in the final analysis these fail. (*—"claiming to be wise they became fools"—*)

And only the truth from God will prevail.

*If you have doctrine in the soul, and **BELIEVE IT** and **LIVE IT**, you are so superior to the wisdom of man. (Hawkins)*

As we saw in 1 Corinthians 1-4 God laughs at man's wisdom and reveals its total inadequacies! and that is what God is doing here—showing that man's wisdom makes him foolish.

And let this be a warning from Wisdom of Daniel—as long as you depend on your wisdom or on the wisdom of man you will never solve your inner problems where you have peace, joy, love, etc.

Grow in the Knowledge of Jesus Christ, walk in the power and the leading of the Holy Spirit—solve **SAD** (Stress Anxiety and Depression) in your life.

¹⁰ The Chaldeans answered the king and said, (they are the ruling caste of priests and speak for all) "There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, in as much as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean. (and this is true)

¹¹ Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh."

This is fun—a **WISE PARENT** can see right through their tactics:

1 no one can do it

→ ¹⁰ There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king,

2 it has never been done

→ inasmuch as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean.
in this one area they attacked the unfairness of the King and excused themselves – "this is not in the profile of our positions."

3 pass the buck

→ ¹¹ "...there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh."

This one is packed:

1st they claim to have access to the gods but here their gods are out of reach of mankind.

2nd Here is one of the most wonderful things about our God: Accessibility! We can pray to our God and He hears and He acts in human history and in our lives.

Their sly reasoning does not weaken their King; in fact he becomes even more indignant.

¹² Because of this the king became indignant and very furious, and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

As far as he is concerned they are all frauds!

Daniel 2:13

¹³ So the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill *them*.

Daniel and his 3 friends were appointed to high positions but they are not the top advisors... yet... so God is now going to move so as to promote these 4 men. And Daniel will be the Chief Advisor to the King.

WISDOM of DANIEL: note how Divine Providence can promote – can bless a believer who is faithful, even in the most severe of hostile of circumstances — even can be taken in hostile environment and promoted!

This gives us a clue as to how **many believers will live through the Tribulation and still not take the mark of the beast.**

GOD IS ABOUT TO EXPOSE THESE FAKE PRIESTS AND ADVISORS AND ELEVATE HIS TRUE SERVANTS.

Wisdom of Daniel under his 2nd great crisis. We saw **HIS FAITH** in chapter 1 with the diet crisis. Now he faces death; but **DANIEL DOES NOT FALL APART**. His culture and education had changed drastically, but **HE KEPT ON TRUSTING GOD** and believing and living all he knew and **he will not only survive but he will be promoted!**

Then came his faithfulness to God not to defile himself and God remained faithful to Daniel; and now he faces death along with the entire council.

Daniel 2:

¹⁴Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon;

Arioch

Captain of executions!

Arioch is not on the Kings official cabinet, but he represents the **military** of the Kings rule. His name means lion, and refers to him as a great warrior and he is the captain of the Kings personal bodyguard. Later, we will see his **inner character**.

He has come to kill Daniel and his three friends.

But Daniel does not fall apart in panic!

**His thinking is led by his faith and his Faith keeps him focused on the Lord,
not on his circumstances.**

Wisdom of Daniel:

let your thinking be guided by your faith,
Especially in times of tribulation.

Daniel knows that God has a purpose for his life and
He knows his life would not end until that purpose was fulfilled.
He was snatched from his society, promoted in a hostile environment,

and Daniel knows that God's plan for him is not

If it is time for Daniel to die, Daniel is ready.
If not, Daniel will continue to trust the Lord.

Daniel is not afraid to die

But Daniel is brave enough to live for Christ!

HOW ABOUT YOU?

ARE YOU AFRAID TO DIE? DO YOU WANT TO DIE?

OR ARE YOU BRAVE ENOUGH TO LIVE FOR JESUS CHRIST?

OR ARE YOU STRONG ENOUGH TO GLORIFY JESUS CHRIST?

