

Daniel 2:24-30

Pt 18 Daniel Goes Public

It's now time for Daniel to go public. He has been in his house praying for God to give him the answer and God gloriously answered his prayer and he has been praising God, along with his friends, for an answer to their prayer.

Daniels world was about to change, big time.

VERSE 24

As soon as Daniel gets through praising the Lord and thanking Him for his blessings, he makes a beeline over to Arioch's place, which is probably in the King's palace, because he is the commander of the king's body guard.

If you are the commander of the king's body guard, you are as close to the king as you can get, the king literally trusted this man with his life so whatever Arioch is going to say, is going to carry some weight with the king.

Daniel knows that he can't just pop into the king's presence, even though he knows that what he has to say is from God.

The king was not a happy man, he was probably a little grouchy and grumpy for losing so much sleep, you don't know what might happen to you if you just popped in to see him first thing in the morning.

And so, Daniel goes directly to Arioch, seeking his intervention just like the first time that he came to the king.

What does he say to Arioch? Hold your horses! Stop the presses! You don't need to kill anybody.

When you are telling a man like Arioch not to do what the king commanded him to do, what to do you better have a good reason.

And Daniel does: he says "I can tell the king what he was dreaming about"!

Interestingly Arioch doesn't ask Daniel to prove it, he doesn't test him, he doesn't say "Are you sure?". How many of you men have told your wife what you wanted to do, and she says "Are you sure?" "Are you sure you want to do that?" "Is that really what you want to do"?

I know you have heard that and you probably heard it this week.

Arioch doesn't do any of that.

Why? Because Daniel said "Take me to the king". Daniel spoke with confidence and boldness and he said he wanted to see the king, right then.

Daniel knew that he had a word from God, and that confidence permeated his presence.

And you know what? Arioch picked up on that. He could sense Daniel's confidence and assurance and boldness.

This is not uncommon.

As a matter of fact, we have another example of it in Acts 4. Peter and John had healed a man in chapter three and it created quite a ruckus because it drew a crowd and then they preached Jesus resurrected from the dead.

The religious leaders heard what was going on and threw them in jail, and the next day they held their trial, and once again they preached Jesus crucified and raised from the dead. And they concluded their message with this statement:

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12, NASB95)

Was a punch in the gut to these religious leaders.

And do you know what the very next verse says:

Now as they observed the confidence of Peter and John and understood that they were uneducated and untrained men, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having been with Jesus.” (Acts 4:13, NASB95)

Who were the people who observed their confidence? The religious leaders, the people who put them in jail, the people who threatened them and commanded them to stop talking about Jesus. These were men of position and authority.

Peter and John were not intimidated by them.

Beloved, we have God’s message, just as surly as Daniel did. This book is just as much the voice of God as if God were here in this pulpit speaking to you.

When we speak the bible, when we speak the truths of God, we are speaking with the authority of God.

Daniel was not intimidated by Nebuchadnezzar; he was speaking for God. Daniel knew that what he had to say was going to save lives.

Daniel was motivated by the fact that his message was from God, but I also believe that he was motivated by the fact that this was going to save the lives of scores of other men and their families.

We need to understand that that same principle works every time the truth is preached, every time the gospel is preached. We need to proclaim the truth ***“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12, NASB95)***

We need to proclaim it with the same boldness and confidence and courage that Peter and John proclaimed it with.

Daniel went into the presence of Nebuchadnezzar to proclaim the word of God and lives were saved, and that principle is still alive and well today. We need to go into the presence of the world with the authority of God and proclaim the gospel and lives will be saved.

VERSE 25

How does Arioch respond? He immediately takes Daniel into the presence of the king. Clearly Arioch is excited about what Daniel said. He throws off his night cap and his PJ’s, slips into his uniform and off they go to see the king.

You make ask “why is Arioch so excited”? What got into him? The answer is in the next phrase when he said to the king “I have found a man”. What? Arioch didn’t find Daniel, Daniel found him, Daniel came to him.

