

DANIEL

Lesson 4: Daniel 2:25-35
Big Picture

WHAT DO PREVAILING SAINTS KNOW?

- Daniel 11:32: *“And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but **the people who know their God** will display strength and take action.”*
- Daniel (chp 2) declares what prevailing saints know about God – 5 insights from Neb’s Dream Reveal.

WHAT DO PREVAILING SAINTS KNOW?

- God has a plan.
- God knows what transcends human wisdom.
- God reveals mysteries.
- History is headed where God intends.
- God’s plan rocks.

I. GOD HAS A PLAN!

- Arioch brought Daniel to the King, pronto!
- Daniel 2:26: *“The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?”*
- God intends to reveal what will happen in days to come (all future for Neb. – some of this is historical for us)

I. GOD HAS A PLAN!

- **Messaging options** – Option 1: Give the total package to Nebuchadnezzar – Sponsors pride
- Option 2: Give the total package to Daniel – Easily dismissed
- So God conveys an encrypted message to Neb and gives the encryption key to His man, Daniel.

I. GOD HAS A PLAN!

- By giving the message to Neb but denying him the key, understanding the message becomes a national priority! Imagine the **Babylon Inquirer...**
- “King Can’t Sleep and Heads Will Roll.”
- “Sultan Says Soothsayers Soothless!”
- “Boy Wonder Causes King To Do Face Plant”

I. GOD HAS A PLAN!

- The delivery method (a dream is not an accomplishment) leaves little room for pride.
- By giving only Daniel the key (although he was also given the whole message), it gives the message maximum exposure.
- This account is in Aramaic, lingua franca. Probably (speculation) widely made known.

II. GOD KNOWS

- God knows what men do not.
- No one among men, regardless of aptitude or skill, has what it takes to discern what God does.
- Daniel 2:27: *Daniel answered before the King and said, “As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians, nor diviners are able to declare it to the king.”*

II. GOD KNOWS

- Even Daniel does not have what it takes to come up with this message.
- Daniel 2:30: “This mystery has not been **revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me** more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of **making the interpretation known** to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.”

II. GOD KNOWS

- Daniel 2:22: “It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him.”
- Romans 11:33: Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

II. GOD KNOWS

- Omniscience – Short Def: God knows all things.
- Omniscience – Long Def: God’s intrinsic comprehension whereby He concurrently knows all things actual and possible completely and perfectly.
- Implication: God is worthy of absolute trust. He knows what He is doing. Perfectly!

III. GOD REVEALS MYSTERIES

- Daniel 2:28-29: “However, there is a God in heaven **who reveals mysteries**, and 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.”

III. GOD REVEALS MYSTERIES

- It pleases God to let us in on divine secrets.
- In Neb's case, the secret is an overview of the progression of the 5 kingdoms.
- We can discover some things on our own.
- Psalm 111:2: "Great are the works of the Lord; they are studied by all who delight in them."

III. GOD REVEALS MYSTERIES

- But at other times, He reveals what no amount of analysis (on our part) could possibly discern.
- Matthew 26:31–32: *Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night, for it is written, 'I will strike down the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered.' But after I have been raised, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." They say, "No way!"*

1 Samuel 23:9–13: *Now David knew that Saul was plotting evil against him; so he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." Then David said, "O Lord God of Israel, Your servant has heard for certain that Saul is seeking to come to Keilah to destroy the city on my account. Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down just as Your servant has heard? O Lord God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant." And the Lord said, "He will come down."*

1 Samuel 23:9–13: *Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the Lord said, "They will surrender you." Then David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the pursuit."*

III. GOD REVEALS MYSTERIES

- It pleases God to give us future information.
- He does so out of a desire for our good.
- God's advance information delivery is timely.
- We can only act in the present, but we can prepare now for the future if we know what we will face.

INTRODUCING "HEAVEX"

- **603BC** – Daniel 2:28: *"However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days.*
- Through Daniel, God gives Neb an overview of the sequence of five future kingdoms.

