

Daniel 2:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Analysis

The phrase "there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets" establishes a stark contrast between Babylon's impotent wise men and the living God. The Aramaic Elah bishemaya (אֱלֹהִים בַּשָּׁמַיִם, "God in heaven") emphasizes divine transcendence—He dwells above earthly powers yet sovereignly reveals mysteries to whomever He chooses. The verb galeh (גָּלָה, "reveals") means "to uncover" or "make bare," indicating God pulling back the veil on hidden truth that humans cannot discover independently.

"What shall be in the latter days" (mah di leheveh be'acharit yomaya, מַה דִּי לְהֵיבֵה בְּאַחֲרִית יוֹמַיָּא) introduces the prophetic theme dominating Daniel—God's sovereign control over history's trajectory. The "latter days" refers both to the near future (successive empires) and ultimate eschatological fulfillment (Messiah's kingdom). This dual fulfillment pattern characterizes biblical prophecy, with immediate and ultimate realizations.

Crucially, Daniel disclaims personal wisdom: "as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have." This humility demonstrates that prophetic insight comes through divine gift, not human merit. Daniel points away from himself to God as the sole source of revelation. This anticipates Christ, who declared "I do nothing of myself" (John 8:28), constantly directing glory to the Father while perfectly revealing Him to humanity.

Historical Context

Daniel's declaration before Nebuchadnezzar occurred after God revealed the dream and interpretation through night vision (Daniel 2:19). Rather than claiming credit for this supernatural insight, Daniel immediately directed Nebuchadnezzar's attention to Yahweh as the revealer of mysteries. In ancient Near Eastern courts, wise men and magicians often cultivated mystique about their abilities to enhance personal prestige and power. Daniel's refusal to claim personal wisdom was countercultural and risky—it could have undermined his standing.

However, Daniel recognized that true wisdom required acknowledging God's sovereignty. His testimony introduced Nebuchadnezzar to monotheism's central claim: one God transcends all earthly powers and controls history's outcome. This established the theological foundation for subsequent chapters where Nebuchadnezzar gradually acknowledges Yahweh's supremacy, culminating in his confession in Daniel 4.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How can you maintain humility when God grants you insight, success, or abilities that distinguish you from others?
2. What opportunities does God's sovereign revelation of mysteries create for witness to unbelievers in positions of authority?

Interlinear Text

וְהוֹדִיעַ	כִּזְיוֹן	גִּלְיָא	בְּשָׁמַיָא	אֱלֹהֵי אֵינִי	בְּרַם	
and maketh known	secrets	that revealeth	in heaven	a God	there is	But
H3046	H7328	H1541	H8065	H426	H383	H1297
יוֹמֵי אֶבְיָרִית	לְהֵי אֵי דִּי מָה	נְבוּכַדְנֶצַּר	לְמַלְכָּא			
days	in the latter	shall be	what	Nebuchadnezzar	to the king	
H3118	H320	H1934	H4101	H5020	H4430	
הֵוא:	דִּנֵּה	מִשְׁכְּבִי	עַל	רֹאשִׁי	וְחִזְוֵי	חֲלֵמִי
H1932	are these	thy bed	upon	of thy head	and the visions	Thy dream
	H1836	H4903	H5922	H7217	H2376	H2493

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 40:8 (References God): And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.

Amos 4:13 (References God): For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name.

Daniel 10:14 (Parallel theme): Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days.

Genesis 49:1 (Parallel theme): And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you in the last days.

Daniel 2:22 (Parallel theme): He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

Isaiah 2:2 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

Genesis 41:16 (References God): And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Psalms 115:3 (References God): But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

2 Peter 3:3 (Kingdom): Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

Matthew 6:9 (Parallel theme): After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

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