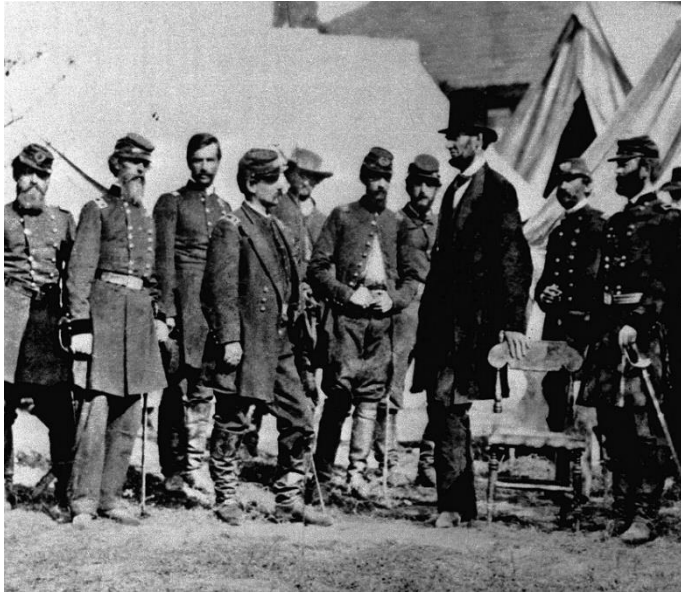


Daniel 2.1-16

“This New Job is to Die For!”



April 15, 1865 Civil War US just ENDED

Pres. A LINCOLN met Generals

Gather write up Terms of Peace

Morning Told DREAM from Night Before

Indescribable Sailing Vessel Moving for
Glorious, Infinite Unending Shoreline

That NIGHT Pres Lincoln Assassinated

Mortals have long believed that behind the visible lies the invisible, behind the tangible lies the intangible, and behind the natural lies the supernatural...Across Africa, serious dreams are a means of communication between the world and the spirit world...
Tokunboh Adeyemo

1. Crash-course on Corporate Culture

a. Submission

1 Thing Daniel & boys Learned QUICK Someone had Total Power > NOT them

Have all ideas YOU Want – --- just Make Sure to KEEP Ideas to YOURSELF

Mighty Babylon > Not Democracy but DICTATORSHIP

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. Daniel 1.1

Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility... Daniel 1.3

Neb. PORTRAYED as having ABSOLUTE POWER

Biblical Story > MOST Powerful man on EARTH

NO MAN on Earth could STOP Neb. – Uncontested Monarch on EARTH

Cut thru Ancient Near East like HOT KNIFE through BUTTER

Not told what they REALLY FELT but RAISED HANDS in a HEIL Salute...

v. 4 Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever!

b. Subjective

Babylonian religion encouraged looking for portents of the future in dreams and the fantastic occurrences of everyday life. Indications of future trends and events could be found in the skies, bizarre births, the shape of animal livers, and in dreams.

Tremper Longman III

Chaldeans DIVINERS Not PROPHETS > Looking for PATTERNS in Dreams

v. 4 “Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.”

Neb CHANGES the Rules – Moves MARKERS on Playing Field of Dreams

v. 6 “show me the dream *and* its interpretation.”

vs. 10,11 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

NOBODY but GOD can tell WHAT Dream is > They only tell MEANING

NOT told WHY Neb. Not tell DREAM – Forgotten? Frustrated? w/ FOOLS?

Neb. TESTS their AUTHENTICITY and their INTEGRITY

When the Chaldeans boldly promise to become good interpreters of the dream, they not only betray their rashness, but become mere imposters, who pretend to be proficient in a science of which they know nothing, as if they could predict by their conjectures the meaning of the king's dream. John Calvin

WHAT a Crazy World HEBREWS SCHOLARS had Entered in BABYLON

Their Foundation for WISDOM > BEGINS with the FEAR of the LORD

CREATED World > Days, Seasons, Laws of Nature > Truths to DISCOVER

God who SPEAKS – WORDS Clear, Understandable, and REASONABLE

TASK of Neb's COUNSELORS – World of SPECULATION - DREAMS

No MATH Problems – Answers Not found in History or Literature books

Not application of Written Laws - Never PROVEN in a SCIENCE Lab

In his heart of hearts Nebuchadnezzar must have known as must the magicians themselves, that the religion of Babylonia was mere superstition and not the truth.

E.J. Young

TODAY we live also live in INTERESTING TIMES

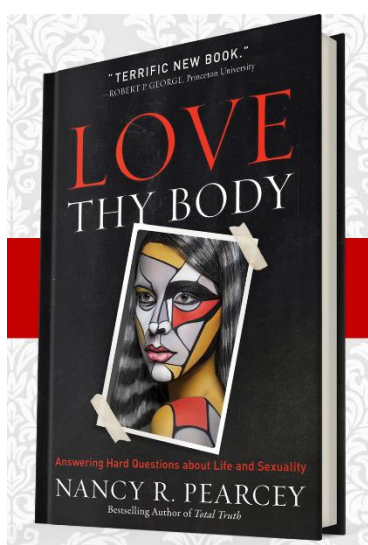
Village outside MONTREAL, Canada – MAN elected 1st Female MAYOR

New Zealand MAN won WOMEN'S International Weight Lifting Competition

New Virginia Legislator WOMAN who was MAN until ADULTHOOD

'The Christian and the Materialist hold different beliefs about the universe. They can't both be right. The one who is wrong will act in a way which simply doesn't fit the real universe.'

