

"There Is a God in Heaven"

Daniel 2:1-30

We find some very important truths about the God we serve in the story of the dream Nebuchadnezzar dreamed. It will be found that there is no other god like Him – never has been, never will be. Six times in the Bible the phrase "God of gods" is used (two of them in the Book of Daniel):

Deuteronomy 10:17

¹⁷ For the LORD your God is **God of gods**, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

Joshua 22:22

²² The LORD **God of gods**, the LORD **God of gods**, he knoweth, and Israel he shall know; if it be in rebellion, or if in transgression against the LORD, (save us not this day,)

Psalms 136:2

² O give thanks unto the **God of gods**: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Daniel 2:47

⁴⁷ The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a **God of gods**, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

Daniel 11:36

³⁶ And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the **God of gods**, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

In this episode in the Book of Daniel there are some similar truths brought out as are found in the Book

of Esther concerning the sovereignty of God, and His sovereign will being done in spite of the actions of man. In the book of Esther, the name of God is not found one time, yet God is seen on every page. The same is true in Daniel's life. Even though he was a member of the worldly king's court, and he had to follow the laws of the land as long as they didn't violate the Word of God, God's hand is seen on every page of his life, so to speak.

What does this passage teach us about "The God of Heaven?"

I. GOD'S POSITION

A. He is over all other gods – vs. 10-11

1. Vs. 10 – "there is not a man upon earth that can shew the king's matter"
 - a) Without God there was no man – it shows the position God has over all on earth – both men and the so-called "gods" that they worship
 - b) Daniel showed the dream but only after he and his friends spent time in prayer, and he was very careful to give God the credit – vs. 19
2. Vs. 11 indicates that the wise men of Babylon believed their gods could reveal it but that they had no way of communicating with their gods in a real way like we do because they didn't dwell "with flesh" – the wonderful thing is OURS DOES – both in the Person of Jesus Christ (when He walked on earth) as well as in the Person of the Holy Spirit in our lives today.

John 1:14

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

1 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Philippians 2:6-8

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

3. Vs. 2 gives us the ones the king called to tell him his dream and they describe for us those that Satan has power over. What it shows us is that no matter who Satan uses, and what he does with them, our God is far greater.
 - a) "The magicians" – those who practice magical arts or incantations; those who accomplish anything surpassing human power by mysterious and supernatural means.
 - b) "Astrologers" – one who professes to foretell future events by the aspects and situation of the stars.

- c) "Sorcerers" – wizards, that made use of familiar spirits (devils), and the help of the devil; necromancers that consulted the dead in order to get knowledge of future things.
- d) "The Chaldeans" – not that they were just from Babylon, but a special class of people so called, for their study of judiciary astrology, and other unlawful arts.

B. He is "in heaven", and "of heaven" – 2:18, 19, 28, 37, 44; 5:21, 23

- 1. The phrase "God of heaven" is used 24 times in the Bible, "God in heaven" is found five times (five times those two phrases are found are in this chapter); demonstrating that our God is not a god of this earth, created by man, but the God of creation, the God of gods – shows His position of authority.
- 2. Being "in heaven" shows that He is above this earth and all that is found therein.

II. GOD'S PLAN

A. To put Daniel in position to show the power of God – vs. 5-6

- 1. The king threatened to kill all the wise men of the land, including Daniel and his three friends, if they didn't tell him both what his dream was and the interpretation of it.
- 2. If they did tell him the dream, then they would be honored with money and "great honour."

3. This was of God – the dream was from Him, the hiding of it was from Him, and the revealing of it was from Him – all so that He could put Daniel in place to reveal the dream and show the power of God.

B. To save his friends and the other wise men to show the compassion of God – vs. 14-18, 23-24

1. Vs. 14 – Daniel answered the captain of the king's guard that came to kill him and his friends with "counsel and wisdom" – the wise counsel and wisdom that he demonstrated came from God.

