

The “Dream Weaver” . . . and You



When it comes to living our lives in real time, among other commonalities we share as people is this:

- > WE DREAM. True of EVERYONE, as long as we can remember. One commonality we share as human beings: We dream.
 - IN TWO WAYS. By DAYDREAMING, or using our imagination to picture what we would like to be/do. [Daydream about WINNING a blue ribbon in the District track meet, in the 100 yard dash. I used to DAYDREAM about asking the class babe, Lynn Rose, out (w/o me passing out!), and LR saying “YES!” We DAYDREAM of our CFT winning the Nat Champ. With DAYDREAMS, WE are in control. We are the writer, producer, director, and main star of our daydreams.]

ANOTHER WAY: Through *actual dreams*. & the BIG DIFFERENCE betwixt the 2 is, what we DREAM of in our sleep we have NO CONTROL OVER. We CANNOT ENGINEER real dreams. DREAMS remind us that SOMEONE is engineering our dreams, but that SOMEONE is NOT us! Dreams = are a post-it note of the SOVEREIGNTY of God over our lives! GOD is communicating something to us, but what? And, ARE we getting the message? [Recurring dreams? Mine, being late getting out of the shower while JD is doing the announcements . . . message keeps me thinking ahead when it comes to being somewhere, getting up @ least an hour before I need to . . .]

It may be bad form, English-wise, but Biblically, there’s a connection between chapter 1 and 2, and the spring from which the flow of thought flows (Remember? No chapter & Vv) is the “spring” of GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY.

Babylon, both ancient and modern, is a place with 3 characteristics:

- FEAR, where leaders FEAR losing control. 2:1 Let’s face it, WE likewise fear losing control
- HELPLESSNESS, on the part of those serving the King; it’s a “can’t win” situation. We’ve been there, we’ve been caught in that trap.
- AND BRUTALITY. We live in a culture where more & more we are haunted by the specter of potential brutality. People can be BRUTAL towards us, physically [target of violence, walking on a pier in San Fran; classmate of Aaron’s @ BHS] , emotionally [dia name-calling, degrading, guilt, harassing, etc. legion for many], spiritually [abusive churches]

When tyrants (think also power-hungry politicians) suffer from bad dreams, God is at work. In fact, in the Bible and in real life, *God often communicates through dreams*. The question is, are we listening? And, are we learning?

The key to chapter 2 is in Vv 27-28, and the key question is: WHAT DOES GOD REVEAL TO **US** IN THIS DREAM to King Nebuchadnezzar?

1. God reveals how FRAGILE human “RELIGION” is.

Vv 1-30

What is “religion,” in the final analysis?

In the final analysis, ****RELIGION is an attempt by PEOPLE to MANIPULATE God!**** It may be the prophets of Baal (in their contest against Elijah on Mt. Carmel) to shout and dance and cut themselves till their god cried “uncle” and sent fire. Or it may be Pat Robertson USING Jesus’ Name to “rebuke” a hurricane. Or it may be anyone w/the mindset of, “If I do THIS, then God is OBLIGATED to do this . . . “ when nothing, INCLUDING our good works /religious deeds can COERCE God into doing ANYTHING!

What does Vv 10-11 indicate about non-christian (pagan) religion? Pagan religion FAILS, and then it BLAMES (implied in Vv 10-11 = Nebby’s a paranoid nut-case!). When all is said & done, RELIGION is basically a cul-de-sac. Religion doesn’t take you where you want to be, and you have to go back over the same territory again because religion doesn’t solve problems!

How different from the confessions of Vv 20-23!

PAGANISM (and pagan religion) remains in the dark (the “dark arts”); GOD brings DARK THINGS to LIGHT!

What drives (even “religious”) people without the Lord? FEAR & IGNORANCE. FEAR b/c we don’t KNOW what will happen in the future. It’s a world full of happenstance and CHANCE. [There’s an impressive sunken garden in front of the Rare Book Library on the campus of Yale U. In one corner, a large marble pyramid statue, representing TIME. Another corner, a huge donut shaped structure standing on its side representing ENERGY. 3rd corner, a huge DIE (singular of dice) perched on one tip, ready to topple any which way, representing CHANCE. The 3 symbols represent the worldview of the modern pagan: Our universe consists of TIME, ENERGY, and CHANCE, and who knows which way the dice will fall? We live in a world of “WHATEVER”.] That’s NOT the world a BELIVER lives in!

Those who worship and trust in the Lord know this:

****God may not SHOW us what’s in the darkness, but God KNOWS what’s in the darkness!**** The future is not hazy, not foggy, not “what iffy” to God. There’s NOTHING left to CHANCE! AND, God DISCLOSES to us all we NEED to know about the future! Vs 22, WE may not see what’s in the darkness, but GOD does!

