

Daniel 2.17-30

Saving Knowledge Freely Given

NOSTALGIC Covenant College Classmates gathered Last Wk Chattanooga, TN

40 yrs ago we GRADUATED with our Bachelor's degrees – 1978

Small College – Family Atmosphere – Meals together in DINING Room

Guys/Girls would JOCKEY for Spots on Tables with Wannabe Sweethearts

Most of us GUYS were Jealous of Allen and his DEVOTIONAL Life

Almost every Morning he came with Testimony for the HOLY HOTTIES!

*“I had an amazing time in the Word this morning”*

*“the Word was so strong, I could hardly get out of it”*

*“I was so deep into the Word, I almost missed coming down for breakfast”*

GIRLS GUSHED “Allen, you really are a great man of the Word!” ‘Yes I am!’

Understood More couple weeks into Term, A's Room Sign over Bed: **The Word**

Google Search: Allen successful INVESTMENT Banker & ELDER in church

DURING Exam Period > Alan became PRAYER WARRIOR

Powerful Intercession he asked God for TOTAL RECALL

Problem > In order to RECALL – One needed to Attend Lectures, Read Books

Alan, Sometimes did NEITHER – REALLY Praying for Undeserved Miracle

As we STEP INTO Daniel 2...we find OUR BOYS...

### 1. Desperate for Mercy

#### a. Sentence of Death

v. 18 so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

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.

HAPPY THOUGHT that must have been BANGING around their BRAINS

1<sup>st</sup> Trip OUTSIDE USA December 1980 – UGANDA

About 6 months early IDI AMIN chased out of Country by TANZANIANS  
CUT Off head of CHICKEN --- but TROUBLE Still RUNNING AROUND  
Economic Collapse – Poor Infrastructure – Civil Unrest – Violence and Fear  
Several Times > DEAD Bodies lying on STREET – Heard LOTS of Shooting

KAMPALA had a 5 pm Curfew > Rushed to GET IN and LOCK the DOORS

Staying in Former Sports Complex > ORPHANAGE and a CHURCH  
2 times a WEEK > ALL NIGHT Prayer! --- Never did in Safety of Homeland

NEW Situation >> Could NOT get thru this ON MY OWN

New Level of DESPERATION drove me to New Level of DEVOTION

This is the air I breathe...  
Your holy presence  
Living in me  
This is my daily bread..  
Your very word  
Spoken to me  
And I... I'm desperate for you  
And I... I'm lost without you

“Breathe” by Michael W. Smith

1<sup>st</sup> Time HEARD that Song – One of MUSIC Teams in ICF Almaty, KZ  
REACTION was ANGER – I am NOT THAT Bad, Desperate, a LOSER!

PROUD Confession of Preacher

Few yrs Later got CANCER for 1<sup>st</sup> Time > Not so WISE or POWERFUL

Situation Daniel 2 was DIRE – Sentence of DEATH hanging over their HEADS  
But DANIEL & Boys were NOT DESPERATE > EYES were on God of Heaven  
Like PETER climbed OUT of Boat & into Storm > LASER FOCUSED on Jesus

But the GAZE of our HEBREW HOMEBOYS did NOT WAVER

God of SEA & STORM – ABLE to Reveal BOTH Dream and Interpretation

For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

2 Corinthians 1.8,9

**b. Promise of Life**

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

If ALAN Passed Exams – Not because HE STUDIED or DESERVED to > GIFT THAT is what is Happening here in Daniel 2 > Miracle Working, Merciful God

JOB Too BIG for Daniel ALONE, Gathers w/ Homies to Call on God of Heaven

Daniel and Boys come to GOD of Heaven > Desperate for His MERCY

NOT Told WHERE 4 men Lived – Gov’t Quarters – Private Residence – Dorm

“God of Heaven” – title found only in Daniel, Ezekiel, Nehemiah, Revelation

Real IDENTITY Not Blasphemous Babylonian Names > SONS of Heaven

Hebrew Name	Meaning	Meaning	Babylonian Name
Daniel	God is my Judge	a goddess protect the king	Belteshazzar
Hananiah	Who is like God?	Forms of name of god Marduk	Shadrach
Mishael	God is gracious	Forms of name of god Marduk	Meschach
Azariah	God is my helper	Servant of god Nabu	Abednego

