

**Today's Message: "When Only a Miracle Will Do"**

<sup>1</sup>In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. <sup>2</sup>So the king summoned the magicians, enchanters, sorcerers and astrologers<sup>[a]</sup> to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, <sup>3</sup>he said to them, "I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means." <sup>4</sup>Then the astrologers answered the king, "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it." <sup>5</sup>The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble." <sup>10</sup>The astrologers answered the king, "There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. <sup>11</sup>What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans." <sup>12</sup>This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. <sup>16</sup>At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him. <sup>17</sup>Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>18</sup>He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. <sup>19</sup>During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Daniel 2:1-5, 10-19, New International Version (NIV)

- I. God is **sovereign** and **in control**.
  - A. This is the primary theme of the entire book of Daniel
  - B. Don't underestimate the importance of tact (see Dan. 2:14b)
  - C. Daniel gathered his three closest friends together to **plead for mercy** from the God of heaven concerning this mystery (Dan. 2:18a)

"Daniel: 2"

Pastor Jay Passavant

June 27 & 28, 2015

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II. God is the Revealer of mysteries.

A. Daniel 2:18b-23

Then Daniel praised the God of heaven <sup>20</sup> and said:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;  
wisdom and power are his.

<sup>21</sup> He changes times and seasons;  
he deposes kings and raises up others.

He gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to the discerning.

<sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and hidden things;  
he knows what lies in darkness,  
and light dwells with him.

<sup>23</sup> I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors:  
You have given me wisdom and power,  
you have made known to me what we asked of you,  
you have made known to us the dream of the king.”

B. Note the personal nature of the revelation.

C. The relevance for today.

“Disciples are those who have been so ravished with Christ that others want to be like them. Others look at those disciples’ life in the kingdom of God and say, ‘This is the best thing I ever saw in my life. I must have that.’” (Dallas Willard)

III. God is the King of the kingdom that will rule forever.

A. Daniel 2:44

<sup>44</sup> “*In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.*”

B. What is Nebuchadnezzar’s dream revealing then...and now?

C. Across the board scholars agree that this “rock cut out of a mountain, not by human hands...” (Dan. 2:45), is the kingdom of God.

D. Our primary mission, therefore, wherever we go is to bring the kingdom of God. (Matt. 28:18)

Conclusion: In this dramatic story, we learn a great deal about the ways of God and how to act when “only a miracle will do.”

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