



THINKING POINTS

by Mickey Chiang

What, or who, is Daniel 2 about?

At the first one or two readings, Daniel Chapter 2 seems to be only about King Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which he could not remember and/or could not understand. Daniel recounted the dream and explained its meaning to the king. So, is the chapter about Nebuchadnezzar, or is it about Daniel?

If we count the pieces of information given about every person mentioned in the chapter, we will discover that the chapter is not really about Nebuchadnezzar nor about Daniel! So who is the chapter about? It is mainly about God. This should not come as a surprise, for the whole Bible reveals God to humankind, a bit at a time.

What does Daniel 2 tell us about God? Looking at the text, we see that:

1. God is the "God of Heaven" - v19. [He controls Heaven and everything in it. There is no higher god.]
2. God is eternal - v20. ["for ever and ever"]
3. Wisdom and power are His - v20. [let us never forget this!]
4. God changes times and seasons - v21. [God appoints the times for things to happen and for the seasons. In the end time, the Anti-Christ will try to change the set times and the laws, i.e. play God - Dan 7:25.]
5. Following from [4], God controls the sun, wind and clouds - v21. [Without seasonal rains and sunny periods at harvest time we would not have food crops and would perish.]
6. God sets up kings and deposes them - v21. [So, when we rise to high positions in our jobs or associations, we should not be proud but should remember who put us there.]
7. God gives wisdom to the wise - v21. [Solomon asked God for wisdom. Why don't you?]
8. God gives knowledge to the discerning - v21. [Do you want knowledge? Ask God for it.]
9. God reveals deep and hidden things - v22.
10. God knows what lies in darkness - v22. [So, dare we sin in the dark, thinking that no one will see us?]
11. God has light within Himself - v22.
12. God gave Daniel wisdom and power - v23. [So, if we need wisdom and power to do the work God sets for us, then we should ask God to give them to us.]
13. God answers prayers. He answered the prayers of Daniel and his friends - v23.
14. God is so great that He can answer prayers that seem impossible to most people, i.e. Daniel's prayer. [When we pray, do we think of a great almighty God or a human-size God? Dare we be like Daniel and ask for what seems impossible to man? And believe God will answer us?]
15. If God answered Daniel's prayers, then he is present among humankind - v11. [Babylon's "wise" men said that "the gods...do not live among men.]
16. God made known Nebuchadnezzar's dream - v23. [God knows even our dreams. It was He who gave Nebuchadnezzar his dream, and He put the same dream into Daniel's mind. How great is our God!]
17. God is merciful - v18. [Daniel and his friends pleaded for God's mercy to save their lives, and God did. What should we do when we are in trouble?]
18. "God in Heaven" means that God is in Heaven - v28. [God is not an earthly being. He is above all of us. And yet He is omnipresent everywhere. How mysterious is our God!]
19. God read Nebuchadnezzar's mind - v29. [God is able to read our minds.]
20. God is **the** revealer of mysteries - v28,29. [So, when we are faced with mysteries, we can ask God to reveal the meaning to us.]
21. God is able to put dreams in the minds of men and women - v28. ["He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come"]
22. God will send a Rock - v34. [What is this "Rock"? Deut 32, Ps 19:14 and Is 26:4 tell us it is God. 1 Cor 10:4 explains: "and that Rock was Christ".]
23. This Rock, God as Christ, will crush all the four kingdoms in the dream - v34, 44.
24. God gives dominion, power, might and glory to men - v37. [So when we get any of these, let us not be proud for we know where they come from.]
25. God will set up a kingdom "that will never be destroyed...but it will endure forever"- v44.
26. God will crush all the other kingdoms to pieces and bring them to an end - v44.

27. God is a great god - v45.
28. God is the "God of gods" - v47. [There is no greater god.]
29. God is the "Lord of kings" - v47. [God is not controlled by kings, but controls kings]
30. God caused Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah to prosper and rise to high positions even though they were captive exiles in a hostile foreign land, just as he prospered Joseph the slave in Egypt - v48,49.

Thus, Daniel 2 reveals at least 30 things about the greatness of God.

How many chapters of the Bible reveal so many things about God?

How would knowing these 30 things about God affect the way you live from now on?

Or the way you perceive major international events involving great nations?

Chapel Notes

Chapel speaker last week was Mr Joshua Tang, Ministry Development Director of Trans World Radio (North East Asia). He shared with us the work of TWR. Anyone who is interested in getting to know more about TWR could approach the Library staff for the presentation on TWR.

This week (18 Sep), Mr Stephen Looi, National Director of OMF Singapore, was the Chapel speaker. Next week (25 Sep), Chapel speaker will be Mr Daniel Wen who has completed his studies and will be leaving Singapore by the end of September 2002.

NEWS BITS

1. LOVE PHONECARDS (stored value of \$2).

We are trying to clear our stocks at cost and would appreciate if you can help by buying these for your personal use or selling to your church contacts. The phonecard comes in two presentations, either in a cardholder (\$2) or as a greeting card (\$2.20). Please contact Serene Woon at 63538071 for more details.

2. FOR THOSE WHO INTEND TO GRADUATE WITH MCS IN JANUARY '03 please contact Dr Philip Satterthwaite.

3. MISSIONS AGENCIES IN SINGAPORE (<http://bgst.edu.sg/lib/missions/agencies.htm>).

The above site is created for the benefit of Christians who want to know more about these agencies or want to contact them for more information or speaking engagements, etc. We hope this site will also raise mission and evangelism awareness and have included some other links to pursue this goal. This is found under Helpful Websites on the library homepage @ <http://bgst.edu.sg/lib>.

Henrietta Mears' Ten Commandments for Sunday School Teachers

Dr. Mears wrote down what one must do, not just what one ought to do, in order to serve the Lord.

1. I will win the personal allegiance of every student in my class to the Lord and Master.
2. I will not think my work is over when my student has made his decision for Christ.
3. I will see that he finds a definite place in some specific task.
4. I will bring Christianity out of the unreal into everyday life.
5. I will seek to help each one discover the will of God so the Master can work through him and use every talent.
6. I will instill a divine discontent in the mind of every student who can do more than he is doing, not by telling him his life is petty and ordinary, but by giving him a vision of great things to be done enthusiastically, passionately.
7. I will make it easy for anyone to come to me with the deepest experiences in his inner life - - not by urging, but by sympathy and understanding. I will never let anyone think I am disappointed by him.
8. I will keep the cross of Christ central in the Christian life.
9. I will pray as I have never prayed before for wisdom and power.
10. I will spend and be spent in this battle.

Wishing you God's blessings on your Birthday!



Rev Samuel Kim Jong Seok 16/9
 Mr Anthony Tay Kim Seng 16/9
 Mr Loh Mun Fei 19/9
 Ms Ng Kim Choo 19/9
 Ms Lindy Tan 19/9
 Dr Philip Satterthwaite 20/9
 Mr Chan Wan Yhim 21/9
 Mr Chin Lee Poh 22/9
 Dr Oswald Goh 22/9