

A DEEP PLACE IN GOD

TEXT: Daniel 2:24-30, NIV)

²⁴ Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, “Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”

²⁵ Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, “I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.”

²⁶ The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”

²⁷ Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these: ²⁹ “As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. ³⁰ As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

KEY VERSE: “Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me” (Psalm 42:7, NIV).

INTRODUCTION

1. “The king replied to the astrologers, ‘This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble’” (Daniel 2:5, NIV).

I. THE DREAM

A. Troubled by God

1. “For God does speak—now one way, now another—though no one perceives it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they slumber in their beds, he may speak in their ears and terrify them with warnings, to turn them from wrongdoing and keep them from pride, to preserve them from the pit, their lives from perishing by the sword” (Job 33:14-16, NIV).
2. “In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep” (Daniel 2:1, NIV).

B. Troubled by the King

1. “Then the astrologers answered the king, ‘May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it’” (Daniel 2:4, NIV).
2. “The king replied to the astrologers, ‘This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me’” (Daniel 2:5-6, NIV).
3. “The astrologers answered the king, ‘There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks!’” (Daniel 2:10, NIV).
4. “When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, ‘Who then can be saved?’” (Matthew 19:25, NIV).

5. “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26, NIV).

C. A Deep Place Was Called for

1. “Deep calls to deep” (Psalm 42:7, NIV).
2. “He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon” (Daniel 2:18, NIV).
3. “Appoint someone evil to oppose my enemy; let an accuser stand at his right hand. When he is tried, let him be found guilty, and may his prayers condemn him. May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership. May his children be fatherless and his wife a widow. May his children be wandering beggars; may they be driven from their ruined homes. May a creditor seize all he has; may strangers plunder the fruits of his labor. May no one extend kindness to him or take pity on his fatherless children. May his descendants be cut off, their names blotted out from the next generation” (Psalm 109:6-13, NIV).
4. “But to Jonah this seemed very wrong, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD, ‘Isn’t this what I said, LORD, when I was still at home? That is what I tried to forestall by fleeing to Tarshish. I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity. Now, LORD, take away my life, for it is better for me to die than to live.’ But the LORD replied, ‘Is it right for you to be angry?’” (Jonah 4:1-4, NIV).
5. “But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:44, NIV).

II. GOD’S PLAN

1. “‘For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,’ declares the LORD. ‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it’” (Isaiah 55:8-11, NIV).

A. God's Man

1. “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them” (Matthew 18:19-20, NIV).

B. God's Manner

1. “He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him” (Daniel 2:22, NIV).
2. “During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision” (Daniel 2:19, NIV).
5. “A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men” (Proverbs 18:16, KJV).

C. God's Message

1. "You are that head of gold" (Daniel 2:38, NIV).
2. "The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all" (Daniel 2:37- 38, NIV).
3. "Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. The king said to Daniel, 'Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery'" (Daniel 2:46-47, NIV).

III. PRAYER IS THE DEEP PLACE IN GOD

1. "Plead for mercy" (Daniel 2:18, NIV).
2. "The LORD...hears the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:29, NIV).
3. "Come near to God and he will come near to you" (James 4:8, NIV).
4. "The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles. The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all; he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken" (Psalm 34:17-20, NIV).

A. Prayer Gives Perspective

- 1 "When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. 'Oh, my lord, what shall we do?' the servant asked.
'Don't be afraid,' the prophet answered. 'Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.'
And Elisha prayed, 'O LORD, open his eyes so he may see.' Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha" (II Kings 6:15-17, NIV).
2. "Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God'" (Mark 1:27, NIV).

B. Prayer Meets the Needs of the Spirit of Man

1. "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7, NIV).
2. "Then the Lord said, 'Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?'" (Genesis 18:17, NIV).