

The Secret Is Revealed to Daniel

19 Then the
Daniel in a night
the God of

20 Daniel

be blessed forever and ever,

For wisdom and power belong to Him.

21 *"It is He who changes the times and the epochs;*

He removes kings and establishes kings;

He gives wisdom to wise men

And knowledge to men of understanding.

22 *"It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;*

He knows what is in the darkness,

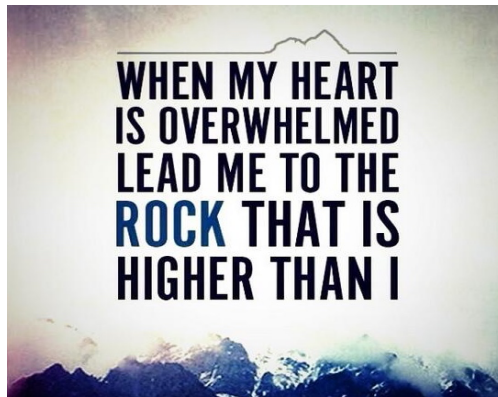
And the light dwells with Him.

23 *"To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,*

For You have given me wisdom and power;

Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,

For You have made known to us the king's matter."¹



*mystery was revealed to
vision. Then Daniel blessed
heaven;*

said, "Let the name of God



In our last episode we saw King Nebuchadnezzar having a dream and then he was unwilling to tell anyone what was his exact dream. He demanded that the wise men of the kingdom (the VSGs - "very smart guys") first tell him what he had dreamed and then they were ordered to tell him also what it meant. The penalty for failure to do so was to be torn limb

1 *Hard Bible: 1995 update. (1995). (Da 2:19–23). LaHabra, CA: tion.*

from limb. When we last looked at Daniel, he and his three friends, Hannaniah, Azariah, and Mishael were counted among the king's advisors. This mean their lives were on the line and they were under the threat of death. Daniel, who was their leader went and spoke with the king's representative. He did so with discretion and discernment. He did not panic. When the situation looked hopeless, he called a prayer meeting.

And then gloriously sometime in the night the text tells us that "the mystery was revealed to Daniel." Friends, Daniel got an answer to his prayer!

There is no relief like the relief of answered prayer. If you've ever been at your wit's end and had a heavy burden lifted you know that such relief is unexplainable.

Daniel responds in praise from verse 20-23.

In Verse 20 - He blesses the Lord and reminds us that all wisdom and all power belong to Him and come from Him.

In Verse 21 - Daniel lets us know that it is God and God alone that changes the times and the epochs of human history. Just think about that for a minute. That means it is God's timing as to when kingdoms rise and fall and when the ages of man begin and end. It was God that timed the stone age. It was God who timed and orchestrated the iron age. It was God that directed men to discover copper in the ground initiating the bronze age. God inspired the thinking that created the industrial age. God also put the knowledge in man's minds to usher in the space age, and contrary to what Al Gore said, it was God who inspired the information age. Somebody give me an Amen.

It also means that God removes presidents and establishes presidents. Oh what a comfort that is when we know we face uncertain times. A Hillary presidency will bring unprecedented chaos, and a Trump presidency brings unprecedented uncertainty. Go and vote for the candidate that takes the stronger position for the things of God and then you know what you need to do? You need to leave it up to God. It's His deal. And friends, that is a relief. Somebody give me another Amen.

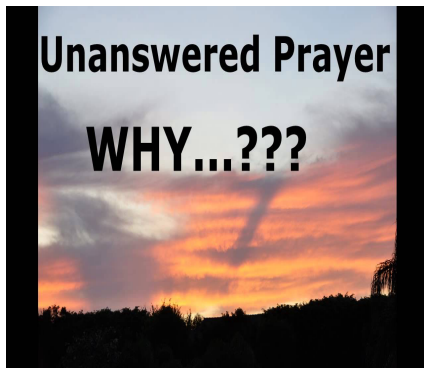
Daniel continues:

- 22 *"It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;
 He knows what is in the darkness,
 And the light dwells with Him.*
- 23 *"To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,
 For You have given me wisdom and power;
 Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,
 For You have made known to us the king's matter."²*

² *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update.* (1995). (Da 2:19–23). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

Daniel is basically saying, "God you know it all. You've created it all. You know what's in the darkness (the things we don't understand) and in you all light and energy reside. You oh Lord know the mysteries that we can't figure out. I give you thanks and praise because for whatever reason this time Lord you have made known to me the King's matter."

Daniel is predictably ecstatic. God has answered his prayer and he has responded in praise. I wonder how often we respond in praise when God answers our prayers. I would say that we often immediately forget how hard we've been praying about a matter and we forget that God has delivered us.



