



Unshakable Faith

THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Week 2

Theme: Wisdom + Interpretation (Chapter 2)

Weekly Memory Verse

"During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven."

– Daniel 2:19

Day 1: Infinite

Prayer of Illumination

God, you are beyond us. You can do more than we can do. Open our hearts to the truth of Your infinity. Let us see You do exceedingly more. Amen.

Reading

Read Chapter 2 entirely, then focus on Daniel 2:1-10.

Meditation

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 2:1-10?

What do these verses say about human condition?

How does this apply to us today?

Contemplation

We are less than God. We know less than God. We can do less than God. In philosophical terms, we are finite but God is infinite. Few things make that clearer to us than when we need to know something that we do not know, or that we cannot know. This is precisely what happens to the native religious elites of Babylon. Under the threat of death, they are asked to do something that they cannot possibly do because they are asked to know something they cannot possibly know: Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Maybe when we read this at first brush, all that really strikes us is the unfairness of what the

king demands. But there is something more haunting here and that is the fact that there may be moments when we are asked to do what we cannot possibly do, to know what we cannot possibly know. The Book of Daniel does not explicitly say that Nebuchadnezzar did this because he is trying to set up a situation in which no one but the True God could do anything. However, we sense that this is what is going on: the king is looking to see God do something that is beyond human capability. Don't worry: as we continue the story, we get a happy ending (for Daniel at least). Today, we are simply asked by Scripture to think on this: the world asks more of us than we can possibly give.

Reflection

How do you relate to Daniel 2:1-10 today?

In what areas are you being asked to do more than you can do?

Take time to ask God to carry you through those areas.

Day 2: Revelation

Prayer of Illumination

Our hearts are wide open to hear from You today. As we draw near to You, You come near to us (James 4:8). Help us to experience Your presence in a deeper way today because we unmistakably heard from You. Amen.

Reading

Read Chapter 2 entirely, then focus on Daniel 2:11-23.

Meditation

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 2:11-23?

What do these verses say about God's character?

How does this apply to us today?

Contemplation

What the king thought was "too difficult" for his god, Daniel reminds us that nothing is too difficult for God. He still speaks to us through dreams, prophecies, and visions. He still provides interpretations through Scripture and community, and we begin to see in these verses that wisdom and revelation are in sync with each other. The Spirit gives wisdom and provides revelation that allows us to discern what God is doing and saying in our everyday lives. "He reveals deep and hidden things," (Dan. 2:22) similarly to the prophet Isaiah who wrote "he reveals hidden things we have not known" (Isa. 48:6) and "announces new things before they spring into being" (Isa. 42:9). Psalm 51:6 affirms that "God teaches us wisdom in the secret place."

I'm so challenged by the actions of Daniel and his friends. Instead of panicking when their lives were on the line, they petitioned God with prayer. They went to the Source. They cared more about their relationship with God than they did with the end result of how the king would view them. They didn't make anything up or compromise their belief in who God is. They believed that the God who holds all knowledge also makes mysteries known. Ultimately, it's this quickening of obedience that Daniel has in his spirit to ask God for the revelation to interpret the dream. God hears and honors that by revealing the dream. Daniel praises God for this, and it results in quite the ripple effect and transformation. Later on, in this same chapter, we read "King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel saying, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery" (2:47).

It's not enough to just know God is powerful and reveals mysteries. That's head knowledge – we have to believe he reveals them to US too. This chapter teaches us we cannot devise information, but we must wait on a revelation. We know God is a

revealer. He is the Source of all wisdom. Waiting on a revelation from Him enables us to then walk with confidence – with the impartation to be obedient – to take a step of faith. Ultimately, by Daniel’s example, we see that the revelation from God, coupled with Daniel’s quick obedient steps, resulted in a transformation. May our revelations and obedience change the lives around us and strengthen our faith. And may it remind us, if we just have information, then we wait, ask, and seek God to have a revelation.

Reflection

In what areas have you cared more about what the “king” says than listening to God?

When have you moved too far ahead of God without waiting on a revelation from Him? Is there an area that you are being quick to action but not willing to wait for the revelation?

Ask God for a revelation this week. Wait for it. Don’t rush it. Once he reveals it to you, ask him what you should do with the revelation. Then, be quick to act on it. Don’t delay.

Weekly Memory Verse

“During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.” – Daniel 2:19

Day 3: Wisdom

Prayer of Illumination

Jesus Christ, Wisdom of the Wise God, as we come to Your Word today, let us encounter You. Make us wise and let us know You better. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Reading

Read Chapter 2 entirely, then focus on Daniel 2:24-47.

Meditation

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 2:24-47?

What do these verses say about God's character?

How does this apply to us today?

Contemplation

This is the dramatic moment. Daniel stands up to interpret the king's dream. But before he does, he makes an important point: he does not know what he is about to say because he is especially wise, but because the Living God has revealed it to him. In effect, Daniel is trying to say that what is about to happen is proof of God, not proof of Daniel. That is why Daniel says that God is the God "who reveals mysteries." God knows all things and, even so, God is generous – God shares the knowledge He has. It might remind us of what Paul says about the wisdom of God in 1 Corinthians 2. Not only does God have His own way of knowing, but God has His own way of revealing. Ultimately, for us, this is the revelation of Jesus Christ in the Spirit. He shows us that the wisdom of the world – a wisdom which believes in human power – is not the True Wisdom of God. Rather, God's willingness to do mighty things through ordinary people: that is the ever-surprising Wisdom of God.

Reflection

How do you relate to Daniel 2:24-47 today?

Are you wise in your own eyes?

Where do you need God's Wisdom to empower you?

What do you hope God might do through you?

What do you think God hopes to do through you?

Weekly Memory Verse

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Day 4: Community

Prayer of Illumination

Gracious God, as we turn to Your Word, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

Reading

Read Chapter 2 entirely, then focus on Daniel 2:48-49.

Meditation

What is the Lord revealing to you today through Daniel 2:48-49?

What do these verses say about God's character?

How does this apply to us today?

Contemplation

What kind of person does God trust to place as his representative before kings? Have you ever thought about that before? What does God trust you with? In the middle of the chapter, Daniel was literally trusting God with everything he had because he was backed into a corner. God came through and Daniel praised Him for it. Daniel's character sustained his calling. And as we peer into Daniel 2:49, we see what Daniel did with the trust that God gave him. Per Daniel's request, King Nebuchadnezzar appointed Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah as administrators over the province of Babylon. He leveraged his privilege and the favor upon his life to open doors for others. He used his favor to empower others. How are you stewarding the favor in your life?

Reflection

Where have you seen the favor of God in your life?

Who has played the role of Daniel and opened doors for you within your life?

How can you leverage your privilege to open doors for others around you?

Weekly Memory Verse

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Day 5: Pause & Reflect

Ask the Lord, journal, and pray through the following questions ...

God, what are some of the takeaways from Chapter 2 that you want to highlight in my life?

Spend time today posturing yourself to listen and reflect on each day's theme:

- Infinite
- Revelation
- Wisdom
- Community

What is one thing you are going to do in response to this week's message and reading plan, and who is going to hold you accountable?

Write down one takeaway and one action step in a journal to commit to it.

Weekly Memory Verse

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