C. S. Lewis



The key to understanding all the controversial issues of our day is that the concept of the human being has likewise been fragmented into an upper and lower story. Secular thought today assumes a body/person split, with the body defined in the "fact" realm by empirical science (lower story) and the person defined in the "values" realm as the basis for rights (upper story). This dualism has created a fractured, fragmented view of the human being, in which the body is treated as separate from the authentic self.

Nancy Pearcey

Nancy Pearcey APPLIES view of World > MENTOR Francis Schaeffer

TAUGHT – Led to faith at L'Abri

2 Tiered View of REALITY

The fact/value split

VALUES

Private, Subjective, Relativistic

FACTS

Public, Objective, Valid for Everyone

Secular Science reigns Supreme over all other matters, including Faith

Your values are for you to live by, but not the rest of humanity

The concept of truth has been divided

THEOLOGY, MORALITY

Private, Subjective, Relativistic

SCIENCE

Public, Objective, Valid for Everyone

Prevailing Worldview > Two-tiered Reality

Theology & Morality > Private, Subjective, Relativistic

Science > Public, Objective, Valid for All People

“Christianity holds that body and soul together form an integrated unity—that the human being is an embodied soul. By contrast, personhood theory entails a two-level dualism that sets the body against the person, as though they were two separate things merely stuck together. As a result, it demeans the body as extrinsic to the person—something inferior that can be used for purely pragmatic purposes.”

Nancy Pearcey

Personhood theory applied to euthanasia

PERSON

Exercises Autonomy and Control

BODY

Is a Disposable Piece of Matter

WORLD > Grandma with ALZHEIMER'S is No Longer REAL Person
 Makes NO Contribution to SOCIETY > Really a DRAIN on Others
 Mindless BODY in a Bed – Taking Up Space, Time, Money, Resources

So, when you go Under Anesthesia are you NO LONGER a Person
 When you are ASLEEP – Temporarily Incapacity – Lost your Worth?

World has Same Arguments for End & Beginning of Life

Abortion rests on personhood theory

PERSON

Has Moral and Legal Standing

BODY

An Expendable Biological Organism

KILL Babies & GRANNIES Not Persons

Sure Hearts may be Beating > Growing

Not Contributing to OUR Society

EXISTENCE is an INCONVENIENCE

Two forms of reductionism

POSTMODERNISM

Gender Is a Product of Social Forces

MODERNISM

Sexuality Is a Product of Material Forces

“What Christians do with their sexuality is one of the most important testimonies they give to the surrounding world. They are called to build a community of families that respects women and cares for the young and vulnerable... Even as churches clearly communicate the moral truths of Scripture, they must also become places of refuge for victims of the sexual revolution who have been hurt by its lies.”

Nancy Pearcey

Whether we live in ANCIENT Babylon of MODERN Babylon

WORD of God our MAKER is ANSWER to DREAMS and DELUSIONS

c. Sleepless

vs. 1,2 Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.

WHAT TIME is It? Do you think Neb. *“oh, its too early, I can't call them now!”*

NO he Called: HE was AWAKE! They SHOULD BE too! He Owned their Time

If CHINESE work 9,9,6 – Just IMAGINE Long Hours in COURTS of Babylon

STRANGE > Most POWERFUL man in most Powerful EMPIRE on EARTH

HEIGHT of Power > Anticipate LONG Reign > EARLY Yrs Cannot Sleep

Increasingly FRUSTRATED, INSECURE, UNEASY >> ANGRY

v. 3 And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.”

Higher you CLIMB on LADDER of Human Power, More see how Short you Are

Neb treated like GOD – Knew LIE – God NOT Need Successor or Substitute

FLATTERERS and FALSE Prophets > Could NOT Help his Troubled Soul

King came FACE to FACE with his own WEAKNESSES

Neb using his POWER in ARBITRARY and UNPREDICTABLE Ways

d. Scary - Out of RAGE and EMPTINESS he Shows his PARANOIA

v. 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins.

Neb. sees Thru SCAM of Interpreters – IF know Meaning should KNOW Dream
 v. 12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that
 all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed.

More this POWERFUL Man attains, More DESPERATE he is to KEEP it!

NOT ONE of ‘so-called’ WISE Men – Each PAID Handsomely – Could HELP!

The lust for power in man is prompted by the darkly conscious realization of the
 insecurity of his existence. Reinhold Neibuhr

So man GRASPS for POSITION, FAME, WEALTH, POWER, POSSESSIONS

ANOTHER Frustrated KING who LOST his way said...

“Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity”
Ecclesiastes 1.2

ONE who is MOST Scared is the King himself > RAGE

KING of Babylon > SHAKING as he Unbuttons his Pajamas in Morning

NOTHING Good happens in Life without GOOD NIGHTS Sleep

DAVID that he had Great Job – Music Gig – Played Harp for King

Music ENDED when King tried to PIN him to WALL with Flying SPEAR

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

2nd Year – of Israel’s Captivity? Of UNIFIED Empire? Not LONG in....

