

But There is a God in Heaven, Part 2

Daniel 2

III. The Unwavering Faith (vv. 14 – 23)

In **verse 14**, we see again the humble and respectful demeanor of Daniel. He realized something was terribly wrong. Yet, he very wisely and tastefully addressed his visitors.

The word “guard” (Hebrew = *tabbāh*) means “to slay.” Therefore, “the king’s guard” consisted of executioners for “the king.”

Across Babylon, “the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans” were being yanked from their homes and perhaps thrown into the back of a wagon, on their way to a formal execution. Yet, Daniel didn’t resort to panic mode. He never lost his cool.

In **verse 15**, we see *the favor of the Lord* once more. In “Arioch,” Daniel had a listening ear. Therefore, perhaps “Arioch” knew of Daniel’s reputation. He knew, or at least had heard, that Daniel was wise, kind, and trustworthy. And “Arioch” knew Daniel lived for his God.

In **verse 16**, the king’s rage having cooled, and still having that burning desire to know what the dream meant, Nebuchadnezzar gives Daniel a measure of time.

In **verses 17 – 18**, we see **The Unwavering Faith** of Daniel and his friends. Bear in mind, *these young men were between the ages of 16 – 20* years old.

Once Daniel understood the situation, he knew that God had given him “understanding in all visions and dreams” (**Daniel 1:17**). However, Daniel’s confidence wasn’t in his gift. Daniel’s confidence was in the Lord. He realized that only “the God of heaven” could provide a solution.

By faith, Daniel acted on the confidence that God would answer his prayer. What’s more, Daniel knew what was **impossible** for the *wisemen of Babylon* was **possible with God**.

We need to ask ourselves the question: When we are faced with situations clearly beyond our control, *do we panic, or do we pray? Do we run, or do we rest?* Therefore, may we, like these four young men, *look to the Lord*. Like them, may we be quick to bow our knees before God’s merciful throne to plead for His will to be done.

Daniel’s life was a life marked by prayer. We’ll see in **Daniel 6** that Daniel prayed facing Jerusalem and prayed three times a day, every day. In fact, Daniel was so regular in his prayers that his enemies knew his *consistency* and *devotion* to prayer would lead to his arrest. We need men and women like this today. Our lives – your life and my life – need to be characterized more and more by prayer (**Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17**).

In **verse 19**, the word “mystery” is translated from the Aramaic word *rāz* (rawz). It is used eight times in this chapter and its Greek equivalent is used 28 times in the New Testament. It means “*to hide*,” and refers to “*a hidden truth*.” When I googled it yesterday, one hit referred to this word as “**the Lord’s secret**” (**1 Corinthians 2:11**). And if God has a **secret**, we won’t be able to find out what it is unless He chooses to reveal it.

Long ago in eternity past, the three Persons of the Godhead developed a plan for how world history would play out. And because of the humble prayers of these young, faithful Hebrew boys, God chose to reveal one of *His* secrets “to Daniel in a vision of the night.”

In **verses 20 – 23**, we see that once God revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel, Daniel didn't just run off to the king's palace. Instead, Daniel's first response was to take a moment to express his thanksgiving to God for the revelation he received. In doing so, Daniel provides us with perhaps the best expression of God's sovereignty in all of Scripture.

The Aramaic word (*bērak*) translated “blessed” could also be translated “**praise**.” And “the **name** of God” is synonymous with His Person and work. Therefore, Daniel is **praising** God for the totality of who He is. Everything about God – His **attributes**, His **character**, His **choices**, and His **ways** are worthy of our praise.

Then Daniel singles out God's “wisdom and might.” Why? Because in revealing the dream to Daniel, God proved Himself to be **wiser** and **mightier** than all the wise men of Babylon and their gods.

In **verse 21**, God's revelation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream reinforced to Daniel that God is sovereign over the affairs of this world.

Do you take issue with the moral decline of our nation? Daniel says it is God who has allowed that decline to happen. For it is God who “changes times and seasons.” You will go to the polls this November to cast your vote for a president, but it will be God who “removes kings and sets up kings.”

When you listen to faithful men like Pastor Clint, John MacArthur, John Piper, etc. etc., and think about what wonderfully gifted men they are, do you realize that it is God who “gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding”?

Therefore, don't lose heart! We find ourselves caught up in something that is far bigger and far more glorious than we can wrap our arms around. And that something is God's unfolding plan for the world. Therefore, may we take comfort in the fact that God is working all things out for His glory and our good (**Romans 8:28**). **Our part is to be faithful. Our part is to trust and obey.**

In **verse 22**, we learn that although Daniel's wisdom and understanding was ten times better than the rest of Babylon's wise men (**1:20**), he still needed God to reveal the dream (**Deuteronomy 29:29**). God has secrets, and only He can reveal the “deep and hidden things.” This refers to things beyond human knowledge.

Gleason Archer says, “The great existential questions of life and death continue to be insoluble to the worldly wise. Without divine revelation, there is only conjecture and subjective opinion. Only in Yahweh, the God of Scripture, is ultimate truth to be found.”

In **verse 23**, Daniel rejoiced in God's goodness and gracious revelation. Daniel and his friends prayed, and God answered in a profound way. Therefore, may we not grow weary in prayer! God's kingdom needs people who pray. Because God hears! And God answers those prayers in accordance with His will.

IV. The Undeniable Prophecy (vv. 24 – 45)

In **verse 24**, we see Daniel expressing his compassion and concern for “the wise men of Babylon” when he asks that “Ariocho...**not** destroy” them.

In **verses 27 – 28**, Daniel echoes what the “wise men” of Babylon had already told “the king.” There is **no one on earth** who could reveal “the mystery that the king has asked.” It was impossible for them, and it was impossible for Daniel. ***But! There is a God in heaven!***