

1. Last week I taught Daniel chapter two verses 6 through 12. When time ran out I was in the process of providing several principles learned from Dan 2:13.

2. Before continuing our study I want to give you an expanded translation of Dan 2:1-12.

Dan 2:1 In the third year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, the King began to have several very troubling dreams; he was greatly disturbed; so panic stricken that he developed a serious case insomnia.

Dan 2:2 Accordingly Nebuchadnezzar summoned his scribes, his best scientists, his sorcerers, priests and soothsayers; they were told the nature of the King's problem.

Dan 2:3 The king said to them, "I have had a dream which greatly troubles me and I want to know its meaning."

Dan 2:4 The men summoned to the palace bowed before Nebuchadnezzar saying in unison "O King live forever." The leader of the group said "now tell us the dream and we will tell you its interpretation.

Dan 2:5 The king answered "I have already issued an irrevocable decree "If you do not tell me what I dreamed and then interpret it for me, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble.

Dan 2:6 But if you tell me what I dreamed and then tell me its meaning, I will give you gold bullion, silver utensils and a chest full of precious stones along with a large monetary stipend and a promotion. So take a shot and tell me the dream and its interpretation.

Dan 2:7 Once more their spokesman replied, "Tell us the dream, and then we will interpret it."

Dan 2:8 Nebuchadnezzar answered, "You are simply trying to buy time, because you realize I have issued an unalterable decree that a failure to tell the dream and interpret will result in your deaths.

Dan 2:9 If you fail to tell me the dream, there is just one penalty for you. For you see in the past I have watched you on occasion develop misleading interpretations and now I think you are simply stalling, hoping the situation will change. Tell me the dream, and then I will know that your interpretation can be trusted.

Dan 2:10 One of the more respected scholars answered, "There is not a diviner on earth who can do what the king asks! In fact we know of no king, Egyptian or Assyrian who has ever asked a scholar, enchanter or astrologer to tell a ruler what he dreamed.

Dan 2:11 What you are asking is frankly just too difficult. There is no human who one can reveal your dream; only the gods know what you dreamed but unfortunately the gods do not live among us.

Dan 2:12 This response made the king not just angry but livid; he exploded and summarily ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon.

3. Now let's see what we can learn from verse thirteen.

KJV

Dan 2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

NIV

Dan 2:13 So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

1. Nebuchadnezzar's "slow burn" finally exploded.
2. His irrationality shows in his decree. Not only will he rid himself of the wise men who met with him, but all the wise men of Babylon - the entire state department is to be eliminated.
3. This is a perfect example of the innocent suffering with the "guilty".
4. While Daniel and his three friends had only recently entered the service of the King they too were to be executed, yet Daniel and his four companions had not even been in the meeting with the King.
5. When panic stricken it is difficult to think. This man has just seen four smart boys from Judah; one with the gift of prophecy and yet his anxiety will not let him think straight.
6. This edict however, regardless of how ill thought, will provide opportunity for the Lord to show His favor to Daniel and his friends.
7. As we have studied, in his early life Daniel learned doctrine in the palace of Josiah and then as time progressed he consistently applied "resident doctrine" to circumstances.
  - 7.1 The doctrine cycled in his soul strengthened his backbone and provided the stability of mind necessary to become God's man for the crisis.
  - 7.2 Doctrine, suffering and pressure, in that order, had equipped the youngster so that he could face this ultimate crisis with a calm, cool and collected manner.
8. Now let's go to verses fourteen and fifteen of Daniel chapter two:

KJV

Dan 2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

NIV

Dan 2:14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact.

KJV

Dan 2:15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

NIV

Dan 2:15 He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel.

1. The Scripture "Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom" is the key and turning point in this chapter.
2. Daniel did not panic, he kept his cool and used the wisdom God had given him.
3. We could say from a categorical analysis "counsel" is advice based on doctrine and "wisdom" is the application of doctrine to experience.
4. It is God's plan for every believer to move from nothing at the moment of salvation to maximum maturity in time.
5. This advance to maturity is accomplished by the GAP process whereby each believer follows the protocol plan of God for his dispensation. For us of the church age this means we find our right pastor teacher and attend under the filling of the spirit.
6. The final state of maturity immediately proceeds death and hopefully results in the manifestation of "Dying Grace".
7. This we could also say is the ultimate in temporal sanctification characterized by
  - maximum blessing in time
  - maximum pressure in time
  - maximum occupation with Christ
  - maximum capacity for life
  - maximum blessing in dying
  - maximum blessing in eternity

