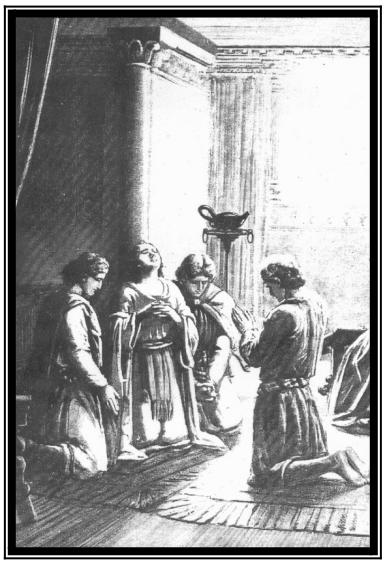
THE GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

(The King's Dream is Revealed)
Daniel 2:1-30
3-7-2021



INTRODUCTION:

***Put your faith in the God of the impossible!**

Two good reasons why:

I. MAN CANNOT DO WHAT ONLY GOD CAN DO (v. 1-13)

A. The Impossible DEMAND of the King (v. 1-6)

B. The Impossible DILEMMA of the Wise Men (v. 7-13)

II. GOD CAN DO WHAT MAN CANNOT DO (v. 14-30)

A. When Daniel Needed Wisdom:
HE PUT HIS FAITH IN GOD (v. 14-19)

1. Daniel's faith gave him:
DISCERNMENT from God (v. 14-15)

2. Daniel's faith gave him:
DEPENDENCE on God (v. 16-19)

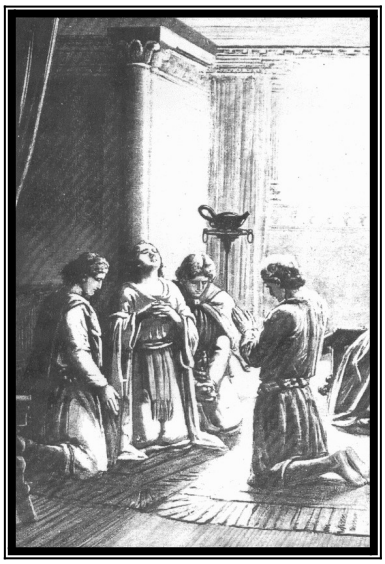
B. When Daniel Received Wisdom:
HE GAVE THE CREDIT TO GOD (v. 20-30)

1. He was THANKFUL to God (v. 20-23)

2. He was HUMBLE before God (v. 24-30)

THE GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

(The King's Dream is Revealed)
Daniel 2:1-30
3-7-2021



INTRODUCTION:

***Put your faith in the God of the impossible!**

Two good reasons why:

I. _____ CANNOT DO WHAT ONLY GOD CAN DO (v. 1-13)

A. The Impossible _____ of the King (v.

B. The Impossible _____ of the Wise Men (v. 7-13)

II. _____ CAN DO WHAT MAN CANNOT DO (v. 14-30)

A. *When Daniel Needed Wisdom:*
HE PUT HIS _____ IN GOD (v. 14-19)

1. *Daniel's faith gave him:*
_____ from God (v. 14-15)

2. *Daniel's faith gave him:*
_____ on God (v. 16-19)

B. *When Daniel Received Wisdom:*
HE GAVE THE _____ TO GOD (v. 20-30)

1. He was _____ to God (v. 20-23)

2. He was _____ before God (v. 24-30)

THE GOD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE

(The King's Dream is Revealed)
Daniel 2:1-30
3-7-2021

INTRODUCTION:

***Put your faith in the God of the impossible!**

Two good reasons why:

I. MAN CANNOT DO WHAT ONLY GOD CAN DO (v. 1-13)

A. The Impossible DEMAND of the King (v. 1-6)

V. 1

"Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams" - The king had dreamed the same dream over and over again (Note v. 3- "dream" - singular).

This repeated dream was no ordinary nightmare, but it was a direct message of prophetic doom from God Himself.

The dream was so real, so vivid, so relentless that it caused the king's spirit (i.e. mind) to be troubled (lit. "smitten"). It had a disturbing emotional effect on Nebuchadnezzar.

The dream also caused insomnia. The king was so agitated that he could not sleep. The king could not get the thought of the dream out of his mind. The continual preoccupation of his thoughts about this dream kept him from sleep and mental rest.

V. 2

"Magicians" - These occultic people would evidently seek to find answers by mysteriously allowing "spirits" to move their pen while they yielded themselves to an "automatic dictation"

[Note: The word "magician" ("kartom") is related to the word "pen" or "graving tool" ("karet")]

"Astrologers" - They would seek to find answers from the celestial bodies, or by calling up the spirits of dead people (a necromancer -- BDB).