What underlies our hope? Cf Vs 44 Whereas when Jim and Jane Pagan walk out the front door in the AM, they have no idea of where history is headed. We do. We KNOW history is taking one more step toward an unshakable, indestructible KINGDOM = the KINGDOM of God. (To be honest, If I didn’t believe in the Sovereignty of God, I don’t think I could put one foot in front of the other. But the reality is, every step I take / you take is one step CLOSER to the KINGDOM!

2. God reveals how FRAGILE human POWER is.

Vv 31-43

Why is the king on the throne, anyway? Vv 36-38; Cf John 19:11 The ONLY REASON people in power are on the thrones of this world is b/c GOD has put them there! GOD is SOVEREIGN, GOD RULES!

What does the “fourth kingdom” include? Vv 40-43 The 4th Kingdom is characteristic of ALL man-made kingdoms. Man-made Kingdoms combine massive strength with disturbing weaknesses. Man made kingdoms have to power to CRUSH, but the Kingdoms of this world cannot hold their own kingdoms together.

What is the “jolt” of Vs 39? “. . . But AFTER you leave . . . “ Nebby’s kingdom will NOT last. FACT IS, Kings & Kingdoms, Presidents & Dictators, Democracies & Tyrannies & Monarchies come & go ... and eventually wind up on the landfill of history. [Several years after Estonia regained its national sovereignty after the collapse of the Soviet Union, a small town in Estonia decided to auction off a statue in the center of their town square = a statue of Vladimir Lenin. Starting price, in American currency, was \$15K. There was a time when that town would not have DARED to even TRY such a stunt!] But you know what? Even Soviet Premier LENIN was subject to the Divine “After you . . . “! His statue became nothing more than the centerpiece for a municipal fund-raiser!

The road to restoration of all things is long, so what do we DO as we await the restoration of all things? Vv 48-49 (Acts 3:21)

**** We SERVE where we have been PLACED within the FADING kingdom of where God has put us (Acts 17:26) as we go on awaiting for the FINAL Kingdom to come.**** This world as we know it is NOT our home, and this KINGDOM (America) will 1 day fade away, but GOD’s Kingdom WILL come. God has put us here to SERVE! And to SERVE WELL!

How does a believer have true optimism in this fallen world? By trusting in what the LORD says in His Word about the coming of an INDESTRUCTABLE Kingdom!

3. God reveals how FIRM His KINGDOM is.

Vv 44-45; 34-35

**** The “STONE” Kingdom is EVERYTHING the kingdoms of this age are NOT. ****

5 characteristics of the Kingdom Believers in the Lord, by God’s grace in Christ alone, are part of:

- **It’s INDESTRUCTABLE, Vs 44a** We can be taken out by EMP, by hackers, by economic collapse, by ICBM’s, by social upheaval. God’s Kingdom CANNOT be destroyed.
- **It’s FINAL, Vs 44b** There’s no “. . .” / “Let’s see what comes next.” When God’s Kingdom comes in its fullness, there IS no “next”. The movie’s OVER. The curtain CLOSES. The CALORICALLY CHALLENGED LADY SINGS!
- **It’s OVERWEALMING, Vs 44c.** No one CAN stand it the wake of this Kingdom. [In fact, as soon as you try to set up a man-made “dynasty”, you have a target on your back (as all good coaches are always reminding their teams). Attempts to withstand this Kingdom are more futile than building a sandcastle on the shoreline of a beach before a storm surge.

- **It's SUPERNATURAL, Vs 45a.** This Kingdom is not man-made. PEOPLE cannot bring this Kingdom into being dia politics or force or any other way. God does the work. And that's good! WHY? b/c that way, GOD gets ALL the credit!
- It's DYNAMIC, Vs 35; Rev. 1:5 From small beginnings this Kingdom grows to glorious future dominance. Jesus comp. mustard seed to huge 15 foot bush, Kingdom begins in a borrowed trough for feeding cattle in a town, Bethlehem, a town so small it didn't even have a BAPTIST church! We don't despair b/c we know WHO our leader is! And since we do, we can handle the ups and downs and disappointments of life!

THE KING COULD NOT FORGET HIS DREAM. WE NEED TO MAKE THIS DREAM STICK, LIKE VELCROW LACED WITH SUPER GLUE!

[Just before the Xn-hating Roman Emperor Julian was wounded in Rome's war w/the Persians, in the town of Antioch, a Roman soldier sarcastically asked a XN, "So what's the carpenter's Son doing these days?" The reply of this Xn man was, "The Maker of the world, Whom you call 'the carpenter's son,' is currently employed making a COFFIN for the Roman Emperor Julian." A few days later, news came to Antioch: The Great Roman Emperor Julian had died in battle.]

Friends, THAT'S where Daniel 2 leaves us. Jesus has a coffin for every Emperor, every Ruler, every Empire, every Emperor. And, THE ONLY TRUE SECURITY IS IN THE KINGDOM OF THE CARPENTER'S SON.

Indeed, the ETERNAL KINGDOM of the KING OF KINGS is for US a DREAM COME TRUE!