

“THE REWARDS FOR FAITHFULNESS”

DANIEL 2:46-49

Theme: God has promised to provide blessing and honor to those who are faithful to Him.

I. The Promotion of God’s Praise - 2:46-47

A. *THE ADMIRATION OF THE NAME OF GOD*

1. Having been oriented to the awesome declaration of what God has in store for the kingdoms of the earth, Nebuchadnezzar immediately reacts to Daniel.
2. *“King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and did homage to Daniel ...”* – a term used to refer to bowing before an idol – illustrating that he had not caught the message that Daniel had been giving concerning the uniqueness of the *“God of Heaven.”*
 - a) 2:27-28 – Daniel denies that the ability to know and interpret the dream rests within him.
 - b) 2:28 – Daniel declares that the *“God of Heaven”* who reveals mysteries.
 - c) 2:29 – Daniel gives credit to God for the revelation of mysteries.
 - d) 2:45 – Daniel declares that the *“great God has made known ... what will take place.”*
3. As part of the homage being paid to Daniel, the King *“gave orders to present to him an offering and fragrant incense.”*
4. In response to these gestures by the King, Daniel apparently protested – as can be seen in the fact that *“the King answered Daniel ...”* – and then began to exalt the Name of Daniel’s God.
5. Here is an expression of glory to the Lord that wittingly or unwittingly ascribes blessing to each member of the Trinity:
 - a) *“Surely you God is a God of gods ...”* – an ascription to the Father, as Sovereign above all gods.
 - b) *“... and a Lord of kings ...”* – an ascription to the Son of God, as the sovereign above all other kings.
 - c) *“... and a revealer of mysteries, since you have been able to reveal this mystery”* – an ascription to the Holy Spirit of God who reveals the wisdom of God – cp. 1 Corinthians 2:10-12.

B. *AN ASSESSMENT OF NATURAL WORSHIP*

1. However, it is necessary for us to remember that Nebuchadnezzar is clearly a pagan ruler, untouched by the Spirit of God, and therefore unregenerate - cp. [Daniel 3:5](#).
2. Here we find an illustration of the extent to which an unsaved person may go in showing respect for God.
3. Belief in God is not sufficient to bring a person to redemption - cp. [James 2:19](#).
4. Here we see several features of a faith that a person can have, that would result in their ascribing glory to God, but arising out of a heart that is not regenerate:
 - a) One may be enamored with the power of God.
 - b) One may be enamored with the beauty of God (creation, morality, etc ...)
5. "Such persons may have a kind of reverence for God as great, and powerful, and wise; they may have even a kind of pleasure in looking on the evidence of his existence and perfections in his works; they may have a glow of pleasurable emotion in the mere poetry of religion; they may be restrained from doing many things by their consciences; they may erect temples, and build altars, and contribute to the support of religion, and even be zealous for religion, as they understand it, and still have no just views of God, and no true piety whatever."¹
6. Those who truly know God, are not impacted merely by admiration of the beautiful and grand, but by that which is pure, just, good, and holy in contrast to what characterizes men - causing a genuine repentance that results in the abandonment of sin.

II. **The Promotion of God's People – 2:48**

A. *THE PRIVILEGES DISPENSED BY GOD*

1. *"Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him a many great gifts."* – it is understood that Daniel received here what was promised earlier to anyone who could fulfill the king's request. – cp. [2:6](#).
2. These *"gifts"* seem to reflect material enrichment – that were given to Daniel by God, not merely by the King – cp. [Deuteronomy 11:26-28; Joshua 1:8](#).
 - a) We must not believe that the privileges and blessings received by Daniel resulted merely because of his ability to

¹ Albert Barnes, Barnes Notes, p. 193.

provide the interpretation.

- b) Rather, it resulted at the hand of God who enabled him to give proper interpretation, because of the previous commitment that Daniel made to “not defile Himself” in obedience to the Word of God – cp. **Daniel 1:8**.

B. *THE PRESTIGE DELINEATED BY GOD*

1. Not only were gifts and blessing promised to the one who could interpret the dream, but “**great honor**” was also promised.
2. In fulfillment of this promise, God provided Daniel great prestige through the hand of the king – “**who made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon.**”
 - a) “**ruler over the whole province of Babylon**” – the empire was divided into provinces, each with a head called a “satrap” – these are political positions similar to a governor – the highest attainable.
 - b) “**Chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon**” – this gave him national power as a person who would influence morality and policy of the kingdom - Daniel’s counsel would be sought by the most important people of the kingdom on the most important issues in the kingdom

III. The Promotion of God’s Perspectives - 2:49

A. *THE PROMOTION OF GODLY PHILOSOPHERS*

1. Having been blessed by God, Daniel is in no way polluted by the blessings and prestige – he immediately recognizes his need for the assistance of others who possessed the same perspective and fear of God.
2. Therefore, he “**made request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego over the administration of the province of Babylon.**”
3. Hence, God provided others who would be able to also exert influence for Him.

B. *THE PREMINENCE OF GODLY PHILOSOPHY*

1. Notice however, the pre-eminence that Daniel attained as we are told that “**Daniel was at the king’s court.**”
2. This is the old “**sitting at the gates of the city**” prominence that meant that he was involved in judicial affairs that were beyond the local province and were “empire-wide.”
3. Hence, Daniel was involved in the policy affairs of the entire empire, providing a godly perspective on the issues and decisions made by

the king and his cabinet.

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