

DANIEL 2:7-23

Study by Glenn Palmer 10 Feb 13

Daniel 2:7

1. Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (NIV)
KJV: “A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up wrath.”
2. They are the leaders in the kingdom, yet this is the second time they call themselves . . . servants.
3. In verse 4 it is a command to the king. “Tell your servants the dream.” Here it is “Let the king tell us.”

Daniel 2:8-9

4. “Firmly decided” cf. 6:8
5. The penalty is severe because the game is up. Nebuchadnezzar knows the limitations of the magicians.
6. Calvin’s prayer: “Grant, also, that we may conscious of our ignorance, blindness, and stupidity, and always flee to You. . . May we remain so fixed in Your truth as never to turn aside from it.”

Daniel 2:10.

7. Lit. “the great king” - more flattery.
8. They finally acknowledge their limitations. *Must have been hard to do.*
9. They try to escape due to precedent.

Daniel 2:11.

10. *What the king asks is too difficult.* It is too difficult for man, but not for God. With the plural “gods” we see how corrupt the religion has come. With Adam and Noah, all the world knew that there is one God. Perversion has changed that from one to many.
11. How is this going to increase God’s glory? *Ans: The wise men (magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers) all acknowledge that they can only interpret dreams if they are told what the dreams are. They cannot tell the original dream - unless the gods are on earth. Thus, because Daniel is the only one that can do it, God will be exalted.*

Daniel 2:12-13

12. A tyrant at his worst.
13. How many are ordered to be executed? *All!!!*
14. Apparently many of the magicians, enchanters, etc. lost their lives. The Jews are low on the totem pole and therefore are searched for later.

Daniel 2:14

15. Arioch is an old Babylonian name. Gen. 14:1
 16. How does Daniel talk to Arioch?
 - a. NIV: *Wisdom Young: Counsel* KJV: *Counsel*
 - b. NIV: *Tact* Young: *Discretion* KJV: *Wisdom*
- Practical Application: How can we as Christians best witness to others?
For example, How effective is Westboro Baptist Church?
Who is more effective: street corner preachers or Paul on Mars Hill?
Speak the truth with love.*

Daniel 2:15

17. Did Daniel know what was going on? *No*

Daniel 2:16

18. Why did Daniel's action require courage?

cf. Vs. 12 *the king is so angry and furious that he wants all killed right away. Young: "Under ordinary circumstances he might have been filled with terror, but he is convinced that the Spirit of God is with him."*

19. Why does Daniel ask for time? *Needs to pray*

20. What does Daniel promise the king?!! *He would interpret the dream. Thus, he would know what the dream is, and then interpret it.*

Daniel 2:17-18

21. Daniel asks that his friends pray for him.

22. Is there any indication of jealousy? Daniel is the leader and he is the one that was blessed to interpret dreams. They could have sabotaged Daniel by refusing to pray for him, harassing him, claiming that all four were needed. Rather, they were like the four musketeers, one for all, and all for one.

Daniel 2:19.

We have read this passage so often that we don't understand what really happens. For God to reveal what the dream is, is a miracle. We often can't remember our own dreams, but for God to reveal it to someone else later is unheard of.

23. *God of Heaven*

a. used frequently at the time of exile - 7 x in Ezra, 4 x in Nehemiah, 1 x in Psalms

b. God is God of sun, moon and stars which the astrologers worshipped

24. God answers prayers and differentiates between His people and the Chaldeans

Daniel 2:20-23

Daniel's Prayer

25. If we were writing, would we not jump to the dream and the interpretation? God had sent the dream and it troubled the king. People are killed for it. Daniel knows the interpretation and thus he knows the dream. So why do we have the prayer? Let us get to the important stuff, the dream and the interpretation!

Vs. 20 Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever

26. How does Daniel start his prayer? *Adoration*

27. How do we start our prayers? *With requests.*

28. What does Daniel do when his prayer is answered? *Praises God.*

29. Calvin: "We must remember how God is defrauded of His just praise, when we do not connect these two attributes together-His universal foresight and His government of the world allowing nothing to happen without His permission."

Practical application. *What do we do when God answers our prayers?* Answer: We often ask God for something, e.g., safe travels when we start our trip, but how often do we thank God when we arrive home safely? We ask God to be healed, but do we thank Him when we are?

30. Why is the name so important? *The name is the essence of who God is and the name tells us about God. Father, Lord Sabaoth, Jehovah Jireh-my provider, Jesus-Savior, etc.*
cf. Matthew 6:9!!

Exodus 20:7

Practical Application: *Why is taking the name of God such a serious offense? Answer: Because it attacks who God is.*

Webster's dictionary:

Gosh - "an explanation of surprise, etc. a euphemism for God"

"Oh my gosh" is saying "Oh my God." - Thus, taking God's name in vain.

Darn - [damn] damn: a euphemism for the curse.

Gosh darn it. [Lit. God damn it.]

OMG - Oh my God

Many Christians are not cognizant of their taking God's name in vain. Many do not think this is a major issue.

Is the third commandment the most broken of the 10 Commandments?

Practical Application: *As Christians we must praise God's name and not use His name in vain, trivial ways. We should not say "Oh my God" or "Oh my gosh" or "OMG."*

Wisdom and power are His.

31. Job 12:13

32. Wisdom:

- a. The Babylonians were renowned for their wisdom, but they can't solve the issue. God can.
- b. A. W. Tozer in the *Knowledge of the Holy* states that "The idea of God infinitely wise is at the root of all truth. . . Wisdom, among other things, is the ability to devise perfect ends to achieve those ends by the most perfect means. . . Wisdom sees everything in focus, each in proper relation to all, and thus is able to work toward predestined goals with flawless precision."
- c. Aalders: "God knows what is hidden from men." Only God was able to reveal the dream and the interpretation.

33. Power: Who wants to be in charge? Us or God? Who is in charge? Us or God? This is the story of history, of the Bible, of life.

Daniel *He changes times and seasons*

34. If nature was in change, why is their variation? *Because God is in charge, each day is different. One day would be sunny and warm, the next could be cold and snowy. The days themselves change - summer days are longer than winter.*

Daniel 2:21 He sets up kings and deposes them

35. The deists views God as a clock maker who winds up a clock (earth) and lets it run.
Biblical/Daniel view. God is charge of the kings. He is sovereign and is actively involved in the affairs of men, of this world.

36. Nebuchadnezzar - watch out!

Practical application: *When the world is topsy-turvy, do we fret or do we pray to God who is King of kings and Lord of Lords?*

He **GIVES** wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning.

37. Gen 3:5-6

Practical Application: If we receive the gift of wisdom or the gift of knowledge of discernment, praise and thank God. Don't pat yourself on the back and say "Look at how smart I am."

Daniel 2:22

38. Cf. Job 12:22

39. Contrast between "deep," "hidden," "dark," with "light"

Light dwells with Him

40. Gen 1:1-5

41. John 9:4

42. I Timothy 6:16

43. I John 1:7

Daniel 2:23

44. Why is "God of my fathers" an important concept? *Answer: It shows us that God is a covenant God.*

Practical application: What does God of our fathers mean to us today? Ans: God is faithful from one generation to the next. The God that my dad worshipped is the same God that my grandfather worshipped and is the same God that I worship.

You have given me wisdom and power,

*You have made know to me what **we** asked of you,*

*You have made known to **us** the dream of the king.*

Daniel is NOT self-centered.