



CAPITOL COMMISSION[®]

God Given All the Glory for the Impossible

MAY 18-20, 2022

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Daniel 2:25-30 *Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, “I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.”* 26) *The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and the interpretation?”* 27) *Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. 28) But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: 29) As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. 30) But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who made known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.”* (NKJV)

Is Arioch maximizing the situation for his benefit? Does the king expect the same from Daniel that he expected of all the other wise men? Why does Daniel mention the fact that no one else could do it? Who does Daniel reveal is more sovereign than King Nebuchadnezzar and all his gods? Is God not only given glory for the secrets of the dream and its interpretation, but even the thoughts of the king prior? Has God answered the desires of this emperor? Does Daniel take any credit for revealing this all-consuming secret to the king? Who should Nebuchadnezzar thank for his dream?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 25-27: DANIEL 2:31-36 *THE WORLD EMPIRES REVEALED TO THE END*
- JUNE 1-3: DANIEL 2:37-40 *GOD WRITES THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD FROM THE BEGINNING*

Daniel, in gratitude for saving his life by giving him the king’s dream and interpretation, had just written a song. The lyrics blessed and glorified God for His absolute sovereignty over the entire universe. It began with rejoicing in His eternity, as His name is blessed “*forever and ever.*” Not only is God from eternity past to eternity future, but Daniel delighted that “*wisdom and might are His.*” His omniscience and omnipotence are not limited to Him because God delights, as the source, to graciously bestow wisdom and might to mankind, who are made in His image. Thereby they reflect His image. All the changes are His, particularly in regard to politics: “*He removes kings and raises up kings.*” What a song Daniel sings to God! Daniel glorifies the God behind the dream.

JESUS SPOKE THESE WORDS, LIFTED UP HIS EYES TO HEAVEN, AND SAID: “FATHER, THE HOUR HAS COME. GLORIFY YOUR SON, THAT YOUR SON MAY ALSO GLORIFY YOU, AS YOU HAVE GIVEN HIM AUTHORITY OVER ALL FLESH, THAT HE SHOULD GIVE ETERNAL LIFE TO AS MANY AS YOU HAVE GIVEN HIM. AND THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE, THAT THEY MAY KNOW YOU, THE ONLY TRUE GOD AND JESUS CHRIST WHOM YOU HAVE SENT.” JOHN 17:1-3

THEREFORE I EXHORT FIRST OF ALL THAT SUPPLICATIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, AND GIVING OF THANKS BE MADE FOR ALL MEN, FOR KINGS AND ALL WHO ARE IN AUTHORITY, THAT WE MAY LEAD A QUIET AND PEACEABLE LIFE IN ALL GODLINESS AND REVERENCE. FOR THIS IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE IN THE SIGHT OF GOD OUR SAVIOUR, WHO DESIRES ALL MEN TO BE SAVED” 1TIM 2:1-4

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 8:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST & 11:30 – WOODBRIDGE – BOB EVANS, 14490 SMOKETOWN RD.

THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY’S, 9963 HULL STREET ROAD (LOCATED AT HULL & COURTHOUSE)

FRIDAY @ 7:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – VILLAGE INN, 6116 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

Virginia

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I. GLORY SOUGHT

DANIEL 2:25-26

When Daniel was given the dream in answer to the prayers of the obedient team of exiles from Judah, “Daniel went to Arioch whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon” first—to tell him to stop the executions of the wise men of Babylon. Daniel then gave him the imperative, “take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation.” So when Arioch immediately brought Daniel before the king, he overstated the case in order to seek as much glory for himself as possible. He tells the king, “I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.” Arioch knows that the king is most interested in this mystery and no one has been able, or even claimed to be able to solve it. So he works to exalt himself by claiming to have found Daniel who has finally come with a solution. Of course, the king asks of Belteshazzar his same demand, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?” He knows his demand is impossible!

DANIEL DELAYED THIS MATTER. HE KNEW IN THIS CRUCIAL MOMENT THAT HE HAD THE KING'S ATTENTION, AND SO HE USED THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO BEAR WITNESS FOR THE LORD. NOTICE THAT HIS WITNESS HAD TWO ASPECTS, ONE NEGATIVE AND THE OTHER POSITIVE. HE FIRST DENIES THE ABILITY OF THE BABYLONIAN WISE MEN TO ACCOMPLISH THE KING'S DEMAND, AND THEN HE AFFIRMS THAT HIS GOD IS ABLE TO DO THIS. J. PAUL TANNER

II. GLORY SANCTIFIED

DANIEL 2:27-29

Daniel begins by reminding the king that his gods and their representatives are bankrupt when it comes to doing that which the Babylonians prided themselves the most in being able to do—solving dreams and interpreting them, particularly in regard to reading the future. Daniel gives him the bad news first: “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.” He has added, for the

first time, the “soothsayers” to provide a glaring contrast with “the God in heaven” he is about to introduce to the king. These soothsayers divided the stars into groups for each person and supposedly based on the movements of those stars would tell their future-claiming knowledge of the future as fortune-tellers do today. But Daniel’s God revealed the future perfectly in regard to the world empires all the way down to today! “But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.” The future is God’s secret. He doesn’t just know the future, He writes it. Daniel is letting the king know how greatly privileged he is to have been given this dream. But there is more, not only did God give the king the dream, God had read his thoughts and had answered his thoughts. “As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.” God doesn’t just see what we do, He knows our mind and every thought!

“O LORD, YOU HAVE SEARCHED ME AND KNOWN ME. YOU KNOW MY SITTING DOWN AND MY RISING UP; YOU UNDERSTAND MY THOUGHT FROM AFAR OFF.” PS.139:1-2

III. GLORY SACRIFICED

DANIEL 2:30

In his delight to give all the glory to God, Daniel refuses any glory for himself. His humility is exemplary and it invites the wise to imitate his actions. “But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living.” His ability to tell the king his dream and the interpretation and even his prior thoughts, sets Daniel apart from all humanity, yet he takes no credit whatsoever for it. Literally, “but in order that the interpretation may be known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.” Daniel is making it clear that the only reason for the revelation of this mystery is the mercy and grace of God. No glory, only gratitude should be the response of all who have been so blessed!

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you work to exalt yourself and seek glory from others?
- 2) Are you instead a witness for God in that you give Him all the glory for what He has done?
- 3) Is gratitude to God your normal response or taking all the glory in exalting yourself and the abilities He has given you?