"Sorcerers" - They would seek to find answers by means of magic potions (drugs) or by casting spells.

"Chaldeans" - They would supposedly have answers because of human wisdom. They were a "class of wise men priests" (Ryrie) (cp. Herodotus 1:181).

None of the men whom Nebuchadnezzar called in knew the true God, hence they looked everywhere else for answers.

V. 3

The reason why Nebuchadnezzar was troubled is because he wanted to know what the dream meant. He could not sleep until his answer came.

V. 4

"Then spake the Chaldeans . . . in Syriac" (lit. Aramaic) -

Important note: From verse 4b until 7:28, the book of Daniel was written in Aramaic (the Assyrian, Babylonian, and Persian language) rather than Hebrew (the Jewish language).

Why the shift? Apparently, to correspond to the Gentile Kingdoms that Nebuchadnezzar dreams about and that God describes in the "times of the Gentiles" portion of this book of Daniel. God has a message for the Gentiles.

Note: When God describes the end of the Tribulation (Dan. 7:25-26) and the establishment of the Messianic Kingdom (Dan. 7:27-28), the Aramaic comes to an end with 7:28.

V. 5

"The thing is gone from me" = The statement does not mean "the dream has slipped my mind...I forgot it." Nebuchadnezzar certainly remembered his dream. He could not get it out of his mind. If he had forgotten the dream, they would have made one up.

But rather the statement means: "The decree has gone out from me" (cp. v. 8, 16)

In other words: "My decision to slay all the wise men in Babylon has been made . . . tell me the dream or else!"

To test the authenticity, veracity, and trustworthiness of the Babylonian wise men, Nebuchadnezzar not only expects them to give him the interpretation of his dream, but the dream itself!

This is the ultimate proof of their true ability to get answers from divinity.

Nebuchadnezzar is not dummy. He knows that if these men are really getting their answers from their gods, then certainly their gods should also be able to tell them what he dreamed.

God, in His sovereignty, no doubt prompted such an idea in Nebuchadnezzar's mind so that He Himself could give the interpretation through His man, Daniel.

Nebuchadnezzar warns them that if they fail to tell him both the dream and its interpretation that he would turn their bodies into shredded coleslaw and their houses into garbage dumps.

V. 6

The promise of rewards further emphasizes the greatness and urgent desire of the king to know what his dream means (Belshazzar, also in deep distress, made a similar promise - Dan. 5:7, 16).

B. The Impossible DILEMMA of the Wise Men (v. 7-13)

V. 8

"...Ye would gain the time" - You are trying to "buy some extra time" since you know that the decree (death penalty) has gone out from me.

They were hoping the king would become reasonable with time. Hence, they were stalling for time.

Why such a stringent test? Nebuchadnezzar knew this dream was unusual and from God, he knew that the one who was "in touch" with God could be the only one to interpret it.

V. 9

Nebuchadnezzar knows that if they cannot tell him his dream, they also cannot tell him what it means. But rather have conspired together to tell the king some lie so as to change the predicament they were in.

V. 10b

They are saying that Nebuchadnezzar's request is unreasonable, humanly impossible.

V. 11

"It is a rare thing" - No other occurrence of a king or ruler demanding both the interpretation and the dream itself appears in Scripture. This dream is the only one where someone demanded such a high and humanly impossible task. Hence, this dream must have been very important, and must have long-term significance, which it does.

"The gods" - the Babylonians were polytheists, who worshipped a pantheon of false non-existent deities.

V. 12

King Nebuchadnezzar concluded that all wise men were useless and false; therefore, in rage, he commands all the wise men in Babylon to be exterminated.

V. 13

They looked for Daniel and his fellows (his friends - Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego) who evidently were included among Babylon's list of wise men (cp. 1:17).

II. GOD CAN DO WHAT MAN CANNOT DO (v. 14-30)

A. When Daniel Needed Wisdom: HE PUT HIS FAITH IN GOD (v. 14-19)

1. Daniel's faith gave him: DISCERNMENT from God (v. 14-15)

V. 14

"Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom" - i.e. with discretion and discernment. Daniel again, as in 1:8 and 12, responds with graciousness, tactfulness, a wise choice of words.

In our speech we should be "wise as serpents and harmless as doves" (Mt. 10:16).

"Arioch" - the king's chief executioner

V. 15

"Why is the decree so hasty?" - Even though Daniel was one of the wise men of Babylon (1:17) and one who stood before the king to advise him (2:19), he did not know what was going on.

