

“The God of Wisdom and Power”
Daniel 2:1-21
(Preached at Trinity, March 2, 2014)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

Disclaimer: These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As **Chapter 1** closed Daniel's training has supposedly come to an end and he was put into the king's service as one of his wise men referred to as "magicians and enchanters." We read of him:
Daniel 1:20 NAU - "As for every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king consulted them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians *and* conjurers who *were* in all his realm."
2. But as we enter **Chapter 2** Daniel is not in the picture, a young man most likely still in his teens. Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and called in his senior magicians and enchanters. They were unable to interpret the dream and Nebuchadnezzar orders the death of all of his wise men. This included Daniel.
3. But God is sovereign over all things. He orders every event. He governs the steps of every man. God uses this crisis to advance Daniel to the forefront of leadership in Babylon.
4. It began with some unusual and troublesome dreams. It was not an ordinary dream. God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream prophesying important events to come. Only, Nebuchadnezzar did not understand the meaning of the dream.
5. Nebuchadnezzar called in his wise men. They answer,
Daniel 2:4 NAU - "O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation."
Up to this point the Book of Daniel has been written in Hebrew. Beginning with **Verse 4** it changes to Aramaic which continues to the end of **Chapter 7**.
6. The king demands that they tell him both the dream *and* its interpretation upon pain of death. They plead that it was impossible.
Daniel 2:10 NAU - "There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has *ever* asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean."
7. Then they make an interesting statement:
Daniel 2:11 NAU - "Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh."
8. With this the royal decree went out:
Daniel 2:13 NAU - " So the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill *them*."
9. Once again Daniel demonstrated great faith in his great God—the God who does enter into the lives of mortal flesh
Daniel 2:16 NAU - "So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king."
10. He went to his three friends that they might commit the matter to prayer. And the God of heaven and earth heard their prayer – **Verses 19-23**

11. What a contrast!
 The wise men reported in **Verse 11** – “there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh.”
 Daniel contrasted with a very present God who rules and reigns over all flesh, the God who removes kings and establishes kings, the God who gives all wisdom and knowledge, the God who is very present and very active upon the face of the earth.
12. In Daniel’s prayer he declares two things about God.
- I. He is the God of all wisdom and power –
Verse 20 – “For wisdom and power belong to Him”
 - II. **Verse 21** – He delegates all wisdom and power upon the earth
- I. He is the God of all wisdom and power –
 “For wisdom and power belong to Him”
- A. God is the God of all wisdom – infinite knowledge
 1. There is nothing God does not know – this is described as omniscience
 2. God knows every detail of His creation
 - a. God knows the vastness of the heavens – He made them
Proverbs 3:19 NAU - "The LORD by wisdom founded the earth, By understanding He established the heavens."
 - b. God knows the precise number of sand particles
 - c. God knows the weight of Mount Everest, the gallons of water in the sea
 3. God knows every detail with regards to history past present and future
 4. In terms of the **past** it is called God’s remembrance
 - a. God knows every detail of every event that has happened in eternity past.
 - b. He remembers the details of the fall of Satan
 - c. In the Day of Judgment all will be brought to God’s remembrance
Matthew 12:36 NAU - "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment."
Hosea 7:2 NAU - "And they do not consider in their hearts That I remember all their wickedness. Now their deeds are all around them; They are before My face."
 5. In terms of the **present** God’s omniscience is called knowledge
 - a. God knows all things – His knowledge is without limit
 We marvel at modern technology – God has revealed it all
 These things are but a speck of God’s knowledge
 - b. There are currently 6 billion people on earth but God knows what each one is doing - right now. He knows what each one is thinking – right now
 6. In terms of the **future** it is called “foreknowledge or prescience”
 - a. It should be pointed out that things do not happen because God knows them but because He has decreed them – He has willed them to come to pass

