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0. Introduction - Mystery

- Have you ever had a really good dream, but then could not remember it when you woke up?

- These things are mysterious to us. Writers of novels and movies often use mystery to keep us in suspense. The mystery is hidden and unknown, but usually, they reveal it in the end.

Illustration of what a mystery is: two ways to describe:

- that which is hidden and
- that which we are unable to understand.
 - Mystery in the Bible: Things we are unable to understand *unless* God reveals.

Context:

- Daniel and his friends are in exile, in waiting, in uncertainty.
- King Nebuchadnezzar has dreams (multiple), sent by God, which he can not remember but trouble him very much. They are a mystery to him.
- God gives revelation, to the king, an unbeliever, and to Daniel, because **God is the Revealer of Mysteries.**
- there are many great truths and lessons in this chapter, but for today we will focus on

Three points from this chapter:

- 1. The World cannot reveal mysteries**
- 2. God's people cannot reveal mysteries**
- 3. Only God reveals mysteries, and the Mystery is...**

1. The World Cannot Reveal Mysteries (v. 1 - 11)

The inability of the Chaldean wise men to reveal mysteries

- **the world, though it can attain much knowledge and skill, cannot reveal the mysteries of God**

Illustrations:

- Technology – 50 years ago, computers were the size of rooms, buildings even. Now, they fit in your pocket (phones). We have come very far in technology.
- parts of the body which we do not understand, but God has created.
- discovering the universe God has created
- The king set forth the mystery for his wise men. They were skilled and wise and knew many things.
- *However*, they could not know the king's dreams, and they could not interpret them.
- They *confessed*: v. 10 – 11:
“There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. ¹¹ The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh”.
- **the Chaldeans know and confess that they cannot reveal this mystery from “the gods”**
- in their mind, the gods are far off
- they do not know that God, the one true God, has dwelt among His people Israel. They do not know that the dreams are from God.

This is how God has created the world: *Eccles 3:11; 8:17*

^{3:11} He has made everything beautiful in its time.

*Also, he has put eternity into man's heart,
yet so that he cannot find out
what God has done from the beginning to the end.
8:17b ...However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out.
Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out.*

- This is why there are so many religions.
- Even knowledge and advancement become a religion/god
- Man in searching for what cannot be found claims to know the mysteries of God.

Application:

- in this we understand part of why the world is the way it is.
- we see that the world cannot attain the knowledge of God.
- Therefore we must pray that God would reveal Himself to those of the world

2. God's people cannot reveal mysteries (v.12 - 27)

The inability of Daniel to reveal mysteries, apart from God

- **Daniel, though he can attain much knowledge and skill,
cannot reveal the mysteries of God, unless God reveals them to him.**
- Daniel knows that he himself cannot reveal the mysteries of God. He told (confessed to) the king: Daniel 2:27, 30
*27 "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers
can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked,
... 30 But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me,
not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living,*
- **But!** There is a difference between Daniel and the wise men of Babylon.
- He knows that he cannot reveal the mystery of the dream apart from God. Unless God reveals it to him, he has nothing for the king, and will die with the all the other wise men, for the king was very angry with them.

- He knows and believes: that God dwelt among His people, that God is merciful, and that God reveals mysteries: here we see the faith of Daniel

- So he prayed: He prayed in faith to:

the God of Mercy (v. 18)

the God of his fathers (v. 23)

the God who has all wisdom and might (v. 20)

the God who changes times and seasons (v. 21a)

the God who removes kings and sets up kings (v. 21b)

the God who gives wisdom and knowledge (v. 21c)

the God who reveals deep and hidden things (v. 22a)

the God who knows what is in the darkness (v. 22b)

the God with whom dwells light (v. 22c)

the God who answers prayers (v. 23)

- God answered and revealed, there is only one revealer, and He is God, the one true God, ⁴⁷“God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries.”

Therefore Daniel could tell the king: **There is a God!** Daniel 2:28

²⁸ *but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries,
and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be
in the latter days.*

Application:

- Where are you? Who are you like?

