

Daniel 2:1-23 – Prayer And Praise.

I. Prayer (1-18)

Daniel and his colleagues were fresh graduates faced with their first challenge. Nebuchadnezzar was also fresh on his throne after the death of his father confronted with a troubling dream; he knew that it was an unusual dream that required interpretation. He demands to know the dream and its interpretation from his wise men, failure meant execution.

From [Daniel 2:4-7:28](#), the text is in Aramaic - not Hebrew. This is the only section of the Old Testament written in Aramaic which was the language of the Babylonian Empire.

The wise men explain the impossibility of Nebuchadnezzar's request. "Despite all their wisdom - real and imagined - these wise men had no answer for the king, because only *God* could bring an answer to the king. The strategy of the wise men was to convince the king that he was unreasonable, not that they were incompetent. They did not know what we know so plainly in Jesus - that He is *Immanuel, God with us* - [Matthew 1:23](#)."

A furious Nebuchadnezzar sentences all his wise men to death. Daniel, again, calmly and discretely deals with the crisis. "Daniel's calmness in this crisis showed what kind of man he really was. In one sense, crises do not *make* the man, they *reveal* the man". "Daniel knew that it takes time to listen to the Lord and to wait upon Him, and Daniel was willing to take the time if the king would grant it."

Daniel and his fellow Palace employees committed themselves to seek the LORD; to talk and listen. Daniel was in the type of situation where only God could meet his need. Therefore he knew how important it was for both him and his companions to pray.

The battle was won when Daniel prayed with his friends. "It is a privilege to have praying friends" (Barnes)"In prayer meetings such as this history has been made." (Strauss)

1. *The love of God that wants the best for us.*
2. *The wisdom of God that knows what is best for us.*
3. *The power of God that can accomplish it. William Barclay,*

1 Timothy 2:8 - *I desire therefore that the men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting;*

Luke 21:36 - *“Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

Luke 18:1 - *Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart.*

In prayer we seek and receive God’s sufficiency; wisdom, strength, protection, provision...His will

II. Praise (19-23).

Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. *“Christianity begins with the principle of **revelation**. What we know about God is what He has **revealed** to us. We do actively seek Him, but we seek what He has **revealed**. Our job isn't to figure things out about God, but to understand what He has revealed to us.”* Daniel did not find it out, God **revealed** it to him.

So Daniel blessed the God of heaven; he praises God.

i. Daniel praises God for His wisdom and might.

Daniel thinks of how God is in command of all things, and how God is mightier than a mighty king like Nebuchadnezzar.

Psalm 9:1 - *I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.*

Isaiah 25:1 - *O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth.*

ii. Daniel praises God for giving him wisdom and might.

All God's power and might were of little help to Daniel if God stayed silent. Daniel is grateful that God has revealed His great knowledge.

Psalm 139:14 - *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.*

Psalm 118:21 - *I will praise You, for You have answered me, and have become my salvation.*

Psalm 150:1-6.