FOCUS on PRAYER – Not Divination, Omens, Signs in Skies, Chicken Entrails

NOT Earned, Deserved, Attained, by Study or Standing, Supernatural Revelation

**Mercy** – God does not give us what we deserve  
**Grace** – God does give us what we do not deserve

NOT Pagans PLEADING with a Mysterious, Distant, DEITY

COVENANT Children – Born of PROMISE – ALIVE by His SPIRIT

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again 1 Thessalonians 4.13,14

KING of Earth MAY have FORGOTTEN his Dream

But Daniel & the Boys knew GOD of HEAVEN would REMEMBER It

NO Human Being could KNOW the DREAM

But Daniel, Hanniah, Mishael, and Azariah > have a God that Lives with Them

“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. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29.11-13

## 2. Delighted in Mercy

IF we were Telling Story > MIGHT Rush to tell Dream and Interpretation

With all the DRAMA & DEATH Threats this SEEMS to be the BIG DEAL here

BIBLICAL Author is in NO RUSH to get to that MINOR Point

Wants us to LINGER and FULLY UNDERSTAND the MAJOR POINT

Book of DANIEL is PRIMARILY book About Daniel's GOD

Expressed their RELIEF in Spontaneous HYMN of PRAISE

From Desperation to Deliverance to Delight in TRUE and LIVING GOD

## a. God of Wisdom and Power

vs. 19,20 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.

Good REMINDER that PRAYER begins with ADORATION

Focus of PRAISE > 2 Attributes or Elements of God’s NATURE

BABYLON that they CENTER of WISDOM and POWER

Daniel & Boys lift GAZE UPWARD to TRUE SOURCE of Real Wisdom/Power

Spurgeon told STORY of WOMAN who was entering Kingdom by faith in Jesus

“Oh, Mr. Spurgeon, if the Lord saves me, He shall never hear the end of it!”

Joyful New Sister

Neb’s Court filled w/ Magicians, Enchanters, Sorcerers, and Astrologers

But ALL that Kingdom WISDOM was weighed in Balance & Found Wanting

vs. 10,11 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand...no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

Confession of FAILURE of PAGANISM

PAGANISM: Religious CUL-DE-SAC > Has NO SURE Word from Outside

The idea of God as infinitely wise is at the root of all truth...Wisdom, among other things, is the ability to devise perfect ends and to achieve those ends by the most perfect means. It sees the end from the beginning, so there can be no need to guess or conjecture. Wisdom sees everything in focus, each in proper relationship to all, and is thus able to work toward predestined goals with flawless precision. All God’s acts are done in perfect wisdom, first for his own glory, and then for the highest good of the greatest number for the longest time. And all of his acts are as pure as they are wise, and as good as they are wise and pure. Not only could his acts not be done better; a better way to do them could not be imagined. An infinitely wise God must work in a manner not to be improved upon by finite creatures. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all. The earth is full of thy riches.

A.W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy

POWERFUL Neb thought HE HELD all the World in his Kingly Hand

BROKEN Neb will soon CONFESS that he is held in Hand of Greater Power

“for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand” Daniel 4.34,35

See MORE than Daniel & Boys – In Fullness of Time, Fullness of God > MAN

God made his DWELLING in the FLESH

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1.1,14

Glory, Grace, Truth, Word > WISDOM & POWER > Found in Lord Jesus Christ

b. Giver of Wisdom and Power

vs. 21,22 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

By his MERCY God does IMPART Wisdom and Power to MANKIND

God wants World to SURVIVE until the GATHERING of His ELECT

God's Sunshine of Goodness is upon the JUST and the UNJUST

It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

Proverbs 25.2

WISDOM profound knowledge that comes Only from REVELATION

POWER not abstract but seen in HISTORY > God turns Heart of the KING

PROBLEM – We'll see of Neb > RULER thinks Wisdom & Power FROM him

Demands CHALDEANS tell Interpretation AND Dream or Become Body Parts

Sometimes MONARCHS Act like MONARCHS simply Because they CAN  
Until they get cancer or acid indigestion or nausea they tend to think they are far  
above the common lot of humanity, who can be deleted at will. Dale Ralph Davis

1715 – King Louis 14 of France Died – called self “The Great”

Said “I am the State” - His Court was most Magnificent in Europe

Spectacular Funeral – Body lay in Gold Coffin in center of Great Cathedral

For Dramatic Effect, just ONE Candle lighted above the Coffin

Bishop gave One Sentence Funeral Message – Walked over – Blew OUT Candle

“Only God is Great!”