- Are you like the Chaldeans, who do not know God, and who feel that God cannot be known? That God is far off?

- Are you like Daniel, who seeks God that He would be known and make known?

- Hear the word of Daniel: ²⁸There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries!

- Christians are no different from the Chaldeans or Daniel in our ability to know the mysteries of God.

- The only reason we are Christians or become Christians is that God has revealed Himself to us

-Therefore:

- pray that God would reveal His mysteries to you through His holy word.
- Pray that God would reveal Himself to you

Pray in good times

Pray in troubling times

Pray in times of peace

Pray in times of crisis

- when life is a mystery, seek the mercy of God and His revelation.

- Notice that Daniel asked his 3 friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to pray with and for him. Ask others to pray with you.

- Praying together, asking others to pray for you, and praying alone are all important way we pray.

3. Only God reveals mysteries, and the Mystery is... (v.28 - 49)

- I have been speaking of the mystery of God, and now it is time to reveal the mystery:

God revealed through Daniel to Nebuchadnezzar and to us a message of the future:

- a message of kingdoms (5 kingdoms)

- the first 4 were earthly kingdoms, beginning with Babylon. God set them up, and pulled them down.

- the 5th Kingdom is the Kingdom of His Son, Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us.

- It is a different kingdom, a spiritual kingdom that is growing throughout the whole earth, alongside other kingdoms, not by war or weapons or might.

- the kingdom of Jesus, is God with His people, as He changes their hearts.

- The Chaldeans said, “the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh”. (v. 11)
- Jesus Christ said, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Mt 28:20)
- Jesus is “the stone cut from a mountain by no human hands”, who “breaks all other kingdoms”, and His kingdom “will stand forever.”

To Nebuchadnezzar, and to Daniel, the Kingdom of Jesus was shown, but in their day it had not yet arrived.

But now it has:

- God has fully revealed the mystery and the mystery is this: Jesus Christ and His gospel available for all people.

Hebrews 1:1-3

¹ Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

- God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar in a dream, but now, He speaks to us by His Son Jesus Christ.

- Jesus said, *John 12:49-50*

49 "For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak."

50 "And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.""

- The Kingdom of Jesus Christ was shown in a dream as starting with a stone that grew into a mountain that filled the whole earth.
- This was and is God’s plan, that the Kingdom of Jesus will fill the earth.
- Now, at this time, His kingdom is growing, and the people who belong to His kingdom are from **every tribe, tongue, and nation**. One day it will be the only

kingdom left.

- All others will fall, just as Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome have fallen.

But the kingdom of Jesus will never fall, it lasts forever, and those who are in His kingdom will live forever with Him.

- How are we part of this Kingdom? God must reveal Himself to us, He must change our hearts, and we must come to Him.

- How do you become part of the kingdom of Jesus? He must reveal himself to you, give you eyes to see and ears to hear and change your heart – pray for that! And you must come to him and believe in Him. Believe that he came, died for your sins, and rose again for your eternal life.

Matthew 11:27 - 28

27 ... no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

28 "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

John 6:37

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

John 6:40

"For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."

- We have no need to seek the meaning of mysterious dreams, because we have now the full revelation of God for salvation, the mystery has been revealed!

Application:

- Are you in the kingdom, like Daniel? Praise God that He has revealed to you the gospel of Jesus Christ. Everyday!
- ask Him to reveal even more to you – is your faith sometimes a mystery to you? Do you come to church just out of habit, but not with understanding? Ask God to reveal.
- ask Him to reveal Himself to others
- Are you not sure if you are in the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Jesus? Pray to God that he would reveal himself to you, and come to Jesus who reveals God to you, and believe in him for eternal life. The gospel invitation is for all of us.

God is the revealer of mysteries, and the mystery is revealed now:

**The good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ
and His Kingdom which is forever.**

**Come to His kingdom and
praise God the revealer of the mystery of Jesus Christ!**