



“Devoted: A Heart to Stand”

Mystery and Majesty

Daniel 2:20-30

Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now

The Sovereignty of God is the pillow upon which the child of God rests his head at night, giving perfect peace – Charles Spurgeon

made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king’s matter.” ²⁴ Therefore Daniel went into Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation.” ^{2:25} Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: “I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation.” ²⁶ The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?” ²⁷ Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 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. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: ²⁹ To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. 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 in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

A “workout” in God’s Sovereignty

- ? If God is in total control of the universe and nothing that happens outside of his Lordship and purpose; why then, does he allow a child to be taken from his mother and father to be tortured and killed? What would you say to a family reeling with unimaginable tragedy without sounding like a platitude or a Hallmark card?
- ? If God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and is everywhere all the time, why then did He choose to use horrific evil as a part of His plan? Or does He?
- ? What lessons in God’s sovereignty can be learned from how Daniel responds to brokenness that can be helpful to us now? To have the heart to stand, you have to have a heart that yields
- ? It’s one thing to be live a life transformed by the power of the gospel personally, but how do we live it out publicly in such a contagious way that people want what we’ve already discovered? And by the way; a cup of soup without the gospel is just charity. And we already have enough charities.

God’s promises cannot stay with God’s chosen. It is our responsibility to make sure we take that which has been revealed to us and bring it into a world that is desperately looking for answers.

From a personal profession to a public proclamation. Daniel 2:25-30

- **We need a humility-infused boldness. (vs. 24)**
 - ? What is humility-infused boldness? How can one exercise boldness with humility?
 - ? What happens to the gospel message when humility is removed?
 - ? How would humility-infused boldness assist in sharing the message of the gospel?
- **We need a spirit-infused conversation (Vs. 27-29)**
 - ? How are we to make sure we're telling people what they NEED to hear rather than telling them what they want to hear? Why is this so hard?
 - ? Do we live in a "broken" world? How can you tell? Where are you personally feeling the most brokenness? Is it *broken* just for the unfortunate or for us all? What do you say to an independently

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:8-11*

wealthy man who has a golden parachute from GE and will never want for anything ever again? And before you say, "JESUS!", how would you get his attention and show him that he too is broken?
? Read Acts 2:22-24 and 2:37

▪ *"Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—²³ this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. ²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.*

? How is God's sovereignty at work here?

▪ *Acts 2:37 - Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "**Brothers, what shall we do?**"*

? *Why is it that we know the good news, love the good news, have been changed by the good news, but fail to share the good news? What is holding us back? Can our grand hesitation be overcome? YES! How?*

- **We need divine-infused confidence (Vs. 30)**
 - ? How do we take a theological construct like God's sovereignty and turn it into divine-infused confidence?
 - ? What are the most confidence-boosting stories you've ever heard that have driven us to take our own action in sharing the gospel message?
 - ? We know how the story ends. What is holding us back from sharing the gospel with our friends, neighbors, coworkers, colleagues, and families? Is it fear? If it is, what fear is holding you back? Is it lack of knowledge? If it is, what do you really need to know to be released? Is it trust in the power of God to rescue either you or the one with whom you're sharing? What would it take for the shackles of denial to be removed from you?