I had to laugh to my self when I read that phrase because the Bible is so truthful when it comes to human nature. Of course, Arioch took credit for finding Daniel, like all men, we are arrogant and proud and we want to take credit for everything.

He wanted the king’s favor. He wanted the king to say ‘Wow Arioch. Good job, thanks for finding this guy’.

There’s not a person here who doesn’t want to look good before others. I want you to praise me and you want me to praise you, you want me to think good of you.

Why do you think people post what they post and Instagram, snapchat, tic-toc. They want the clicks, and they are always checking their phones for the clicks.

What do you do when you catch a ten-pound bass? You whip out your iPhone take a picture of it and post it on social media, so you can show everybody what you did.

That's what Arioch did with Daniel. Arioch used Daniel as his trophy catch to win some points with the king.

VERSE 26

The king is a little taken back, because he was pretty confident that nobody could tell him what he dreamt, and also interpret it. He was to the point of total despair, he had even been told by all his spiritual advisors that what he wanted them to do was impossible.

When you are to the point that you're going to kill everybody who let you down, you are pretty low. What the king was saying was "Nobody can help me". "I've run out of options".

And then Arioch comes in with this 20-year-old kid, and declares that this kid can solve the kings' problems.

Any of you parents had your 13-, 14- or 15-year-old son try to share their wisdom with you? One day they come in and start telling you about how life ought to be and what they think about what they ought to be able to do. All of the sudden your kid thinks he has it all figured out, and all you have to do is get on board.

Well, all of the sudden Arioch brings this kid into Nebuchadnezzars presence and the king is pretty skeptical.

Naturally he is going to tell Daniel to prove himself.

VERSE 27

Notice how bold Daniel is, he puts down all the other spiritual advisors. He hammers them, and beats them up.

He tells the king that all these guys that you put your trust in, let you down. And this is really why the king wanted to kill them. Nebuchadnezzar had trusted them, but they let him down and now he wanted to kill them.

The king was totally and completely disappointed with these men.

VERSE 28-29

This verse starts with the word "however" but if you have the KJV it says "But". I prefer the word "But" because it makes a stronger contrast between verse 27 and 28, which is what Daniel wants.

In verse 27 Daniel had taken Nebuchadnezzar down to the bottom of the well of despair and showed him that what he was trusting in was empty. Nebuchadnezzar pulled up an empty bucket.

The Daniel says "But God"! "There is a God in heaven". Daniel pulls the king out of the darkness and hopelessness of the well and shows him that there is living God in heaven who is the source of light and hope.

These charlatans couldn't talk about a God in heaven, because they didn't know a God in heaven.

When Daniel said "there is a God in heaven" that was a strange thing to hear. People didn't talk about a God in heaven. The only gods they knew anything about were images captured in stone, gold, silver, wood and jewels.

They had seances, and burned incense, and religious protocols.

The fact that there was a God in heaven was a thought that blew Nebuchadnezzar away. Daniel elevated his God over all the other gods of the Babylonians. Daniel was presenting to Nebuchadnezzar a God who could not be captured in an image.

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. “You shall have no other gods before Me. “You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.” (Exodus 20:2–4, NASB95)

God said that he was too big to be captured in an image. You cannot capture the eternality and the infinity of God in an image. God has not bodily form, he cannot be confined to a substance. He is not quantifiable.

He does not resemble a body in a quantifiable way. There is nothing that resembles him.

You cannot measure him, no space can contain him, no direction can encompass him, the heavens cannot surround him.

He is above everything.

He is so holy that time cannot restrict him.

He is Almighty

So, Daniel presents to Nebuchadnezzar this concept of a God in heaven, as opposed to any other gods.

Nebuchadnezzar doesn't miss the contrast of the empty futile gods of his spiritual advisors and the God of Daniel.

The idea of a transcendent God opened the door to expectation and hope. When he heard of this God, it was as if he had just drank 3 cans of Red Bull, and his anticipation and his excitement begins to grow.

