

"The Gospel According To Arioch"

Daniel 2:10-15

A Sunday Evening Message Delivered

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By

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Go with me now to Daniel chapter two. Daniel 2. Page 1105 in my Bible. I love it when the Lord allows me to be consumed with a portion of scripture. I get excited about it. I can't wait to get back into it. You know, we have these moments where the Lord, for me, anyway, it feels like, just especially blesses a portion of scripture. That's what the Lord has done for me, at least up to this point with the Book of Daniel. And like I mentioned to you this morning, I had it in my mind that we would go through this on Wednesday nights. You know, if we went through it, if we were gonna go through it, I just thought that would be our Wednesday night message. But I just couldn't not be in it today. And I pray that the Lord will let us continue with this. I pray the Lord will let us go all the way through this book. And the Book of Daniel has some wonderful stories and pictures in the first part of it. And then the last half of it is, or the last portion of it is prophecy that I don't understand. So what I sincerely wanna do is ask you to be, if you would like to go through this, be praying about it with me. And ask the Lord to reveal Christ to us in this. And, you know, I've reached a point in my ministry where I'm okay with telling you, I have no idea what that stuff is saying. You know, at first, you gotta pretend like you know it all. Oh, I know what I'm talking about. I don't. If God doesn't reveal it to me, I have no idea what this is

about. But I would love to go through this. And I sincerely do want to ask you, let's be praying about this: ask the Lord to, you know, Daniel and these men, ask the Lord to reveal the secrets. Christ is in every word of this. Let's ask the Lord to reveal this to us, and let us go through this book. One more thing I wanna say about this is I also had in my mind that we would look at a full chapter for each message. Chapter one, two Wednesday nights ago, we looked at the whole chapter, and that's what I thought. Well, that's what we'll do. We'll do a whole chapter each time. Tonight will be our fourth message from chapter two. And because of that, I now realize that some of the times we will look at messages that continue the storyline, and some of the times we will look at a gospel message out of the storyline. And that's gonna be the case tonight. As I was reading, I saw one line, and I just couldn't get past that line. And it's not gonna extend the storyline tonight, but this blessed my heart so much. I just could not stop thinking about this. And I didn't wanna just mention it in passing this morning. I wanted to spend a little time with it. So we're gonna look at it tonight. And it's a very short line. It's a very simple phrase, but it is the glory of the gospel. If a person could get ahold of this line, a person would get ahold of the glory of the gospel. I'll go ahead and tell you what I've titled the message, and then you'll see why with this line. I have titled the message "The Gospel According to Arioch" And here's the reason why. The line is found in verse 25: Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, "I have found a man." I have found a man. He ran in with haste. Arioch was the one who, well, let me just preach the message. You'll find out all that. I found a man. That's the gospel. I found a man. That is the message. That's our message. Sing it over and over again. Tell it over and over again. There is a man. I found a man. Now, I have recapped the story enough for you to know what's going on. You know what's going on, all right? But let me just say this. Nebuchadnezzar couldn't get any answers to his dream or the interpretation of it. He had a dream, it troubled him, it disturbed him. He forgot what the dream was, and he wanted his wise men to tell him what the dream was. Tell him the

interpretation. They couldn't do it, so he commanded, "Kill them all." Verse 10. Daniel 2:10. The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, "There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter." What they are saying in that moment is, "Your demands are too strict." Your demands are too strict. With man, what you are requiring of us is impossible. This is impossible. Who could possibly fulfill this? "The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, 'There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things of any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.'" What they're saying is, "This is not fair. No ruler would do this. No ruler would require this. This is not fair." That's exactly what man says about God, who demands perfection. Do you know what God demands in order for us to enter into heaven? You know how good we have to be? Everybody's like, "Well, you know, you better do good if you wanna go to heaven." You know how good you have to be? You have to be as good as God himself. If we are not as good as God himself, you can't come in. Man hears about God's demand of perfection, and the fact that he actually punishes sin against that perfection. And man says, "Wait a minute, that's not fair." Isn't that a common response? That's not fair. Wait a minute, wait a minute. In Adam, all die. That's not fair. You're telling me one strike and you're out? Isn't that what the law says? Well, I could turn to you, I could turn to place after place, right, after place. It says, "If you don't obey every jot and tittle, you've broken the whole law." You're telling me one strike, and that's it, you're out of heaven? One sin, and boom, I'm a sinner against God. That's not fair. That's not fair. Wait, what do you mean I was conceived in sin, in my mother's womb? Before I was ever even born, I was made to be a sinner. And because of that, I'm worthy of an eternal condemnation in hell. That's not fair. Verse 10: The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, "There is not a man upon the earth that can show the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the

gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." You know, many people hear the strict demands of God's holy law, and they say, "I don't like that. I'm not bowing to that. No way. I'm not believing that. I'm not bowing to that." Well, that is irrelevant. That's irrelevant. There is one God in heaven, and he is a sovereign God, and whatever he says is done. Whatever he says is done. And this is how I want to see Nebuchadnezzar tonight. You know, we saw him in chapter one as the sinner that he is, and we see the Lord dealing with him here in chapter two as a child of God. And but tonight I wanna see him as a picture of the sovereign king that the Lord made him to be and allowed him to be. Daniel said, we read it this morning. Daniel said to him, "The Lord has made you to be a king of kings. He has given you an earthly power and strength and glory." And whatever Nebuchadnezzar said, that's what happened. Whatever he said, that's what happened. And that's how it is with our God. This is how God is. We don't vote on things with God. Whatever he says, that's how it is. Man can try to kick against it, man can try to butt against it, man can try to reason with God, he can try to ignore God all he wants to, but the demands of God are going to stand. They're gonna stand. And his judgment and his punishment on sin against his demands will stand. So Nebuchadnezzar gave his demand, and his subject said, "That's not fair." Verse 12: For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. Do you know that the scripture says God is angry with the wicked every day? Angry. How many scriptures say the anger of the Lord was kindled? And it's all because of that right there: Sin against his word. Transgression against the holy law of his Word. The scripture says he hates all workers of iniquity. It says he will by no means clear the guilty. Not by any means. The scripture says he has a lake of fire. It says he has a lake of fire reserved for sinners against him. Period. So verse 10: The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, "There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it

before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain. Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon. Now, I have a center reference in my Bible, and I have a little number three next to captain. And it says that Arioch was the chief marshal. Do you know what a marshal is? You ever heard of a US marshal? He or she is the law, the one who carries out the law. Nebuchadnezzar is the one that gave the commandment, and Arioch is the one that enforced the commandment. The commandment was given, commandment was enforced. My center reference goes on to say, "He was the chief of the executioners or slaughtermen." That's what he was. That was his job. The throne of Nebuchadnezzar gave the command, "Destroy them all." Therefore, the law of Arioch set out to condemn and fulfill the punishment that was owed. Verse 13: The decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows. Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree so hasty from the king?" Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. Now, Daniel is a picture of Christ. And Daniel went and had a conversation with Arioch about this decreed condemnation that had come from the throne. Daniel asked, "Why this condemnation?" Why this condemnation? And Arioch told Daniel why. He said it's because the sovereign throne gave these demands, and they couldn't fulfill them. That's the reason why. Verse 16: Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation. Daniel went before the throne and said, "Lay this work on me." That's what he did. The command went forth. Slay them all. Daniel went in, and he said, "Lay this work on me." Verse 17: Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known. And the scripture says this thing was not done in a