INTRODUCING "HEAVEX"

- **536BC** – Daniel 10:11-14: *He said to me, "O Daniel, man of high esteem, understand the words that I am about to tell you and stand upright, **for I have now been sent to you.**" ... Then he said to me, "Do not be afraid, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart on understanding this and on humbling yourself before your God, **your words were heard, and I have come in response to your words.***

INTRODUCING "HEAVEX"

- **536BC** – Daniel 10:11-14: *But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to give you an understanding of what will happen to your people in the latter days, for the vision pertains to the days yet future."*

INTRODUCING “HEAVEX”

- Almost 70 years after Neb’s dream, God provides Daniel with a master matrix of the future.
- Note that the delivery of this information was successfully thwarted by dark forces for 21 days. **They are threatened!**
- Assistance from Michael made it possible for the message to be delivered. (We will unpack it!)

INTRODUCING “HEAVEX”

- **33 AD** – John 12:49–50; 17:7–8: Jesus personally delivers a message that is precisely what God has authorized us to receive.
- **33AD** – Acts 1:6-8: You are not asking for the right information. Here is what you need to know about your future.

INTRODUCING “HEAVEX”

- **55AD** – Matthew 24:15–16: *“Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then those who are in Judea must flee to the mountains.”*
- Jesus clarifies that part of Daniel’s 536BC vision pertains to future readiness.

INTRODUCING “HEAVEX”

- **90 AD** – Revelation 1:1-3: *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which **God gave Him to show to His bond-servants**, the things which must soon take place; **and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John**, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.*

INTRODUCING “HEAVEX”

- *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.*
- This one has a Beatitude attached. Those who hear and apply this message are to be congratulated.
- **Bottom Line: God reveals the future to us to promote our good. So pay attention!**

IV. HISTORY IS HEADED WHERE GOD INTENDS

- By recounting the dream, Daniel provides an authenticity stamp.
- Nebuchadnezzar sees an extraordinary statue.
- It consists of five layers: gold, silver, bronze, iron, and a mix of iron and ceramic.
- A cut stone (not of men’s making) strikes the lower extremities.

IV. HISTORY IS HEADED WHERE GOD INTENDS

- This sets in motion a swift chain reaction that results in the complete obliteration of the statue.
- All of the gold, silver, bronze, iron, and ceramic elements disappear without a trace.
- The stone, in turn, becomes a great mountain and fills the entire earth.

IV. HISTORY IS HEADED WHERE GOD INTENDS

- Men, through their efforts, produce metals and pottery.
- But the fruit of all this human effort comes to naught.
- What endures is something not made by men.

IV. HISTORY IS HEADED WHERE GOD INTENDS

- This image (which depicts future history) ends in something of God's making, not men's.
- **Neb, do I have your attention now?**
- So let me unpack the meaning of this dream.

V. GOD'S PLAN ROCKS!

- The rock not made with hands that becomes a mountain depicts something described elsewhere in the Bible.
- This rock is a kingdom (Daniel 2:44).
- Let's do a **brief** background study of "the kingdom." We discover something of a conundrum.

V. GOD'S PLAN ROCKS!

- The word "kingdom" can be used to refer to a universal kingdom that exists without interruption throughout all time.
- Psalm 145:13: *Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And Your dominion endures throughout all generations.*
- This kingdom includes all that exists in time and space – 1 Chron. 29:12: *"You rule over all."*

V. GOD'S PLAN ROCKS!

- But in Daniel, the Rock is a different kingdom.
- Daniel 2:44: *"In the days of those kings the God of heaven will **set up** a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; **it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms**, but it will itself endure forever."*

V. GOD'S PLAN ROCKS!

- The rock is a kingdom that succeeds a series of empires which it crushes; this kingdom is “set up.”
- This is an earthly kingdom (Daniel 2:35).
- What is going on here? How can it be timeless and have a starting point? Universal and earthly?
- Great question – first cut. I will cover it again.

V. GOD'S PLAN ROCKS!

- Genesis 1:28: *God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”*

V. GOD'S PLAN ROCKS!

- Man blew it and sin was unleashed.
- We became a rebel planet, a dying planet.
- Romans 5:12: *Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.*
- The Rock is God's plan to restore the rebel plant.

V. GOD'S PLAN ROCKS!

- This is what Jesus is praying for and wants us to pray for!
- Matthew 6:9–10: *“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. ...For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.’”*

V. GOD'S PLAN ROCKS!

- So what are you living for?
- Gold, silver, and stuff?
- The Kingdom that Rocks!