

## DANIEL'S PRAYER

Daniel 2:20-23

### Daniel's Prayer

In the second chapter of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream. He wanted his sorcerers and councilors to interpret it to him, but he didn't trust them. If they were really privy to inside information from the nether world, they should be able to get the dream as well as its interpretation from their sources. He'd know their interpretation was legitimate if they could tell him the dream as well. And if they were the frauds he suspected them to be, he was going to execute them all. Under threat of execution, Daniel straight went to the Lord, and the Lord revealed both the dream and its interpretation to him. Daniel 2:20-23 was Daniel's prayer of Thanksgiving that day.

#### Daniel 2:20-23

<sup>20</sup> "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
For wisdom and might are His.

<sup>21</sup> And He changes the times and the seasons;  
He removes kings and raises up kings;  
He gives wisdom to the wise  
And knowledge to those who have understanding.

<sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and secret things;  
He knows what is in the darkness,  
And light dwells with Him.

<sup>23</sup> "I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers;  
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 demand."

Please keep in mind that the Nebuchadnezzar's dream concerned God's plans for the earth, which revolved around the mega-kingdoms that were introduced in the dream.

### Daniel 2:20

<sup>20a</sup> "**Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
Daniel's prayer starts out by extolling God.**

Why is it that most of the greatest prayers recorded in the Bible seem to do that?

Do we have an egotistical and pompous God who loves to hear us extol Him?

I don't think its quite like that!

I believe that God is great, and He has made those who have trusted in Him His special people.

**He wants His people to be aware of what they have in Him.**

This is especially true of us as Christians. He has made us part of His family.

**He wants us to be aware of our heritage as sons and heirs of God.**

#### Romans 8:15-17

<sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

And don't forget, the church is also the bride of His Son!

#### 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

<sup>9</sup> "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit.

In **Ephesians 1:17-21** the Apostle Paul prayed:

<sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

<sup>22</sup> And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

<sup>20b</sup> **For wisdom and might are His.**

**Romans 11:33-34** (Wisdom)

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

<sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"

**Ephesians 3:20-21** (Might)

<sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, <sup>21</sup> to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where He was raised, the people were astonished at His wisdom and might.

**Matthew 13:53-55**

<sup>54</sup> When He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"

They were offended. "Who did He think He was, anyway?"

But Daniel delighted in the wisdom and might of Almighty God

Do we delight in the greatness, the wisdom, and the power of God?

Do we count on it?

**Daniel 2:21:**

<sup>21a</sup> **And He changes the times and the seasons;**

I don't think clocks or Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter are meant here, though God can and has changed the clocks and seasons in the past. He turned Hezekiah's sun dial back 10 degrees, and He made it rain in 1 Samuel 2:17, when it just never rained in the dry season. But He changes the way He deals with men according to His own agenda and His own schedule. Here, in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, we see God introducing the Times of the Gentiles, when He is turning His special people, Israel, over to gentile domination. And they will be under Gentile domination until they return to Christ at the end of the Tribulation period. No one can interfere with God's intention of bringing Israel back into prominence when He is ready.

**Romans 11:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

<sup>27</sup> For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

**<sup>21b</sup> He removes kings and raises up kings;**

God told Pharaoh in Moses's day:

**Exodus 9:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. <sup>17</sup> As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go.

He gave rebellious Pharaoh his kingdom for the express purpose of demonstrating His wisdom and might to Israel and to the nations they were to dispossess.

**<sup>21c</sup> He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding.**

Knowledge is understanding the facts of the case. Wisdom is the ability to apply that understanding in a suitable way.

**Colossians 1:9-11**

<sup>9</sup> For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, (the Colossians love in the Spirit) do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; <sup>10</sup> that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; <sup>11</sup> strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy;

But when the disciples asked the Lord why he spoke to the un-committed crowds in parables:

**Matthew 13:11-12**

<sup>11</sup> He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. <sup>12</sup> For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him."

It's kind of like interest. The more you accumulate, the faster it grows.

