

Dream On
Daniel 2:1 – 48
The Laurel Center
November 14, 2014

Main Idea: God is the giver of dreams and he alone can interpret anything.

Introduction

Daniel: I have been telling you about how things are in this new land Babylon. God has given me favor with everyone that I have met so far. Today I want to tell you about a challenge that the king made almost a wise man in all of Babylon. It becomes quite a dilemma and God gives me the wisdom to deal with it properly. Let me tell you all about the king's unnamed dream that God help me to interpret so that many wise men in Babylon would be rescued from the edge of the sword.

Text – Daniel 2:20–23

20 Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. **21** He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; **22** he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. **23** To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter.”

- I.** The world's wise men have their limits (vv. 1 – 16).
 - A Even other humans realize the limitations of human wise men.
 - B Wisdom deals with the hardest of situations.
- II.** God can do all things (vv. 17 – 30).
 - A We can bring any problem to God.
 - B We must give God the credit for his revelation.
- III.** God reveals what no one else can (vv. 31 – 48).
 - A He gives us the knowledge and wisdom to respond.
 - 1 God not only used Daniel to save all of the wise men throughout Babylon from the king's murderous rage but also showed that he is wiser than any human wisdom.
 - 2 God already knew what would happen in the future and what empires would take over Babylon. The king was worried about his own legacy and God used Daniel to show him what it might be like.

- 3 Daniel became a star in the Babylonian Empire because God wanted to show the Babylonians his greatness. Daniel is not the start of his book that he was obedient to God and faithful in all things.
- 4 When Daniel was with his friends God revealed to him not only what the king had dreamed but also what it meant. The king was sick of the wise men making up what they thought the dream meant or what the false gods could interpret from it.
- 5 He really upped the stakes when he made them tell him the dream itself and then its interpretation. While they thought this was unreasonable, God who gives the dream can also give its interpretation.

B He gives greater insight than anyone else could give.

- 1 Because God is the master of history he could tell both the dream and its interpretation. We see that God's interpretation is always perfect and correct.
- 2 God revealed to Daniel what happened in the dream. He explained every detail of the dream to Daniel so that Daniel could relay it to the king. This showed that unlike the false gods, God had the power to know the dream because he gave to the king.
- 3 The King saw a statue forged with different mediums and God showed that this represented the empires that would follow the Babylonians. It showed that empires had now become the standard for human history.
- 4 Each Empire mentioned and represented on the statue was represented by the material that these empires were recognized for using. These materials are the main source of each Empire's power and prestige.
- 5 The first mentioned was the head made of gold and it represented the Babylonians. The Babylonians were known for their luxury and extravagance. They saw themselves as wealthy and great, glorious in their day.
- 6 But like all empires Babylon would fall, in this case to the Empire of the Medes and Persians. This next Empire was based on silver because they used silver on the battlefield.
- 7 The Medes and Persians would give way to the mighty Greek empire. For the first time instead of using just one metal type, the Greeks learned how to make the alloy of bronze. They would use this not just on the battlefield but also in construction.
- 8 The Greek empire gave way to the Roman Empire. The Empire used the strong alloy of iron. It was the strongest alloy yet to be discovered. The Roman Empire lasted the longest among the empires.

- 9 The fifth and final Empire mentioned combined iron with clay. This Empire many believe is the Holy Roman Empire. But this Empire expands beyond that.
- 10 The fifth Empire extends beyond the Holy Roman Empire to all of the empires that have existed until the end of time. Only the next Empire mentioned will be the final Empire of human history before eternity begins.
- 11 The fifth Empire includes not just the Holy Roman Empire in Europe but the influence of the Roman Empire and its culture and influence. These empires would break up into smaller nations that would fight one another for supremacy. We live in this time now.
- 12 The final Empire mentioned is that of a stone that is not cut by human hands. The stone becomes a mountain that lasts forever. This represents the kingdom of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and the millennial reign. Then eternity begins in heaven.

Conclusion

we see that God was the only one who knew the dream and could interpret it. He was the one who gave the dream to King Nebuchadnezzar when he wondered about his own legacy and how long Babylon would last in history. Only God can know these things. There may be wisdom in the world but it pales in comparison to God's foreknowledge. Because God is the creator and sustainer of the universe, the master of history, only he can know these things. The reason he knows them is because he is their author. Rather than trust in human wisdom, we must turn to God and receive wisdom from his hand. No matter how great human wisdom is God's wisdom is greater because of its perspective and scope.