Daniel & Boys in 3 yr PROGRAM >> Remember 10 X’s Better than ALL

CALLED in Later – Chaldeans STUMPED – Call the STUDENTS to HELP!

Daniel called from TRAINING to a TRIAL BY FIRE

Maybe you Didn't want to Be Here – But you Might Die Here!

Boss warning WORKERS > Gonna DIE because can't DO the IMPOSSIBLE

2. Confident Composure of a King's kid

a. Involvement or Separation?

Ch 1 – NOBLE Behavior of Daniel & 3 Friends was to SAY NO!

Ch 2 – RIGHT thing to DO was to SAY YES! – Way to LIVE!!

Ch 1 – ISOLATED – Rejects the FOOD of Babylon – Separated from Others

Ch 2 – INVOLVED – Recites DREAMS of Babylon- UNITED with the Others

Fellow Servant of the TRUE GOD also EXILED to Babylon...

“I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one.
Ezekiel 22.30

Walking out our FAITH is an On-Going Journey – Different Stops and Stands

Sem Student in Philadelphia – Active in Pro-Life Protests @ Hospitals & Centers

Arrested: Protesting at Einstein Hospital in Center City > Talk Cops & Cellmates

More ABORTIONS here > Get Arrested? 1. Language 2. End Work here

Different Settings & Circumstances > Express WITNESS in Different WAYS

AGAIN Daniel models RESPECT, WISDOM, and TACT Under PRESSURE

The world will be forced to sit up and take notice only when we have a peace that is clearly not the result of our comfortable circumstances, a peace that evidently transcends the peace the world gives. Iain Duguid

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy...so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1.1,7

b. Identification not Superiority

PRACTICAL & PERSONAL Reason for INVOLVEMENT > STAY ALIVE

v. 13 So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

vs. 17,18 Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

MORE than Self-Preservation – Save other YOUNG Scholars / KING / Nation

AMIDST the CHAOS – Daniel Keeps his Head – He alone acts DECISIVELY

When a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Proverbs 16.7

His PEACE in this PANIC > Based on FAITH in God – Sovereign, Trustworthy

Secret of Kingdom of God > Try to KEEP your Life, you will LOSE it

In GIVING Life Away, FIND Life >> Greatest in Kingdom is SERVANT of All

vs. 14-16 Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, “Why is the decree of the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. And Daniel went in and

requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

Daniel was WELL TRAINED to Stand BEFORE the King and his COURT

Through Daniel's judicious interview with Arioch, the further execution of the royal edict was interrupted. Carl Friedrich Keil

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; *for he gives to his beloved sleep.* Psalm 127.2

c. Interpretation from THE Sovereign

Book of Daniel > there is SOVEREIGN God in HEAVEN!

Daniel is SUBMITTED to the GREAT KING – Creator of Heaven & Earth

IMPORTANT thing in Passage NOT MEANING of Dream > MAKER of Dream

HERO of the Book of Daniel is the GOD of Daniel

GOD who Revealed PHARAOH's Dream to JOSEPH in Genesis > NOW Daniel

Before were YANKED out of JUDAH – Heard words of ISAIAH to Babylon

Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans!...Stand fast in your enchantments and your many sorceries, with which you have labored from your youth; perhaps you may be able to succeed; perhaps you may inspire terror. You are wearied with your many counsels; let them stand forth and save you, those who divide the heavens, who gaze at the stars, who at the new moons make known what shall come upon you. Behold, they are like stubble; the fire consumes them; they cannot deliver themselves from the power of the flame. Isaiah 47.13-14

Daniel & BOYS were 10ers because their GOD was INFINITELY Superior

Daniel knew even BOSS FROM HELL was ULTIMATELY Servant of GOD

“For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”
Jeremiah 29.10,11

Daniel makes NO Extravagant CLAIMS > Simply Trusts God WILL SPEAK
COVENANT God – LORD SPEAKS > SPOKE Universe into Existence 6 days
CAUTIOUS AND CONFIDENT > The Living God WILL Act

Daniel steps into the breach and finds that God gives the wisdom and power...The light God had shed on Israel for centuries past is now beginning to fall on Nebuchadnezzar and his magicians.
Ronald Wallace

How much MORE Confident SHOULD we be Now in our TRIUNE GOD?
Seen GLORY of Father, Son, Holy Spirit > Great God become MAN – Jesus
WORD became FLESH and dwelt Among Us > We Beheld his GLORY
...the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's
mystery, which is Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and
knowledge.
Colossians 2.2,3

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 1 Corinthians 1.18-25

Daniel 2.¹In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. ²Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. ³And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.” ⁴Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.” ⁵The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. ⁶But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation.” ⁷They answered a second time and said, “Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation.” ⁸The king answered and said, “I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm— ⁹if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation.” ¹⁰The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. ¹¹The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” ¹²Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. ¹³So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. ¹⁴Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁵He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, “Why is the decree of the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. ¹⁶And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.