

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Daniel 2:13-28 | Session 5 | B.C. 603

Daniel, along with all of the wise men of Babylon has been sentenced to death by king Nebuchadnezzar. The king had a dream that disturbed him greatly. The dream was *God induced*, meaning God wanted to get Nebuchadnezzar's attention, but the king could not remember what the dream was about (this may also have been God induced in order to bring Daniel to the forefront). God would use other means, besides Nebuchadnezzar himself to recall and interpret the dream.

Calling in his *wise* men, he promised them great rewards if they could ***therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.*** To which they replied, ***Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it...there is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter...except the gods, whose dwelling is not with me.*** The king **commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.**

Because the dream was sent from God, it would take someone who was spiritually wise and had spiritual discernment to interpret it. Daniel was that man, but it was *decreed he should be slain along with all the wise men in the kingdom.*

Verse 14,15—

When Daniel heard of the decree of death he **answered with counsel and wisdom.** This is the only place this particular word **counsel** is used in the O.T. so it is difficult to discern its exact meaning. If we keep it in context with the word **wisdom**, it could mean he approached him with shrewdness, tact, or grace.

To Arioch...which was gone forth to slay, it seems as if **Arioch** is ready to kill **Daniel**. Daniel asks, **why is this decree so hasty (urgent or harsh) from the king?** The fact that **Arioch** listened to Daniel's question and then **made the thing known to him** is a good indication that Daniel as well favored among the Babylonians (**Daniel 1:9**).

Like Daniel, we should conduct ourselves with grace and wisdom. The apostle Paul wrote that he and Timothy always conducted themselves *not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God (2 Corinthians 1:12)*. Likewise, Paul tells us who are in the body of Christ to (**Colossians 4:5,6**), *“Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time. Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”* We should strive to do the same.

Verse 16—

Then Daniel went in, most commentaries say *Daniel went in to the king*. But it was not the king; **Daniel went in** to Arioch (see [vs. 24,25](#); Had Daniel gone before Nebuchadnezzar in vs. 16, the king must have had a short memory, because he shows no recollection of having spoken with Daniel later). Daniel **desired Arioch** to communicate **of the king** to give **him time** (or, it could mean *appoint him a time*). Daniel, only 17 years old, trusted in the *God of heaven, the God of his fathers* ([2:23](#)) for the interpretation of the dream. The apostle Paul sets an example for us to act like Daniel when he said, *“In nothing I shall be ashamed, but with boldness, Christ shall be magnified (shown greatly) in my body, whether it be by life, or by death”* ([Philippians 1:20](#)). **He would show the king the interpretation**, The text doesn't say he would *show him the dream*, but it is implied (**this secret**) in [verse 18](#). Arioch **gave him time** to tell him the dream and the **interpretation**.

Verse 17,18—

Made the thing (the matter) **known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions**. Not gossip or just sharing *breaking news* information rather, he related the matter so that all four of them **would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret**. Having likeminded brothers praying is powerful. Choose your friends wisely; those who only desire to get the inside scoop on gossip; you may as well part company with them. Don't include gossipers in your crucial prayer requests. Find men who share the same passion for seeing God's work accomplished. The KJV uses the word **secret** 9 times in Daniel; here it means to hide. While the dream was God induced, He was not allowing the king to remember it or to figure it out on his own. God had a divine plan to use Daniel and this event would rocket him to greatness in the Babylonian **kingdom** ([Daniel 2:48](#)). Notice also Daniel and his friends pleaded with God for their own lives that they **should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon**. While they were bold, they also experienced fear. There is no shame in fear; Paul experienced that emotion in [2 Corinthians 1:8](#) where he said, *“we despaired even of life.”* But in the midst of despair, never give up hope!

Verse 19—

God revealed the **secret unto Daniel in a night vision**. It deserves more study, but I think the only difference between a **dream** and a **vision** is that we might consider a dream to encompass the entire event, and a **vision** to be the details of the event. [For example: I had a dream last night. Let me tell you the visions I had]. While two different words are used, **dream** and **vision**, Daniel uses them synonymously in verse 28 (see also **Daniel 4:5, 7:1**). And it bears repeating, dreams and visions that have any significance whatsoever for our lives have ceased as have all prophetic communication from God (**1 Corinthians 13:9,10**). God communicates to us through His perfect word. A bad dream at 2:00 AM might just be a spoiled piece of fish you ate at 6:00 PM. God does not reveal secrets today since we have perfect completed Word of God in which He has revealed all we need to know about our lives and the future.

Verse 20—

Receiving an answer to his prayer, **Daniel blessed the God of heaven**. The word **blessed** carries the idea of kneeling. It is ironic how modern-day kneeling (like athletes protesting the national anthem) is a form of protest, while Biblical kneeling is humbleness toward God. Satan always twists the truth.

Daniel showed his humility in his thankfulness to God by kneeling in the **name of God for ever and for ever**, because **wisdom and might are his**. Daniel did not get clarification of the dream on his own, it came ultimately through God's wisdom. We see this same pattern of God revealing secrets or, in the New Testament mysteries, not by man but by God Himself (**Galatians 1:12; Ephesians 3:3; Revelation 1:1**).

Verse 21-23—

These three verses show God's working and dealing with mankind in various dispensations and reveal His prophetic workings in the *times and seasons*. This phrase is used in the N.T. to refer to prophetic times (**Acts 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 5:1**). This is not referring to the actual changing of seasons since God made it clear He would never do that (**Genesis 8:22**). We know also from **1 Corinthians 13:9,10** that prophetic times have ended, but during those prophetic times like the book of Daniel, and in future prophetic times like the Tribulation after the Rapture of the body of Christ, God has and will **removeth kings, and setteth up kings; He giveth wisdom to the wise** (as in Daniel's case), He increased **knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the**

deep and secret things. Daniel concludes with God's omniscient and omnipotent attributes; *the darkness and the light are both alike to thee (Psalm 139:12)*. And he praises the one true God, the **God of my fathers...for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.** Why does God not reveal secrets during the dispensation of grace? Doing so would be new revelation and we would be adding to prophecies, like the book of Revelation which warns those during the Tribulation not to do so (**Revelation 22:18,19**).

Verses 24,25—

Went in unto Arioch...and said thus to him. This gives more sense to verse 16. Daniel had to request an appointment through Arioch to go before the king. **Bring me in, and I will shew the unto the king the interpretation.** Which Arioch arranged and then introduced Daniel. Note what Arioch doesn't say, "The young man who came and spoke with you earlier is back. "No, he says to the king, **I have found a man of the captives (in Chaldean, literally *children of the captivity of Judah*) of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.**

Verse 26-28—

The king addressed Daniel by his Chaldean/Babylonian name, **Belteshazzar** (May Bel protect his life). **Art thou able to make known unto me the dream...** The seventeen-year-old was grounded in his faith in God: **king...your secret dream cannot be shown to you by any of the wise men.** This is exactly what the **Chaldeans** had told the king (**2:10,11**). Daniel continued...**But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets** and that God has determined to make **known to the king...what shall be in the latter days.** At this point in the book, we get new information; that there is going to be a revealing of the latter days. This phrase **latter days** is used 12 times in the O.T. and it refers to the Tribulation period and the Second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, the N.T. uses the term "Last days" (**2 Timothy 3:1**).

Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these...