As I read this text this week, God directed me to speak about something that's not your usual Sunday sermon. I felt very lead to talk about when things DON'T turn out like we see them happening in Daniel Chapter 2. What am I talking about?

Brothers and sisters I am talking about when we pray and we pray and we worry and we pray, and sometimes it doesn't seem like God even hears our prayers.

It is hard for us when we're in the middle of a crisis and we believe God is powerful enough to deliver us from anything, and He doesn't seem to answer our prayers. We hear sermons that He answers every prayer with a yes, a no, or a wait. But we still don't understand why. We read so many scriptures of prayer being answered it is hard when we find ourselves getting answers that don't heal our hurt.

This last week I contracted a virus of my GI tract and Wednesday night was horrific. I do not want to give the gory gross details in this assembly, but I will tell you that it was a delicate race between sitting and standing. I was so physically sick that my vocal cords have been burned from the ordeal. Why am I telling you this? Because at one point before daylight on Thursday I was so miserable and uncomfortable I just screamed out "God. God. God. Please help me." In my desperation I wondered where He was. Why couldn't he stop this?

In those desperate moments we wonder why God just doesn't stop the pain. Some of you in here have lost people whom you have loved very very much. It was so painful and so horrible you still can't hardly think about it. You really don't even talk about it. You prayed with total purity and sincerity and yet your loved one painfully died. You've been plagued for years with the senselessness of an unnecessary death.

Let me say. I don't think you did anything wrong. I don't think your loved one did anything wrong. I don't think you were not holy enough to have your prayers answered. I don't think the problem was that you just didn't have enough faith. I think

we are just unable to have God's eternal perspective. There is just something in the divine make up of things that we cannot comprehend. Daniel calls it the wisdom and power of God.

In examining the pain of humans and the seeming silence of God, the great 11th Century Rabbi Maimonides thought perhaps God had self-imposed constraints that were involved in the way He created the universe. The theory involves the idea that we can't really fully experience the joys of being a human being without experiencing the pains of being a human.

Well, I know God is not constrained by anything and I'm not sure about the rabbi's theory, but I'd like to share some truths with you that I've uncovered during my almost 50 years of walking hand in hand with Jesus. Let me tell you what I do know.



1 - First God's word is true and righteous altogether.
"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him." Prov 30:5

2- God's Word says, "God is Good all the time.
Psalm 107 says to us, *"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good His love endureth forever".*

3- The Pain we endure is not Forever - David assures us in beautiful Psalm 30:5 that *"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."*

4- God's mercies are new every morning (even in the midst of our pain). Jeremiah the prophet shouts to us from 25 centuries ago, saying,

*22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.*

*23 They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*

*24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him." Lamentations Chapter 3:23-24*

5- God wants us to pray - Philippians 4

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16.17.18

6- Pray with Passion - Those of you who remember our teachings from Rabbi Daniel remember him asking us, "How can we expect to move God with our prayers if they don't even move us?"

Jesus prayed passionately to the Father saying, *"Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."* Now an angel from heaven appeared

to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground. Luke 22:42-44

7- Pray purely - be sincere with godly motives only. Pure prayer is precious to the Father. God wants to hear the truth from us. *"The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth." Psalm 145:18*

8- Pray persistently - Then He said to them speaking about the "yet because of his persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs. *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened."*

9- Preparation for Heaven - the crazier things get here on earth, and the more aches and pains I feel, I am looking more and more forward to heaven.

The centerpiece of my belief on suffering and seemingly unanswered prayer is **I have chosen to believe that God is good all the time. All the time God is good. I prefer to live like that and it is supported by scripture.**

Throughout my 50 years or so of walking by faith and not by sight, I have chosen to believe the lyrics of the song we often sing in here "He knows my name. He knows my every thought. He knows each tear that falls and He answers when I call."

I choose to rely on the scriptures that are the basis for many of the encouraging great old hymns: Perhaps you've heard this one,

"Why should I feel discouraged, why should the shadows come, Why should my heart be lonely, and long for heaven and home, when Jesus is my portion? My constant friend is He: His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;

Refrain: I sing because I'm happy, I sing because I'm free, For His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me.

"Let not your heart be troubled," His tender word I hear, And resting on His goodness, I lose my doubts and fears; Though by the path He leadeth, but one step I may see; His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me;

You see church I choose to believe that His word is alive and powerful and His word says *"All things work together for good for those who love God for those who are called according to His purposes". Romans 8:28*

And if you've accepted Christ and His salvation for you..... you are one of those that is "called according to His purposes."

Let us pray.