VERSES 28B-29

Now, notice how Daniel finishes telling Nebuchadnezzar what this God has done: “. . . . ***He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. “As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place.” (Daniel 2:28–29, NASB95)***

Nebuchadnezzar knows immediately that what Daniel said was true. The idea that God has shown him what the future holds strikes home in his heart.

Has anyone ever said something to you that at the time, you didn't realize was true, until they said it?

As soon as you heard it, you knew it was true. That was Nebuchadnezzar. What Daniel said resonated in his heart.

Through his dream, Nebuchadnezzar stepped into the future. What does it mean to step into the future? It means that you step into the omniscience of God! When we say that God is omniscient, we mean that God knows all things, the past, the present and the future.

To say that God is omniscient is to say that God oversteps the boundaries of time.

We cannot do that. We can make predictions, we can guess, we can deduce, we can anticipate, we can conjecture, we can run the polls, but we cannot actually step into the future. We cannot cross the line of this moment. We can't step back into the last moment and we can't step forward into the next moment, we only have this moment.

We only have this breath, we don't have the next breath until we breath it. We don't have the next heart beat until we have it. We don't hear the next word until we hear it. We don't have the next thought until we have it.

We are prisoners of the moment.

God's omniscience allows him to move through time.

And he brought Nebuchadnezzar with him in a dream.

CONCLUSION

At the very last moment God brought Daniel out of the shadows and into the light, and made him a public figure. God did it in his time and in his way.

I don't know what God is doing in your life right now, but I do know that the Bible says ***And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;*** (Romans 8:28–29, NASB95)

Because this verse is so misunderstood, I want you to do something here, I want you to draw a circle or make a line, and draw it from that phrase "all things to work together for good", and draw a line done to verses 29 where it says "to become conformed to the image of his son".

Do you know what happens when you throw an apple into a garbage disposal? When you turn that thing on, it makes a horrible racket, and it grinds and it churns and it destroys that apple and what comes out the other end, doesn't even look like an apple.

We have taken these verses and we have thrown them into the garbage disposal of modern Christianity, with its pithy little happy sayings and psychology, and what comes out the other end is something like "God is doing everything for your good, so be happy". "Everything that God does is for your good".

That could not be further from the truth. God's goal for your life is not to make you happy.

The "good" that Paul is talking about there is not your good.

The good that God is aiming for, is his good, and his good is conforming you to the image of his Son. That is the ultimate good and goal of God.

The whole purpose of your existence is to be changed into the likeness of Jesus.

God wants you to look like Jesus. He wants you to talk like Jesus, he wants you to behave like Jesus, he wants you to think like Jesus, he wants you to have the attitude of Jesus, he wants to Husband like Jesus, he wants you to wife like Jesus. He wants you to parent like Jesus.

Maybe he has revealed that you need to change your attitude, maybe you need to change the way you think about something, or maybe you were wrong about something. Maybe you were proud or arrogant about something, maybe he is showing you a new direction in life. Maybe he is bringing something to an end, and now he is moving you in a new direction.

The point is that we need to lean into the Lord and look for his timing and his ways.

I wonder what our lives would look like if we could get into the habit of waking up every morning with our minds focused on God's timing and God's ways.

Secondly, live and speak with confidence and boldness and courage. We are speaking the truths of God. We need to start believing it. IT might get us into trouble like Peter and John, but people will know that we have been with the Lord.

Third, live in the omniscience of God. There is peace, joy, contentment, when you are living in the reality that God knows everything. If you are struggling with fear, anxiety, worry, frustration, you are not living in the omniscience of God.

It is out of God's omniscience that our faith explodes into action.

And finally, God knows whether you are saved or not. He knows whether or not your name is written in the book of Life. His desire is not a secret, his desire is for you to repent of your sin and put your faith in Jesus' death on the cross.

How can you be sure that God is going to save you through Jesus Christ? Because God said ***But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.*** (Isaiah 53:5, NASB95)

God said that 700 years before it actually happened. Jesus fulfilled every prophecy identifying him as the Lamb of God who came to die for your sins.

God is calling you to salvation today. He knows every single sin in your life, past, present and future and his blood will satisfy God's wrath, and save you from hell.