corner. Thank God he made the thing known. "Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, his friends." Our Lord said, in John 15, "What my father has told me I have told you, and I've done that because you are my friends." Verse 17: Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: that they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. He said, "You pray with me." I think about when our Lord was in the Garden of Gethsemane, just before his hour of the cross, and he said to Peter, James, and John, Daniel here is with Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, our Lord was with Peter, James, and John, and he said, "Pray with me." He went about a stone's cast away, fell down, and he prayed as it were. He sweat great drops of blood, and he prayed, "Father, it's not my will, but thine, be done." If mercy for our people through my suffering is your will, then that will be done. And the will of the Father was done, and mercy for God's people was accomplished. God saw all of his chosen transgressors in Christ, and he slew them. The throne, the command, went forth. Slay them all. And he slew them all. And I want to emphasize that. He slew all of them. God's chosen people, who were sinners against him. It was a number no man can number, but he slew them all. They were all slain in Christ because God saw all of them in Christ. That's what he saw. Head to the cross. Take him to the cross. Why? I see my sinful people in him. God saw all of them in Christ. And now because of that, God only sees one man. I'm gonna repeat that. God saw all of us in Christ, and his command was, "Slay them." And he did. All of them. And now because of that, God only sees one man. One righteous man. Because God saw all of his people in Christ, he now only sees Christ in his people. If you are a wretched, miserable sinner, that ought to be good news to you. He now only sees Christ in his people. Verse 19 says, "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision." Daniel being a picture of Christ, he endured the darkness. The darkness of sin. The darkness of death. He fulfilled all righteousness, all the demands of

the throne. He redeemed his people. Verse 19 goes on to say, "Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven." Our Lord said to his father in John 17, "I have glorified thee on the earth. I finished the work you gave me to do." Verse 20: Daniel answered and said, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: and he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: he revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter." 'Tis done, the great transaction is done. I am my Lord's, and he is mine. Now, this isn't in my notes, but I'm gonna give you a little side note, okay? I have been so excited to tell you this. This has blessed me so much, and I can't bless it to you, so ask the Lord to open your eyes and your heart to this. This is such a blessing. Such a blessing. All right, verse 24: Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon. All right, here's our picture. Christ went to the law. Christ went to the law. Verse 24 goes on to say, "He went and said thus unto him, 'Destroy not the wise men of Babylon, all those sinful people, bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.'" He said, "Destroy them not, bring me in. I will show it." Our Lord said, "If you seek me, you let them go." All right, verse 25: Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, "I have found a man." I've found a man. Now, just picture this, okay? Here's the picture. Picture the law coming before the judgment throne of God crying, "I found one man." You sent me out, the judgment throne sent me out, and I found one man. One man who has actually fulfilled every commandment you've given. Well, where did this man come from? Verse 25 goes on to say, "He came out of the captives of Judah." He was numbered with the transgressors. He was taken from prison. He's the one who brought judgment to the Gentiles. He's the Messiah who

came to make known all things. Yes, the law says, "I found a man." I found a man. One man worthy. All right, now, picture continues. Picture this. Because all of God's people were seen in Christ. All right, let me repeat that one more time. All of God's people, when God looked at his son, when God the father looked at Jesus Christ, he saw God's people in him. And because all of God's people were seen in Christ, and it was not good, and God punished them and dealt with them and killed them, and they died in him, the holy God, in his holy law, now only see, they only see Christ in God's people. And every time that a child of God is brought before the law, the law lays hold of that child and runs that child to the throne crying, "I found a man." I found a man, speaking of Christ. Not him, not her. Christ. I only see Christ right here. The law says, "I found one," when one of God's children come to the law. When they're brought to the law, the law says, "I have found one who has fulfilled every commandment you have ever given." What beautiful redemption and acceptance there is in Jesus Christ. Thank God for Jesus Christ. Thank God he revealed to us the man. Behold the man. Come see a man. Philip found Nathaniel, and he said, "We found him. We found the man." John said, "Behold the lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of his people in the world and brought every single one of his people back to God and himself." Thank God for Jesus Christ. That's the glory of the gospel. That is our message, that is our hope, that the throne of God, the law of God, and the people of God can all collectively say, "I found a man." I found a man. My satisfier, my fulfiller, my redeemer, my Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank God for the man. Thank God for the man. Amen.