### c. Gift of Wisdom and Power

v. 23 To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given  
me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you,  
for you have made known to us the king's matter.”

Daniel & Boys responded to INVITATION Extended by God thru Jeremiah

Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that  
you have not known. Jeremiah 33.3

WE are not just like DANIEL – Unique Calling in Distant TIME & PLACE

But we are INVITED by God of Daniel to RECEIVE Wisdom from HIM

The divine origin of wisdom means that at its foundation wisdom is not a lesson  
to be learned but a relationship to be enjoyed. Daniel’s wisdom, contrary to that  
of the learned Babylonian astrologers, did not come from books of dream  
interpretation; instead it came from a conversation, a prayer, with God himself.

Tremper Longman III

v. 30 But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any  
wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation  
may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your  
mind.

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints. Proverbs 2.1-8

KEY to Wisdom is FEAR of the LORD > FINDING the Lord Jesus Christ

Pray HOLY SPIRIT is reaching thru ANCIENT Story to ask YOU

“Do YOU have ANYTHING to PRAISE God for TODAY?”

To have a God who reveals mysteries does not mean we have a God who unveils everything. He doesn't show us which stocks will profit or whether you can avoid cancer until you're eighty-nine, or whether one nation will exist twenty years hence...He shows you that history is going toward his unshakeable kingdom and assures you that even though you may have many personal uncertainties you follow a God who knows what is in the darkness. Dale Ralph Davis

### 3. Declaring God's Mercy

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may *proclaim* the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have *received* mercy. 1 Peter 2.9,10

RECEIVED MERCY Now Invited and Enlisted to Proclaim His Excellencies

PROCLAIM what we POSSESS / DECLARE what has been DELIVERED to us

#### a. Nobody becomes Somebody

vs. 24-26 Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation.” Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: “I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation.” The king declared to Daniel, whose



name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?”

Arioch plays DOWN Daniel’s CREDENTIALS and Claims CREDIT for Self

HE found this guy who can SOLVE the King’s PROBLEM

But Daniel makes NO MENTION of Himself > It is ALL ABOUT GOD

Mentions SELF only to Emphasize that God REVEALED it to HIM

Does NEB Know or Remember DANIEL – appears NOT to!

‘royal minds are easily forgetful of college professors’ J.A. Montgomery

Before Killing starts > Servant CALMS his Mentally Deranged King

Grand Announcement > There is a God in Heaven who Reveals Dreams!

“For the Lord God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets.”  
Amos 3.7

100’s Years BEFORE Jesus Birth > Daniel models how to Love Enemies

Half way thru Chapter still NOT TOLD Dream – NOT the Main Thing

NOT the MEANING of the Dream but the MAKER of the Dream

God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.  
1 Corinthians 1.28,29

b. Somebody becomes Nobody

vs. 27-29 Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.

Daniel is CONFIDENT in God but NOT COCKY about his PLAN

TODAY some “Name it, Claim it” Preachers > think they COMMAND God  
IF the Lord wills.... Daniel will receive the VISION, Meaning of DREAM!

The Kingdom of God with its Goal of the END has Broken In  
CHALDEAN Wizards will NOT DIE > Blessing of Abraham for ALL Peoples  
This summer saw Churches in California offer FREE PRAYER to their Towns



He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior Titus 3.5.6

\*\*\*\*\*

Daniel 2.<sup>17</sup>Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,<sup>18</sup> 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.<sup>19</sup>Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.<sup>20</sup>Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.<sup>21</sup>He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;<sup>22</sup>he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.<sup>23</sup>To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter.”<sup>24</sup>Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation.”<sup>25</sup>Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: “I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation.”<sup>26</sup>The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?”<sup>27</sup>Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked,<sup>28</sup>but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:<sup>29</sup>To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.<sup>30</sup>But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.