8. Daniel is somewhere on this progress line; he is in the midst of the battle and in command of his faculties.

9. Daniel is able to think because he has

Accepted Christ as his Savior

- He regularly uses rebound
- He has attended "Bible Class" regularly
- He has submitted himself to his authorities in two palaces
- He has a relaxed mental attitude
- He knows the Lord and the Lord alone protects him
- He is consistent in thought and action

10. Daniel refused to panic; he knew that as long as God had a purpose and a plan for his life he would live.

10.1 On the other hand Daniel seemed to know that if God did not have something else for him to do, then nothing could keep him on this earth.

11. Daniel is depending on God for his protection.

12. A cool head is important in every crisis especially when it is about to be severed.

13. Arioch is the Kings executioner; a man as cold as his blade.

14. He has his orders and from all indication he has left the palace and is on his way to find each member of the state department who at this time are probably under palace arrest.

15. We have here an early recreation of the "night of the long knives".

16. Arioch was Nebuchadnezzar's man of the hour and Daniel is God's man of the hour, though just a boy.

17. Arioch along with his guard unit is moving through the palace halls when they are soon confronted by a man of doctrine. A man recall who was well respected by the Meltsar and Ashpenaz.

17.1 Remember from our prior studies it was God who put this "respect and love for Daniel in the hearts" of Ashpenaz. Just as Daniel prepared the way with Ashpenaz, no doubt he is preparing the way with Arioch.

18. Daniel is lucid, calm, cool and collected, he will step forward into the hall meet the executioner and say "good evening Mr. Arioch I see you are on a serious mission."

19. Keep in mind all the other members of the King's staff are no doubt cowering in their plush palace apartments. God motivated Daniel to step boldly forward with a plan.

20. How much Daniel knew at this point is difficult to know. Given verse 15 and the question "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" - I think we can conclude Daniel at least knew of the decree but maybe not the detail behind that decree.

21. His plan as we will later see is simple. What's the rush says Daniel, let me talk with the King.

22. From verse 15 we also learned several interesting facts hinted about earlier but now confirmed. Neither Daniel nor his friends had been invited to the meeting. Daniel had to ask of Arioch the executioner what was going down. Arioch is kind enough to level with Daniel. Daniel though he has no answer to the King's dilemma, knows someone who does.

23. Keep in mind the wise men of the land had asked for more time and the King had refused.

24. Daniel will in the next verse ask for more time and Nebuchadnezzar will grant his request.

KJV

Dan 2:16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

NIV

Dan 2:16 At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

25. Now let's see what principles we can learn from verse sixteen.

1. No one ever visited the King's quarters without his permission.

2. Daniel had to go through proper channels to get his audience. As we will later see there is the possibility he may not have gotten a personal audience.

3. Recall from our study of Esther, she risked her life by entering her husband's throne room in order to plead the case of her people.
4. Earlier the king announced "all wise men will be killed"; he could not retract his pronouncement, after all, a middle eastern potentate as God, could make no mistake therefore his pronouncements were intractable.
5. We should take note of Daniel's attitude of faith: not for a moment did he doubt God's ability to provide the answer to the dream.
6. This kind of confidence as we have noted can only come from a mind full of doctrine.
7. He was prepared; he had doctrine in his soul.
8. Daniel is our example; we must take in the Word consistently under the filling of the Spirit so we too can demonstrate in the angelic conflict that even in a fallen state we can choose God's way over Satan's way.
9. Because Daniel is occupied with Christ he moves forward even though he does not know the answer; he does know that his future does rest in God's hands.
10. Through proper channels he sent word to the king that if given time God would show him not only the dream but also the interpretation of the dream.
11. From the Scripture we cannot be sure Daniel actually made a personal visit to the king. There is the possibility he simply saw his chief of staff who in turned conveyed his request.
  - 11.1 All we really know is that Daniel received permission to tell the king his dream and its interpretation.
  - 11.2 If I might be permitted a bit of conjecture, it is possible that after the King cooled down, and after hearing of Daniel's request whether in person or through official channels, he may have remembered the earlier examination when he observed that Daniel was ten times wiser than all his staff diviners.

End Lesson Taught 9-10-2000