If it is time for Daniel to die, Daniel is ready,
if not, Daniel will continue to trust the Lord.

Remember his respect of the authority of the chief official in chapter 1—put over their training well, even with all his success Daniel is still humble and respectful of authority.

Daniel because of his faith is able to think under pressure and so first he needs to know what is going on.

Daniel 2:

¹⁵ he said to Arioch, the king's commander, "For what reason is the decree from the king *so* urgent?" Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter.

Arioch has come to kill Daniel but note that he talks with Daniel.

Daniel did not argue with him but spoke with him ¹⁴ Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment and because of Daniel's conduct Arioch talks with him.

King James ¹⁴ ... with counsel and wisdom

New International Version ¹⁴ ... with wisdom and tact.

This is an Aramaic word meaning counsel or discretion, this means first Daniel showed great respect in his own physical manner and in the way he talked with the captain of the guard; respecting his position and why he came but does not fall apart; **HIS FAITH gave him wisdom, humility and courage!**
DOES YOUR FAITH GIVE THESE QUALITIES TO YOU ?

The 2nd word, ¹⁴ ...discernment... is also Aramaic for *sound judgment* He does not start off by defending himself or falling apart or begging of mercy etc. He stood properly & inquired respectfully! And asked pertinent questions. (Remember when Jesus Christ was before the Sanhedrin!)

So the Commander respected him in return and listened to what Daniel had to say.

Daniel's wisdom: Trusting God, while respecting man! In our society today so few young people respect their parents, respect authority and think they are just about as good or even better than anyone else. Parents teach your children to have **discretion** and **discernment**, which comes from **Knowledge** of the **Word of God** and the **Fruit of the Holy Spirit!**

Exactly what Nebuchadnezzar knew they would say...

“Tell us your dream and we, the learned men, will interpret it for you!”



Daniel 2:

¹⁶ So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king.

Why Daniel is in Wisdom section of the Old Testament Scriptures;

This is wisdom; Sequence of Wisdom

Faith directs his wisdom and his actions

Knowledge of God's Word directs his wisdom and his actions

Here in verse 15 – his question: ¹⁵ ... “For what reason is the decree from the king so urgent?” KJ so hasty NIV such a harsh decision

Aramaic – meaning urgent and harsh, severe, and unbending!

→Daniel has not prayed yet,

→Daniel has not consulted God yet,

→but Daniel knows that his **God** is able to do all things.

→Daniel knows that his **God** can give him the interpretation of the dream.

Do you know your God?

Does your KNOWLEDGE OF GOD direct
your thoughts, your emotions, and actions?

Daniel knows this from all he has been taught by his parents and by the Scriptures. So this 17-18 year old stands before the most powerful man in the world, who is angry and frustrated, Daniel is not arrogant **BUT HIS FAITH** gives him confidence.

WISDOM of DANIEL in A CRISIS!

What does Daniel do now?

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter,

1st After finding out the facts – not go off half-cocked!

2nd He goes to his like-minded friends!

“I don’t have very many friends” oh, parents teach your children –it is not the number of friends they have (*-how many friends on face book they have-*) but the **quality** of their friends;

ARE THEY LIKE MINDED?

DO THEY BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST?

DO THEY TRUST THE HOLY SPIRIT?

DO THEY KNOW GOD’S WORD?

DO THEY TRUST THE LORD?

DO THEY **KNOW** HIS WORD AND DO THEY **BELIEVE** HIS WORD

AND THEN DO THEY **LIVE THEIR LIFE BASED ON GOD’S WORD?**

Do they have a **LOVE** for the Word of God?

Does The Word of God guide them in life?

And do you go to these friends in time of trouble.

“Who are your real friends?” tells a great deal about You!!

How many friends do you have that you go to in time of trouble; with whom you can share and talk on about the Will of God, The Word of God?

THESE ARE YOUR TRUE FRIENDS AND YOU DON'T NEED MANY.