**Daniel 2:22:**

**<sup>22a</sup> He reveals deep and secret things;**

And **1 Corinthians 2:10-14** reminds us that

<sup>10b</sup> The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

And further down in **1 Corinthians 2, verse 14** it adds:

<sup>14</sup> The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

But **John 16:13-14** says

<sup>13</sup> When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

**<sup>22b</sup> He knows what is in the darkness,**

**In the physical sense**, darkness is when the monster under the bed wakes up. It's when a decent person doesn't dare to walk in certain parts of town. It's when we lock our doors. For Daniel, it might be when those who envied him might attack him,

**Psalms 139:12** says:

<sup>12</sup> Indeed, the darkness shall not hide from You, But the night shines as the day;

The darkness and the light are both alike to You.

And in **Psalms 91:4-6**, David said of those who dwell in the secret place of the Almighty:

<sup>4</sup> He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

<sup>5</sup> You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, Nor of the arrow that flies by day,  
<sup>6</sup> Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.

The enemy may escape human detection, but God knows exactly where he is, and how to deal with him.

**In the psychological sense,** darkness depicts depression and hopelessness.

**Psalms 23:4** says:

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

**Psalms 94:19:**

<sup>18</sup> If I say, "My foot slips," Your mercy, O LORD, will hold me up.

<sup>19</sup> In the multitude of my anxieties within me, Your comforts delight my soul.

**In the spiritual sense,** darkness is the influence of Satan that keeps men from seeing God as He really is. We sometimes act like we don't quite believe in the devil, but God knows what is in the darkness. He knows that the prince of darkness has many demons out there trying to turn us away from Himself.

In **1 Peter 5:8** He warns us:

<sup>8</sup> Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

And In **2 Corinthians 2:14-15** He also warns us that

<sup>14</sup> Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. <sup>15</sup> Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness

In other words, He has a lot of false teachers and preachers out there too.

*A man at our home Bible study quoted a former pastor's comment on 1 Corinthians 1:21:  
"It pleased God to save those who believe by the foolishness of preaching,  
not by the preaching of foolishness."*

<sup>22c</sup> **And light dwells with Him.**

**John 1:1-5** states that:

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

<sup>5</sup> And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

And in **John 8:12** Jesus said:

"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

On the other hand **1 John 1:5 & 6** states that:

<sup>5</sup> This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

**God is not fooled by professions of faith without true repentance!**

**Daniel 5:23:**

<sup>23a</sup> **I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers;**

**Daniel expresses his thanks and praise to God for three specific things:**

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 demand."

How often I fail to give my thanks to God. I a bit like nine out of the ten lepers that Jesus healed:

**Luke 17:17-18**

<sup>17</sup> So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?"

<sup>18</sup> "Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?"

<sup>23b</sup> **You have given me wisdom and might,**

In Daniel chapter 1, God helped Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego with their studies. He gave them wisdom!

**Daniel 1:17**

<sup>17</sup> As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom. When Nebuchadnezzar examined them, he found them ten times better than any of his other wise men, so he included them with his councilors

And He'll do the same for us today

**James 1:5** assures us:

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

After Daniel revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its interpretation, God gave them power!

**Daniel 2:47-49**

<sup>47</sup> The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret." <sup>48</sup> Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. <sup>49</sup> Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

<sup>23c</sup> **For You have made known to us the king's demand.**

God had answered their prayers, revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel, and saved the lives of what was left of Nebuchadnezzar's councilors. And when Daniel went before the king with this revelation, He was careful to give all the credit to God

**Daniel 2:27, 28, & 30**

<sup>27</sup> "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. <sup>28</sup> But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

<sup>29</sup> As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.

<sup>30</sup> But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, please bear with me while I read last month's poem on Daniel's prayer to you.

## Daniel's Prayer

*Daniel 2:20-23*

Bless the name of God forever,  
Might and wisdom are His things;  
He can change the times and seasons,  
Raise up or dispose of kings.

He gives wisdom to the prudent,  
When they ask it in His name;  
Knowledge to the understanding,  
As they magnify His fame.

He reveals the deepest mysteries  
And the secrets of the land;  
And He knows what's in the darkness--  
Light abides at His right hand.

*Bud Morris*

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