

JUST DO IT



**24** Therefore, Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and spoke to him as follows: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king’s presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king.”

**25** Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel

into the king’s presence and spoke to him as follows: “I have found a man among the <sup>b</sup>exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!”

**26** The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?”

**27** Daniel answered before the king and said, “As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king.

**28** “However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the <sup>b</sup>latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed.

**29** “As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place.

**30** “But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.<sup>1</sup>



This passage this morning really begins to reveal to us the personality and the character of Daniel. Last week we looked on cheering as God came to Daniel in the night and gave him a vision. In the vision God revealed to him the very dream that Nebuchadnezzar had dreamed.

Daniel received an answer to his prayer and then we watched on as he gloriously praised the Lord for the answer to his prayer. In his prayer he proclaimed truth about God that encouraged us all. Remember Daniel tells us that it is

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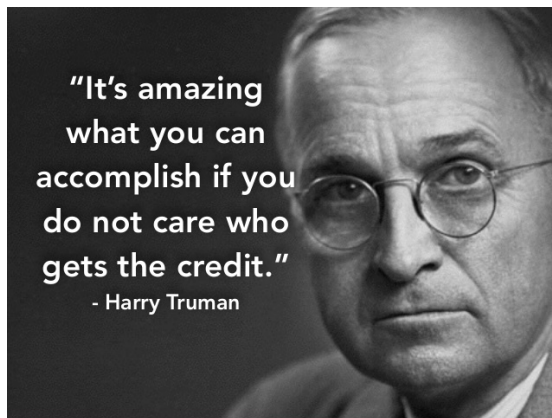
<sup>1</sup> *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update.* (1995). (Da 2:24–30). LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

God who established the epochs and eras of mankind's existence on earth and it is God that establishes Kings and removes them.

That is a great comfort to us all as with angst and worry most of us look on at this crazy election. Isn't it good to know that God is in control? Whether Hillary Clinton wins or Donald Trump wins God is in control. His purposes are being worked out and we as believers don't need to be too emotionally tied to the political outcome or fortunes of any candidate. When you get your mind and your heart around that it can become very freeing. This doesn't mean we shouldn't fight hard for justice and positions that are biblical, but we shouldn't put too much stock in political solutions.

And once Daniel has received this vision, he made an appointment to go see Arioch who had been put in charge of seeking out Daniel and his friends and putting them to death. He boldly exclaimed, *"Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the King and I will give him an interpretation."*

Verse 25 Then we see Arioch rush Daniel into the King's presence and Arioch says, *"I have found a man among the exiles of Judah who can make the interpretation known to the King."*



Let me pause for a moment to point out how Arioch makes sure the King knows that it is he who has found an answer to the king's problem. It's funny how quick he is to take the credit here. In the Apostle Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church he addresses the problem of folks claiming the credit for what others have done. I read, *"Nor do we boast and claim credit for the work someone else has done. Instead, we hope that your faith will grow*

*so that the boundaries of our work among you will be extended."* (2 Corinthians 10:15) You know a whole lot more would get done in the world if people weren't so concerned about who gets the credit for it. People seek the credit to meet a basic need that God has put within each of us. If you look at the bottom of your bulletin page for sermon notes you will see three basic needs that God has put into each of us. One of those is the need for value and worth. We see Arioch trying to get value and worth through the flesh. Anytime we try to meet these needs through anything but God it ends in failure and frustration.

Then in Verse 26, we see the king addressing Daniel, *"Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?"* Now how do you suppose Arioch would answer such a question? Even more interesting, I wonder how WE would answer

the king? Well, let me tell you how most of us would answer that question. We would say something like. "Well, King Nebuchadnazzar, I am such a man. Not only am I able to tell you your dream and give you an interpretation, but in the process I am going to be responsible for saving all of the wise men of Babylon. Yes King, I am the answer to your search. Now, how can I help you sir and is there any help I can get from the king's treasury?"



But oh what a model for behavior we have in Daniel! You know Daniel knew about godliness. Remember he had been there back in Judah watching as King Josiah and Ezra ushered in that great revival of the people. Daniel had been to Torah study. He had more than likely memorized the first Five Books of the Bible and he knew scripture inside and out. And about 100 years before Daniel was born there was a voice in Israel that would never be silenced. That was the voice

of the prophet Isaiah. Daniel had read the scrolls of Isaiah and he knew them well. Blazened in Daniel's mind were the words of Isaiah the prophet, *"I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to anyone else, nor share my praise with carved idols."* Daniel answered the king pointing out that ALL wisdom and ALL power come from one source; they come from God and Him alone!

No... King it is not I, BUT there is a God in heaven and he is bringing you an answer. I don't know exactly what was going on in Daniel's heart, but I feel he had a confidence in him that EVERY believer in this assembly can experience when walking in the Spirit and being directly in the center of God's will. You see church, I believe there is great power



in holiness. I believe when we're submitted to the Holy Spirit and when we're walking in obedience, we are anointed with the majesty and power of God. I know this from my own life. I know that when I'm walking in the Spirit and when I am obedient and intent in my pursuit of righteousness there is a certain power and authority that comes over me. It is a power

to influence. And remember what I said in the beginning of this study. We may no longer have power in this culture but we can have great influence. Surely Daniel had that total confidence. He had that confidence because his was walking obediently and because he had connections. He had connections with Almighty God, the creator of the universe. With that confidence and assurance he looked into King Nebuchadnazzar's face and he said,

*"As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king."*

And then Daniel winds up for the pitch:

28 *“However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the <sup>b</sup>latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed.”*