And one more point on his friends: there is **NO JEALOUSY** among these 4 men. The three are not jealous of Daniel nor does Daniel think himself superior to them.

Spiritual Love

Spiritual Loveis not jealous!

Spiritual Lovedoes not boast!

Spiritual Lovedoes not compete!

KNOW HOW TO BE A FRIEND AND HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS!

¹⁸ In order that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery,

WISDOM of Daniel

Go to your friends and pray (Jesus Christ in the Garden Gethsemane)

¹⁸ ...so that Daniel and his friends might not be destroyed with the rest

of the wise men of Babylon.

They turn to the **Sovereign Omniscient God of The Universe** for the answer
Not to human wisdom.

WISDOM of Their Prayer

1. They decide where they will turn for help
To the Sovereign Omnipotent Living God not to man's wisdom.
2. They specifically request for the compassion of God.
They appeal to God's Grace and Mercy. They know they do not **EARN** nor **DESERVE** this.
As Jesus Christ's Prayer was specific in John 17: and in the Garden of Gethsemane, so
there prayer is specific concerning this mystery.
3. Unlike the wise-men of Babylon (verse 11) these four men **KNOW** their God is a Personal
God who ACTS in our lives.

Now note the circumstances:

- if they do not turn to their God, they die
- if they do not pray...they die!
- If they do pray, they live!

Take your pick!

The future of these 4 men depends on what they are going to do!

NOTE BACK IN VERSE 11 WHERE WHEN THE CABINET WAS SPEAKING OF THEIR GODS—

¹¹ except gods whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh

WHAT KIND OF A GOD IS THAT?

Daniel knows that His God dwells with him and his 3 friends.

Do you know and believe

that God is a personal God
who listens and cares about you?

Do you know and believe
that God LOVES YOU?

Or is your god an impersonal god,
who does not even exist?

Over and over Jesus Christ prayed in the closing days of His life, before cross.
And here Daniel and his 3 friends
believe in an All Powerful, All Knowing God
and come to Him in prayer.

Sequence of wisdom:

1. **Daniel finds out what the issue is.**
2. **Goes to King and ask for a short time---**
Note Daniel does this before he even prays, before he had gotten any word from the Lord. He did this out of pure Faith; because he knew God was Faithful and that he could trust his God. God did not raise him up to let him die now.
3. **Then he goes to his true friends—believers who KNOW TRUTH.**
4. **They have a fervent powerful short prayer meeting.**

God answers this kind of prayer—you want to pray prayers that God will answer? God answers prayers that are in His will—but you have to **Know His Will** to pray this kind of prayer—and you can know His Will by your continual study of The Word of God.

Daniel and his friends are about 17-18 years old! Yet here they are making these kinds of decisions and prayers.

How old was David when he took on Goliath? **15**
These things happen to anyone who trust the Lord; who KNOW
DOCTRINE—**taught by their parents!**

God answers prayer

¹⁹ Then the mystery (unknown) was revealed to Daniel in a night vision.

Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven;

Blessed: **To give PRAISE and THANKSGIVING**

God of heaven: **In the Lord's prayer of John 17, "He lifted His eyes to heaven."**

He is the God over all creation, over the sun, the moon, the stars,
which these wise men of Babylon worshipped.

WISDOM OF RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE IN PRAYER

Daniel's great Prayer---

note his prayer is "about and concerned with"

the Honor of God, the Glory of God, not him;

not Daniel's honor but the Honor and Glory of God---(Lord's prayer in Gospel of John 17)

God answered their prayer and revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel
who also had the gift of prophesy

^{19...} In a night vision **not a dream**

Daniel has been given the panorama of human history from his time
to the Second Advent of Jesus Christ through the millennial reign of Jesus Christ
and now we have his response to God's Faithfulness.

What is your response to God's faithfulness to you?

Wisdom of Daniel: thanksgiving and praise to God

HOW MANY TIMES DO **YOU** FAIL TO THANK GOD?
FOR HIS KINDNESS?
FOR ANSWERED PRAYERS IN YOUR LIFE?

