

# 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

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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 (אֱלֹהֶ בְּשָׁמָיָא, "God in heaven") emphasizes divine transcendence—He dwells above earthly powers yet sovereignly reveals mysteries to whomever He chooses. The verb galeh (גָּלֵה, "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, מה דֵי לְהֵבָה בְּאַחֲרִית יוֹמָא) 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

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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

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**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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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

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וְהִזְדַּעַת	בְּשָׁמְיָא	כָּל	כִּי	כִּי	וְהִזְדַּעַת
But	there is	a God	in heaven	that revealeth	secrets
H1297	H383	H426	H8065	H1541	H7328
and maketh known					H3046
לְמַלְכָּא	נְבֹכְדָּאֶצֶּר	מֵה	אֵת	לְהַזְדַּעַת	יּוֹמִי
to the king	Nebuchadnezzar	what	H1768	shall be	in the latter
H4430	H5020	H4101	H1934	H320	days
					H3118
הַוָּא:	מִשְׁכָּבְךָ	עַל	רְאֵשׁ	וְעַל	וְעַל
Thy dream	and the visions	of thy head	upon	thy bed	are these
H2493	H2376	H7217	H5922	H4903	H1932

## Additional Cross-References

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**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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