Evidently, he was not among the "wisemen" who went in before Nebuchadnezzar (2:2). Daniel, keeping himself untainted from the pagan prophets of his day, did not fellowship with them. He was a separatist who did not hang around with the false religious leaders of his day (cp. 5:7, 13 - Daniel is never identified with the world's wisemen. He did not ecumenically join himself to the lying ear ticklers of his day).

2. Daniel's faith gave him: DEPENDENCE on God (v. 16-19)

V. 16

Like the king of Babylon, the ancient Pharaoh of Egypt had a dream from God which troubled him and caused him to seek its meaning from the magicians and wise men of Egypt (Gen. 41:8). After their failure to interpret the dream, a Jew named Joseph was summoned to do so (Gen. 41:14ff). NOTE: He, like Daniel, gave the credit to God for his interpretive ability (Gen. 41:16; Dan. 2:28) and was elevated to a high political position for such wisdom (Gen. 41:39-44; Dan. 2:46-49).

Daniel's faith in God prompted him to ask for some time to pray about this impossible situation.

V. 18

"Desire" - to earnestly seek or ask; to please. Daniel encouraged his friends to fervently pray for God to extend his mercies.

NOTE: The "God of Heaven" = is in contrast to the starry heavens which the Babylonians prayed to.

Also, "God" is singular in contrast to the multiple "gods" of the Babylonians (v. 11).

"Secret" = the mysterious dream of Nebuchadnezzar.

When you need help, what do you do?

1) Many worry
2) Others scheme
3) The wise pray!

In the midst of trials, James said, "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God" (Ja. 1:5).

V. 19

"Then was the secret revealed" - God answers prayer!

The answer did not come until after prayer was made.

"Revealed . . . in a night vision" - Daniel saw the same dream that Nebuchadnezzar had.

NOTE: God only gave visions during times when He was outpouring new revelation. He is not speaking through visions and dreams today, but through His Holy Scriptures.

B. When Daniel Received Wisdom:
HE GAVE THE CREDIT TO GOD (v. 20-30)

1. He was THANKFUL to God (v. 20-23)

V. 20

"Blessed be the name of God" (Elohim) - the name Elohim points to the power and strength of the LORD.

V. 21

God controls:

1) Nature's Laws ("times and seasons")
2) Political powers ("kings" = rulers and presidents)
3) Man's wisdom and knowledge
4) Revelation of the unknown (v. 22)
(nothing is hidden from God - Ps. 139:1-12)

V. 22

"he revealeth the deep and secret things" - NOTE: that this theme in Daniel's praise is exactly the same as the "wise men's" complaint in 2:11 !

NOTE: an eternal truth - There are some things that man cannot discover by himself.

"The secret things belong to God" - Deut. 29:29.

*Man cannot discover God - God must reveal Himself to man.

V. 23

Daniel realized that what he had, he had by the grace of God.

Paul realized the same fact -

I Cor. 15:10 - "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."

I Cor. 4:7 - "For who maketh thee to differ from another? and

what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?"

2. He was HUMBLE before God (v. 24-30)

V. 24

"Destroy not" = lit. stop killing the wise men. Implied - Their swords were dripping with blood as they enter Daniel's house.

Daniel had compassion, even for his religious adversaries, hence he requests that they be not destroyed.

V. 25

"I have found a man" - No doubt Arioch would want part of the credit if Daniel's interpretation was found to be true.

V. 26

"Art thou able" - No! But God is able! Daniel will respond by giving credit to God (v. 28).

V. 27

Daniel exalts God's honor by first showing the importance of man.

V. 28

"There is a God in heaven" - Daniel takes no credit to himself, but gives it all to God.

(NOTE: Joseph did the same - Gen. 41:16 - "And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me; God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.")

Daniel is saying, "I'm only a tool"; only a vessel or channel that God fills and uses.

"Latter days" - the future days - the dream of Nebuchadnezzar had historic and prophetic significance (cp. v. 29 - "Come to pass hereafter").

"Latter days" - this phrase appears 14 times in the Old Testament and always refers to prophecy.

Only God can reveal the future!

"What should come to pass hereafter" - Every king thought that his kingdom would never end. God, however, shows this king that His will never end!

V. 29

Only God can show man what the future holds in store. He does so in this book of Daniel and other prophetic Scriptures.

"Read tomorrow's news today -- in the Bible!"

V. 30

Note the humility of Daniel.

Daniel denies that he is superior to any one else.

He discredits his own intelligence as being the cause for the wisdom that is about to flow from his mouth.

SEE: Jer. 9:23-24

God did not reveal it to Daniel because he was so wise, but because He wanted His future plan for the ages known!