Daniel answered.

*First, just slowly read through this praise of God in verses 20 - 23
This is a short powerful praise that serves as a guide for us all.*

-Wisdom and Power belong to Him
-He Controls the history of all mankind
-He alone reveals the mysteries

This is Daniel's God, this is Our God

•Praise Him •Worship Him •Thank Him •Trust Him completely.

²⁰ Daniel said, "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,
For wisdom and power belong to Him.

**Therefore, He knows the mystery of Nebuchadnezzar's dream and
He has the power to make it known and bring it about!**

Here is the Wisdom of Daniel.

²⁰... "Let the name of God be blessed

HIS NAME (name of God) refers to His Essence and His Divine Character.

YOU HAVE TO KNOW HIM TO PRAISE HIS NAME

Nowhere does Daniel give any credit to himself! – Wisdom Arrogance and Boasting characterizes the church in Corinth and multitude of Christians---who want glory and recognition.

And please remember that Daniel has **ISN** (INHERITED SIN NATURE) with Arrogance, but his constant **Faith and thinking of God**, protected him, against his own nature. HE HAS SO MUCH DOCTRINAL TRUTH, DOCTRINE IN HIS SOUL TO KEEP HIM OCCUPIED WITH THE LORD AND PROTECTED FROM HIMSELF.

WHAT PROTECTS YOU... FROM YOURSELF?

²¹ “It is He who changes the times and the epochs;

He removes kings and establishes kings;

He gives wisdom to wise men

And knowledge to men of understanding.

THIS GIVES A CLUE AS TO HOW GOD CONTROLS HISTORY.

HERE IS THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY...

it is a shame to take history from secular teacher to whom history is just

FACTS, NAMES, DATES, EVENTS

without purpose, destiny, goals objectives,

but, of course, if there is no God, then these do not exist.

And right here is why they hate prophecy—Daniel—because if prophecy is allowed to stand, then it means there is a **God in Control of History** and there is a final objective of history and this includes the history of each individual’s life.

God is not only the **Creator of the world** and of the **universe**

but **He is in total control of** its times and epochs.

He changes the **Times** and **Segments of History**.

²¹ ... The times Aramaic word indicating a period of time—referring to events of time—

²¹ ...The epochs Aramaic for a specific time, and in the plural refers to the division of time or events.

Combination of these two words is where we get the concept of **DISPENSATIONS**, which is used to refer to the fact that God is in control of all segments of human history—Gentiles, Jews, Church, Tribulation and Millennium.

**God, not man, determines the changes of History.
God interacts with History according to HIS PLAN.**

Man believes that these things are determined by the stars; that history really is fatalism—going nowhere, you have no real purpose in existence, man is simply an evolutionary animal until this all just explodes.

²¹ ...He removes kings and establishes kings; **God is in control**—even of who is president of this country—we have no cause for fear! **God is in Control.** These may not always be who is best for the country but who is best for the Plan of God.

And this will become important
in the revealing and interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

GOD IS MOVING HISTORY TO HIS GLORY.

So either give glory to God or fight His plan or
just ride along not really knowing what is going on!

This is not Calvinistic, pre-determined, pre-destination.

The Sovereignty of God **uses, not determines, man's VOLITION** to fulfill HIS PLAN.

²¹ ...He gives wisdom to Wise Men, and knowledge to Men of Understanding.

Wisdom is used as far as the Plan of God is concerned in two stages:

1st Wisdom that leads to Salvation

2 Timothy 3:

¹⁵ and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings
(The Word of God) which are able to give you the wisdom that
leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

2nd Wisdom is understanding of the Word of God for life, for every area of your
life...from childhood to old age; both single, and married.

And Knowledge comes from His Word and His Spirit

²² It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;
He knows what is in the darkness,
And the light dwells with Him.