Daniel 1:17

¹⁷ As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

2. Vs. 18 demonstrates the principle of prayer that Daniel and his friends had, as well as the power that prayer can bring.

Psalm 50:15

¹⁵ And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Psalm 91:15

¹⁵ He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.

Jeremiah 33:3

³ Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

C. To position Daniel for future glory to show the preservation of God

All of this was done, not just so the dream of Nebuchadnezzar would be seen as a prophecy of future world powers, but to show that God had a plan for Daniel and that no matter what He would preserve him for that plan.

III. GOD'S POWER – VS. 19-22, 28-30

A. Vs. 19 – "Then" – only after they prayed and sought "the God of heaven" was the "secret revealed" (the dream was considered a secret because it was from God and something He intended to reveal).

B. Vs. 20-22 describe for us Who the God of heaven is, and how He was viewed in relation to the situation Daniel faced in Babylon. The power of God is seen in these verses.

1. God is wise – "wisdom and might are his" – vs. 20
2. God is mighty – "wisdom and might are his"

Job 12:13-22

¹³ With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.

¹⁴ Behold, he breaketh down, and it cannot be built again: he shutteth up a man, and there can be no opening.

¹⁵ Behold, he withholdeth the waters, and they dry up: also he sendeth them out, and they overturn the earth.

16 With him is strength and wisdom: the deceived and the deceiver are his.

17 He leadeth counsellors away spoiled, and maketh the judges fools.

18 He looseth the bond of kings, and girdeth their loins with a girdle.

19 He leadeth princes away spoiled, and overthroweth the mighty.

20 He removeth away the speech of the trusty, and taketh away the understanding of the aged.

21 He poureth contempt upon princes, and weakeneth the strength of the mighty.

22 He discovereth deep things out of darkness, and bringeth out to light the shadow of death.

3. God overrules in the affairs of nations – "he changeth the times and the seasons"

[Jeremiah 27:5-7](#)

5 I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.

6 And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

7 And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

4. God takes a hand in the rulers of nations – "he removeth kings, and setteth up kings"

Proverbs 8:15-16

¹⁵ By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

¹⁶ By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.

Luke 1:51-52

⁵¹ He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

⁵² He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

Romans 13:1-2

¹ Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

² Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

5. God bestows wisdom and knowledge to the wise and understanding – "he giveth wisdom to the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding"
6. God unveils secrets – "he revealeth the deep and secret things"
7. God knows hidden things – "he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him"

Job 26:6

⁶ Hell [the grave] is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.

Psalms 139:11-12

¹¹ If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover

me; even the night shall be light about me.

¹² Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

Jeremiah 23:24

²⁴ Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

Hebrews 4:13

¹³ Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

C. Vs. 28-30 – we find Daniel giving God credit for the revealing of the dream and demonstrating to Nebuchadnezzar that it wasn't him doing anything – it was all God.

1. Vs. 28 – It was all God
2. Vs. 29 – Daniel tells the king what the dream would be about (he describes in vs. 31-49).
3. Vs. 30 – the reason God revealed it to Daniel had nothing to do with Daniel's intelligence or wisdom being greater than anybody else's. The reason was two-fold:
 - a) "But for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation" – although Daniel got the credit, the revealing also involved Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (vs. 17-18), and it was for both their sake and the sake of all the Jews still living in Israel that Daniel was able to know the dream of the

king.

- b) "And that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart" – speaking to Nebuchadnezzar – it was revealed so it would quiet the king's mind and spirit and give him peace.

D. The power of God is absolute in all things and that is seen even in the thoughts and dreams of man.

Conclusion: What do we know about the position of God? He's high above all yet He's right there with His children.

What do we know of His plan? If God had a plan for the life of Daniel and preserved Him, then we can be sure He has one for us as well.

What do we know of the power of God? Do we see it as limitless? Yet, can we see it in our everyday lives? That's what Daniel and his friends saw and described for us in these verses.