- b. God has foreknowledge of the precise number of those who will be saved – He has determined
1 Peter 1:1-2 NAU - "who are chosen ² according to the foreknowledge of God "
 - c. God knows precisely how near we are to the end
 - 7. God has always known all that He knows – He doesn't learn. He doesn't acquire new knowledge
 - 8. And God's wisdom is perfect. It is always right.
 Infinite knowledge brings infinite reason and proper conclusions
 God knows every potential cause and effect - His mind is filled with an infinite number of secrets – things in His knowledge alone
Daniel 2:22 NAU - "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him."
 - 9. God knows perfectly all things necessary to fulfill His purposes.
 He has infinite wisdom in ordering the whole scheme of creation, providence, and redemption to His glory and the happiness of His creatures
- B. God is also the God of all power
 - 1. God is all powerful. He has infinite power. God is Omnipotent.
 His power has no limit; it has no boundaries
 God is able to do whatever He pleases. His dominion is universal.
 - 2. God governs His creation with great power
 - a. Creation was accomplished with just a spoken word
 As Creator He owns all things and He has the right and the might to dispose of it according to his good pleasure
 - b. God rules the earth with His great power
Daniel 2:21 NAU - "It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings"
 - 3. Stephen Charnock describes the power of God –
 "The power of God is that ability and strength whereby He can bring to pass whatsoever He pleases, whatsoever His infinite wisdom may direct, and whatsoever the infinity purity of His will may resolve."
 - 4. God's power is derived from Himself - He is the sole cause
 He receives orders from none
 No one commissioned Him or instructs Him -
 He receives orders from none
- C. Knowing God's infinite wisdom and power is there anything in our lives He does not control?

- II. He delegates all wisdom and power upon the earth
- A. The gods of the Babylonian divines were absent from the affairs of men
Daniel 2:11 NAU - "no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with *mortal* flesh."
 1. They were absent because they did not exist
 2. Elijah mocked the prophets of Baal
1 Kings 18:27 NAU - "It came about at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said, "Call out with a loud voice, for he is a god; either he is occupied or gone aside, or is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and needs to be awakened."
- B. But our God is active in His creation. He is Immanent.
 All power upon this earth is by God's order
 1. The power of a tornado or hurricane or earthquake is founded in God
Psalms 65:6-7 NAU - "Who establishes the mountains by His strength, Being girded with might; ⁷ Who stills the roaring of the seas, The roaring of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples."
 2. All authority upon this earth is delegated authority
 a. Civil authority is delegated
Romans 13:1-2 NAU - "Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves."
 To Pilate Jesus said:
John 19:11 NAS - "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above"
Daniel 2:21 NAU - "He removes kings and establishes kings"
 b. Ecclesiastical authority is delegated
1 Peter 5:2-4 NAU - "shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of* God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; ³ nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock. ⁴ And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory."
- C. All wisdom upon this earth is granted by God
Daniel 2:21 NAU - "He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding."
 1. Solomon is considered the wisest man who ever lived. He received his wisdom from God.
1 Kings 4:29-31 NAU - "Now God gave Solomon wisdom and very great discernment and breadth of mind, like the sand that is on the seashore. ³⁰ Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the sons of the east and all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ For he was wiser than all men"

2. Why are we not still riding in horse drawn wagons?
How did we discover electricity?
Why are we not still using the telegraph?
What happened to the rotary telephone?
Where did we learn of the transistor or the computer chip?
 3. Daniel was praising God for the wisdom to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the power to stand before him with boldness
Daniel 2:23 NAU - "To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king's matter."
- C. Where did we get the wisdom to know God? What is the source of the wisdom unto salvation?
1. God has revealed Himself in His Word. Saving faith comes through His Word
Romans 10:17 NAU - "So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ."
2 Timothy 3:15 NAU - "and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."
 2. This is the blessing of the New Covenant
Jeremiah 31:34 NAS - "And they shall not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they shall all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
 3. Jesus Christ is the fulness of all wisdom and power
1 Corinthians 1:23-24 NAU - "we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God."
 4. We have been united to Christ in whom is all wisdom and knowledge
Colossians 2:3 NAU - "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Conclusion:

1. Sin has resulted in the great delusion of the minds of men. By nature we are void of the knowledge of God.
2. Those who come to Christ find the riches of God's wisdom. He is the wisdom from God revealed unto us.
1 Corinthians 1:30 NAU - "But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,"
3. And what was Daniel's response to this?
Daniel 2:19 KJV - "Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven."
 This word is particular to Daniel and Daniel used it five times. It was a word used to express worship—bowing the knee.
Daniel 6:10 NAU - "Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously."
4. Daniel worshipped God and then called upon all to worship Him
Daniel 2:20 NAU - "Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him."