

## 2:14-16 – Daniel Requests Time to Seek Interpretation (Grace Under Pressure)

**Dan.2:14-16** Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. Daniel declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time (to give Daniel a grace period NASB), that he might show the interpretation to the king.

Daniel's "prudence and discretion" (from God) stopped the killing. Notice 5 strange events:

1. Arioch came to kill Daniel, but instead Arioch began to explain the decree.
2. Arioch was persuaded to take Daniel to the enraged king, 3. defying the king's orders.
4. The king was convinced to spare Daniel's life, and 5. grant his request for time.

Prov.21:1 The king's heart is a stream of water in the Lord's hand; he turns it wherever he will.

The king had just ordered the *execution* of all wise men when *they* stalled for time.

True character is revealed in times of crisis (when Arioch came, Daniel *trusted* God).

## 2:17-23 – Daniel and Companions Pray for Wisdom

**Dan.2:17-23** Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. 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 made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter."

God could reveal the secret dream and its meaning; the wise men could not.

Babylonians worshipped the stars and tried to understand them; God *created* the stars.

Daniel and companions prayed, with *confidence* that God was *able* to save them.

Instead of rushing to the king, Daniel's first thought was to pause and worship.

In a beautiful outburst of praise "Daniel's Psalm," he acknowledges that *God alone*:

- has *wisdom* to bring order to the world, and *power* to carry out His purposes
- *controls* events of history (actively or by His permission) and *reveals* hidden things
- removes and sets up world *leaders*, and is the *source* of any "human" wisdom
- *knows* the deepest thoughts of our hearts, and has the *light* to expose these secrets

## 2:24-28 – Daniel Reports that the Secret has been Revealed

**Dan.2:24-28** Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon and said to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation." 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.” 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?” 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, 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:

*Daniel was in command* of the situation, telling Arioch not to destroy the wise men. Once again the wicked (Babylon’s wise men) were saved / blessed for the sake of the righteous. The house of Potiphar in Egypt was blessed for Joseph’s sake. Gen.39:5  
For the sake of 10 righteous people, God would have spared Sodom. Gen.18:32

In 2:28, “latter days” (ESV, KJV) / “days to come” (NIV) define the scope of the prophecy. The latter days *for Israel* are not exactly the same as the last days *for the church*.

The Old Testament did not predict the church (it was revealed in Matt.16:18). Old Testament prophecy "jumped across" the church age, as in Isaiah 9:6 and 61:1-2. It was not clear to the apostles that the Old Testament spoke of 2 Comings of Christ. Non-Christian Jews watch for the *first* coming of the Messiah in the *future* (not Jesus).

The latter days for Israel began in Gen 49:1 with the division of land to the 12 tribes. The days extend from Daniel in 605 BC to Christ’s 2nd Coming to earth. Hos.3:5; Mic.4:1; Joel 2:28-29  
The image in the king’s dream is what Jesus called the times of the Gentiles.

Luke 21:24-28 Jesus said, "They will... be led captive among all nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled... then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory."

Jesus ushered in the last days for the church, from Pentecost to Rapture. Heb.1:2; 1 Pet.1:20  
The church’s last days will be perilous; some will scoff at God. 2 Tim.3:1; 2 Pet.3:3  
Christ will take the church to heaven as His bride; we meet Him in the air. 1 Thes.4:13-18  
The church age came *after* Christ's lifetime and will end *before* His Second Coming to earth.

The Bible has much to say about the future, which should give believers confidence/security. Contrast with unbelievers living in darkness who often worry about how things will turn out.

## **2:29-30 – The Purpose of the Dream**

**Dan.2:29-30** 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. This mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but so that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

We can commend the king for being concerned about the future – many live only for today.

They ignore the coming judgment, where they will have to give an account to God.

The king’s dream was the most important prophetic revelation God had yet given.

Daniel is ready to unfold what will occur in the latter days: 4 great world empires.

These will be destroyed and replaced by a 5<sup>th</sup> kingdom from heaven. Hallelujah Chorus: The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ, and He shall reign for ever and ever, King of kings, and Lord of lords. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!