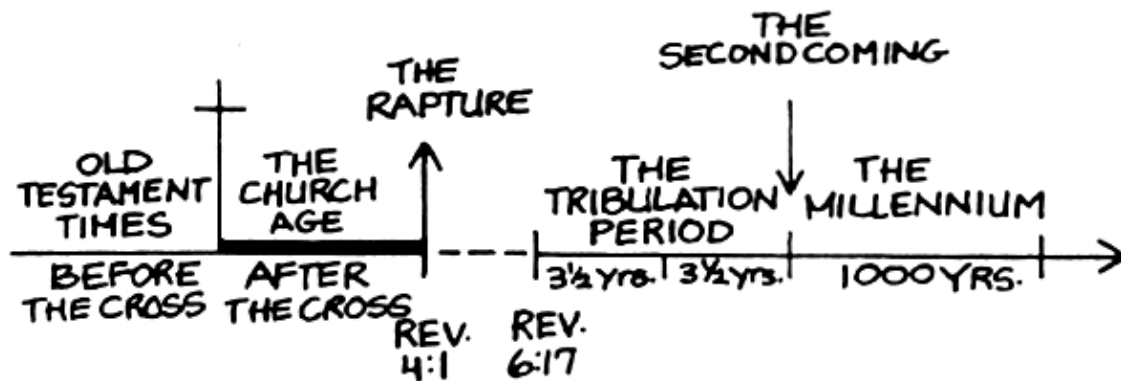
Daniel immediately gives God all of the glory. He doesn't try to take the glory. He doesn't try to share the glory. He gives God the glory. And he is BOLD in telling the king that THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN who knows it all. THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN that reveals all mysteries. And, king, this God in heaven will make known to you what will happen in the latter days.

Church, there is a comforting message in this text for believers today. There *is* a God in heaven, and this God may be called upon to supply wisdom and knowledge and support far beyond what is available from any possible human resources. Although circumstances sometimes may look too difficult, and although our situation may seem impossible from an earthly standpoint, there is a God in heaven who can do all things. He can solve the unsolvable. He can supply when there are no resources to supply. He can provide strength when there is nothing left within us. He can bring us relief when there is NO human relief within our reach. Church, we have a God who is there and who is able." Give Him praise and glory..... Now let's move on to verse 29

Verse 29 - It is interesting that God chose to give a gentile, Nebuchadnezzar, one of the greatest dreams in history. It is the unveiling of all kingdoms of the world for the rest of world history. It is fitting because God gave this vision of the time of the gentiles to a gentile.

Jesus spoke about a "time of the gentiles". This is the time of all of the nations that will exist after this time in exile in Babylon right up to the point when Jesus will come back to meet us in the air. Some of you in this room have never really been taught how this will work so let me give you a quick summary:

## PRE-TRIBULATION RAPTURE



When Jesus left the earth He promised his disciples that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit which would give them power to be witnesses in Judea, in Samaria, and in the uttermost parts of the earth. That day came approximately 50 days after His death on the cross and His resurrection. The disciples and other believers were in a room and the Holy Ghost fell on ever person in that room. That is the day the Church age began. That was the beginning of the age of the Gentiles.

That age will go on until we, the Church, are taken out of this old world at the time of what many Christians call "The Rapture". This the event described by the Apostle Paul to the church in Thessaloniki in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4.

*"For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. **17** Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. **18** Therefore encourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4*

So that shout will announce the end of the time of the Gentiles. This vision which Nebuchadnazzar is given is a description of what will go on in the world in that time period.

Verses 29-30 - Daniel reveals to Nebuchadnazzar that the dream is a picture and a portrait of future things to come. He explains that the mystery has been revealed to Daniel for the sole purpose of explaining to the king the meaning of what God has put into the king's mind. You see David understood the mystery, the power, and the Glory of Yahweh.

It reminds me of part of what has been called "The Greatest Sermon in History" by Shadrach Meshach Lockridge. Someone challenged him saying "if there is a God then where did He come from?" Lockridge answers"

"The reason God came from nowhere is that there wasn't anywhere for Him to come from. And coming from nowhere, He stood on nothing. And the reason He stood on nothing is that there was nowhere for Him to stand. And standing on nothing He reached out where there was nowhere to reach, and caught something when there was nothing to catch and hung something on nothing and told it to stay there. (you'll find that in Job 26:7) And He hung this world on nothing, and standing on nothing He took the hammer of His own will and He struck the anvil of His omnipotence and sparks flew therefrom, and he caught them on the tips of His fingers and He flung them out into space and filled the heavens with stars, and nobody said a word. The reason nobody said anything is because there wasn't anybody to say anything, so God Himself said, "That's good".



When we have an understanding of the majesty and glory of God, great things can happen in our lives and great changes can take place in and to our character. We've seen a young Hebrew boy who was taken into captivity, and this boy had seen the mighty works of God back in Judah. He had studied God's Word from childhood. He had learned to trust God no matter what the circumstances brought. And he continued to do so.

Because of Daniel's spiritual understanding of the essence of God we see him:  
**Composed** when the whole world around him fell into a crisis  
**Courageous** as he stood before the captain Arioch who was out to kill him  
**Confident** before God in His prayer  
**Careful** when given wisdom and knowledge to give praise to the Lord  
**Contrite** in his spirit. He was humble and he sought no glory for himself.

Church, God is looking for more of us to be like Daniel. God is ready for us to say, 'Lord use me'. When we walk like Daniel God will expand our influence and our ministry. I encourage you today to listen to the heart of God concerning His will for your life, and then JUST GO DO IT.

Let us pray.