

SERMON NOTES ON DANIEL 2: 24-49

Lots of things in life are unpredictable, but of one thing you can be sure, history will end with only one King, one Ruler, recognized by the entire world, and his name is Jesus. This fact is at the heart of today's message.

The first half of Daniel 2 introduces us to the powerful king Nebuchadnezzar's world which was shattered by a dream engineered by God, such that he could not sleep. He then sent the young exiled teenager, Daniel, on death row, to set him free. The ways of God are truly past finding out. **In Daniel chapter 2, God has chosen to reveal Himself to us in ways that if we ignore them, will be to our peril.**

The king had asked for the impossible of any human being. He wanted his team of enchanters, magicians, astrologers, who had tapped into the demonic world to tell him his dream and interpret it. If they failed, he vowed to cut them into pieces and reduce their homes to rubble (v.5). This was not an empty bluff. Nebuchadnezzar was a wicked, vicious and despotic tyrant. Read Jeremiah 39:5-7 to see a bit of his wickedness.

Daniel and his three friends sought the face of the Lord in prayer and specifically asked that God reveal the dream and its interpretation to them. He did. **Prayer should not be our last resort but our first line of defence when assailed by life's challenges.**

This is where we pick it up today in verses 24 and 25, "Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king and I will interpret his dream for him." Arioch hastily took Daniel to the king, saying, "I have found a man from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means." Really? You found such a man! There's an interesting contrast between Arioch's pride and opportunism and Daniel's humility wanting to see God get all the glory and all of the praise.



Verses 26-30

The king asked Daniel if he could do what his wise men had said belonged to the realm of the gods. (verse 10), that is, to tell him his dream and its interpretation. Now Daniel got in his little jab here. He made sure the king knew that no human being or any of their gods could do what the king asked. **"But,"** (verse 28) this is a great reversal in this whole section, **"there is a God in heaven..."** Isn't that awesome? The next time you're facing a crisis and things are going chaotic and crazy, and you're starting to freak out, just remind yourself of this statement - **there is a God in heaven!** Remind yourself that God is in heaven and is still sitting on the throne. **That is our 1st point of emphasis in this passage. But, there is a God in heaven**

2nd point: The God of heaven is the Revealer of secrets, and was making known to king Nebuchadnezzar the rise and fall of empires and what would be in the latter days," which, interestingly, would include from Babylon all the way up to what is yet future for us.

Look for God in everything, pray to him, give him credit.

3rd point: **God's sovereign plan and the fading glory of humanity (vv. 31-45)**

Daniel first accurately reported the *content* of Nebuchadnezzar's dream which gave Daniel credibility when explaining what the dream *meant*:

The interpretation: You are this head of gold: After you would come three other kingdoms, each represented by the different materials, silver, bronze, iron and partly of baked clay. While watching, a rock was cut out from heaven which smashed the entire image to pieces and the rock became a mountain which filled the whole earth. That Rock is God's everlasting kingdom

which was built on the rock that became a mountain that filled the earth. Jesus Christ is the Rock whose return will usher in His everlasting kingdom.

We have the advantage of looking into history to see part-fulfilment of that prophetic dream and therefore anticipate the fulfilment of the rest of it.

Verses 46-49

The King acknowledges God as King of kings and Lord of lords.. He even fell before Daniel in worship! Read vv.46-47. *Then the king made Daniel a great man, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.*” By the way, this is going to get Daniel in trouble because the other wise men are going to be jealous and envious; Daniel will end up in the lion’s den, and Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego will land in the fiery furnace. **However, God wanted to place Daniel in just the right spot to have just the right influence so that God could speak to this king.**

Let me wrap up what we’ve covered in the 3 points of emphasis.

1. There is a God in heaven. because sometimes, when facing life’s challenges we are tempted to ask, *Where is God? Why would God allow this? Why would God allow that? Why doesn’t God do something?* There is a God in heaven. You’ve got to remind yourself of that.

2. He’s a Revealer of Mysteries. God does choose to reveal Himself to people whether it be in dreams or visions but principally in His Son, Emmanuel. (Hebrews 1: 1-3; Colossians 1: 15-20)

3. The God in heaven has a sovereign plan and is working out his purposes through the fading glory of humanity. He has hinted that His Messiah, Jesus is coming back to set up his everlasting kingdom.

Do we have grounds to believe in the coming kingdom of our God in Christ Jesus who is referred to as *the stone rejected by builders which has become the cornerstone?* We have every reason to believe in the fulfilment of prophecy concerning Jesus Christ and his final return to rule with his saints on earth. Why? 1. Because **all the detailed predictions in Daniel were literally fulfilled.** 2. **All the predictions by Jewish prophets (about 330) concerning Jesus first coming as the Messiah made hundreds of years before he was born as man were literally fulfilled.** Let us take about 15 of them because of their specificity:

Is 7:14 – Born of a Virgin. Micah 5:2 –born in a manger. Gen. 49:10 – From the tribe of Judah

Is.35:5,6 – Work miracles. Zech. 9:9 – To enter Jerusalem on a donkey. Ps. 41:9 – Betrayed by a friend. Zech.11:12 – Sold for 30 pcs of silver. Isa 53: 5- Bruised and wounded. Psalm 22:1 – Hands and feet pierced. Isa 53:12 – Crucified between transgressors. Ps. 22:18 Garments torn and lots cast for his robe. Ps. 34:20 – Bones will not be broken. Zech. 12:10 – Side would be pierced. Isa 53:9 Buried in a rich man’s grave. Psalm 16:10 – rise from the dead.

These detailed but fulfilled prophecies concerning Christ are impossible to arrange or fix on a human level **BUT GOD, the God in heaven who knows all mysteries made it happen and he is the one revealing through Daniel what would happen in the future, concerning the Rock from heaven, Jesus the Christ and his eternal kingdom. If other prophecies concerning him were fulfilled, why would anyone doubt that He is coming again to set up his everlasting kingdom?** Read Rev. 17:12-14; 19:11-21; 20:1-6; 21:1-8; 22:1-5 for more information on the everlasting kingdom of Lord Jesus, the Rock from heaven.

Do you know, if you are a Christian you actually have a future which even death can’t snatch away from you? There **is actually coming a day, when Christ will return and put an end to the kingdoms of men, and His Kingdom will be forever and ever. Today, God is inviting everyone to acknowledge and receive Jesus the Rock, God with us, as Lord and Saviour and become a citizen of that everlasting kingdom.**

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