

“THE CHARACTER OF A GODLY MAN”

DANIEL 2:24-30

Theme: A person’s character will portray the quality of their worship of the God of Heaven.

I. It Prioritizes the Manifestation of God’s Pity - 2:24

A. *HIS CONCERN FOR THE DOOMED*

1. The result of Daniel’s faith in the power of God to deliver him, and the subsequent focus on the glory of God through a time of worship, Daniel was greatly impacted by his fellowship with God.
2. It is impossible to enjoy the presence and fellowship with God and not be dramatically affected for the good - that is, conformed to the image of Christ Jesus - cp. [2 Corinthians 3:18](#).
3. The specific result of Daniel’s fellowship with God was the way his immediate concern was not for personal advancement, or reputation, but for the lives of those wise men being slaughtered - *“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!’”*
4. His compassion for the lost - the pagan men who were being banished to a Christ-less eternity - compelled him reach out and attempt to spare their lives.
5. When you begin to gain a perspective that can only come through fellowship with God, one that is conformed to His own heart, you will become a soul-winner - cp. [Proverbs 11:30](#).

B. *HIS CONFIDENCE DESPITE THE DANGER*

1. Notice that Daniel did not concern himself with the personal situation he was in, nor did he doubt the credibility of God’s revelation.
2. Remember, he had to not only explain the King’s dream, he also had to reveal what the dream actually was - as a test of authenticity for the interpretation thereof.
3. Daniel’s confidence in the credibility of God’s revelation enabled him to appeal to Arioch for the lives of the wise men.
4. When we have been with God in fellowship with Jesus Christ, we are totally convinced of the truthfulness, veracity, and trustworthiness of the Gospel to deliver men from sin – it is the solution -- [John 6:66-68](#).

5. It also enabled him to boldly go before the King with an answer - *“Take me into the king’s presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king.”*

II. It Presented the Uniqueness of God’s Power – 2:25-28

A. *THE PROPENSITY FOR MAN’S ARROGANCE* - vv. 25-26

1. One of the tendencies of men is to attempt to grab for oneself as much glory as can be had for the purpose of advancing one’s own reputation or standing.
2. Notice that as soon as Daniel informs Arioch of his ability to fulfill the King’s inquiry, *“Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king’s presence and spoke to him as follows: ‘I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the King!’”*
3. Arioch attempts to suggest that he was the one to receive credit for finding the solution for the king.
4. People commonly act just like Arioch - arrogantly attempting to suggest that whatever solutions are needed to the problems of life, are available to them on the basis of their own abilities or initiatives.
5. When informed that a solution had been found, the king likewise considers that the answer was to be received from Daniel - cp. [v. 26](#).

B. *THE PREMINENCE OF GOD’S ABILITY* - vv. 27-28

1. In contrast to the attitudes of the “pagans” (Arioch & Nebuchadnezzar), Daniel denies that any man possesses the necessary abilities to provide the solution to the dilemma.
2. Instead of attempting to vaunt himself to greater prestige and honor, Daniel declares that *“neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king.”*
3. In other words, there are situations that are too great for even the wisest of men - beyond man’s scope of ability.
4. In contrast to mankind, *“there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries”* - things that are not available to men independently from the revelation of an omniscient God are made known to men according to the will of God.
5. In this matter, God has chosen to make *“known to king Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days.”*
6. Here, it is clear that man is not sufficient to settle matters for

himself, there are things that are necessarily only received from the hand of God - mysteries too great for man's natural perception.

7. The most notable "*mystery*" is the "mystery" of the Gospel - cp. **Romans 16:25; Ephesians 6:19**.
8. "*latter days*" literally means "end of the days" – and ultimately refers to when the Lord Jesus Christ returns and reigns in His earthly kingdom – cp. **Romans 11:25-2** - cp. v. 44.

III. It Promotes the Sovereignty of God's Plan – **2:29-30**

A. *THE DOUBT CONCERNING THE FUTURE* – v. 29

1. Having conquered most of what he would ever rule during his father's reign, he became somewhat contemplative concerning the future - what will it hold?
2. He was "*on his bed [and] his thoughts turned to what would take place in the future*"
3. Nebuchadnezzar's concern about the future reflects a concern that exists universally in all men - what is going to happen?
4. God saw this common inquiry on the part of Nebuchadnezzar as the opportunity of choice to reveal the "*mysteries*" of the "*latter days*."

B. *THE DETERMINATION CONCERNING THE FUTURE* – v. 30

1. Daniel acknowledges that the ability to know what the future holds is not something that is attributable to "*any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man*" - that is, it is not natural for men to know the future
2. However, God determined that it was appropriate - for the encouragement of His chosen people, to know that the "times and epochs" truly are in His hand.
3. Consequently, he reveals to the King in a dream the preview of what God had determined will happen from Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom through to the establishment of the Millennial Kingdom.
4. This is what is meant by "*latter days*" in. **v. 28**.