Are you concerned about yourself in your prayers?
Or are you concerned about God, His reputation, His Glory?

What is your problem today? Do you care more about God than self?
When God is more real than your problems, when God's Faithfulness and Power
are more real than your adverse circumstances then you are ready to glorify God.

When there is nothing you can do
—which is where Daniel is—
then you start trusting Him explicitly.

What is a mature believer?

God is more real than you circumstances.

²² Profound and hidden things

this concept is all through the Bible, sometimes called *mystery and* these hidden things are spoken of throughout the Bible.

Deuteronomy 29: ²⁹ “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.

1 Corinthians 2:6-10

⁶ Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away;

⁷ but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden *wisdom* which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

⁸ *the wisdom* which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory;

⁹ but just as it is written,

“THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD,

AND *which* HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN,

ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.”

¹⁰For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

**Man’s knowledge, man’s wisdom, is limited to the known.
God is All-Knowing and has revealed many mysteries to man in HIS WORD.
We have more than enough to learn of “what He has revealed”
without worrying about “what He has not revealed.”**

Daniel 2: ²²And the light with Him.

WOW!!! This is a reference to Jesus Christ – The Messiah.

Genesis 1: ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light.

The light is the Gospel.

The Gospel of John 1: 1-4

The **LOGOS** was with GOD.

The **LIGHT** was with GOD.

And **THE LIGHT** came into the world.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God.

³All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

⁴In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men.

	1. LIGHT DWELLS WITH HIM	
	2. THIS REFERS TO JESUS CHRIST	
	3. THE LIGHT ILLUMINATES HIDDEN THINGS	
	4. ALL THINGS ARE ILLUMINATED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST	
	5. JESUS CHRIST REVEALS GOD	
	6. THE MORE YOU LEARN ABOUT AND KNOW JESUS CHRIST, THE MORE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HISTORY AND YOURSELF.	

²³...I give thanks and praise, For Thou hast given me wisdom and power; Even now Thou hast made known to me what we requested of Thee, For Thou hast made known to us the king's matter."

Note that all 4 of these young men knew the dream and its interpretation.

This is the TRUE UNDERSTANDING of PSALM 50

¹⁵ Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I shall rescue you, and (in so doing) you will honor Me."

Daniel 2:

²³ “To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,
For You have given me wisdom and power;
Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,
For You have made known to us the king’s matter.”

Wisdom of Daniel

TO KNOW THAT ALL THE WISDOM HE HAS
COMES FROM GOD

²³ For You have given me wisdom and power;

Here in verse 23, the **WISDOM OF THE MYSTERY**,
Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and its interpretation.

Do YOU know where the wisdom for living your life comes?
And do you constantly give thanks to God for this **wisdom**? And **power**?
You may know something; you may know what you ought to do;
And you may even know how to do it.
But do you have **THE POWER** and **THE COURAGE** to do it?

God in His grace not only gives us the **wisdom** to live but He also gives the
power to fulfill His plan for you. He supplies us with **His Spirit**.

The Holy Spirit is the Power of God.

Daniel 2:

²³ “To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,
For You have given me wisdom and power;

Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,
For You have made known to us the king's matter.”

WE GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE – HE GIVES WISDOM AND POWER

²³ “To You, O God of my fathers

(Abraham, Isaac and Jacob)

It is in the Abrahamic Covenant that the blessings to all Gentile nations is declared
Those who Bless you I will Bless and Those who Curse you, I will Curse.
And Daniel knows these things.)

²³ “I give thanks and praise, For Thou hast given me wisdom and power;
Even now Thou hast made known to me what we requested of Thee,
For Thou hast made known to us the king's matter.”

Note that all 4 of these young men knew the dream and its interpretation.

This is the true understanding of Psalm 50:15

¹⁵ Call upon Me in the day of trouble;
I shall rescue you, and (in so doing) you will honor Me.”

AMEN

DON'T MISS WHERE DANIEL CONFRONTS THE BEASTS.



COMING to a sermon near you.