

Daniel 2:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

Analysis

As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter (אַנְתָּה מֶלֶכָא רַעֲיוֹנָךְ עַל-מִשְׁכְּבֶךָ סִלְקוּ)—The Aramaic ra'yonak (רַעֲיוֹנָךְ, "your thoughts") describes Nebuchadnezzar's anxious pondering about the future. Kings naturally worry about succession, stability, and the fate of their empires. The phrase mah di-leheve acharey denah (מָה דִּי-לֵהֶבֶע אַחֲרַי דְּנָה, "what will be after this") reveals the king's concern about futurity—what lies beyond his lifetime and reign.

And he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass (וְגֹלֵא רָזָא הוּדְעָךְ מַה־דִּי לֵהוּא)—Daniel attributes revelation not to his own wisdom but to God, "the revealer of secrets" (galeh razaya, גֹּלֵא רָזָא). The term raz (רָז, "mystery/secret") appears frequently in Daniel (2:18, 19, 27, 28, 29, 30, 47) and refers to hidden divine knowledge inaccessible to human wisdom. God alone penetrates the veil between present and future, revealing what He chooses.

Daniel's careful attribution of knowledge to God rather than himself demonstrates true humility. He doesn't claim superior intellect or technique but acknowledges divine disclosure. This contrasts sharply with Babylonian magicians who pretended powers they didn't possess (2:10-11). By directing Nebuchadnezzar's attention to the true God, Daniel uses his interpretive gift evangelistically—pointing the pagan

king beyond the dream to the Dream-Giver. This models how believers should use their gifts: not for self-promotion but to glorify God and bear witness to His reality.

Historical Context

This occurred around 603 BC, early in Nebuchadnezzar's reign (605-562 BC). Ancient Near Eastern kings routinely consulted diviners about the future, believing dreams carried divine messages. Nebuchadnezzar's anxiety about succession and empire stability was justified—Babylon's rapid rise under his father Nabopolassar could just as quickly reverse. The dream ultimately revealed successive empires (Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and God's eternal kingdom), addressing his concerns about futurity while revealing divine sovereignty over human history.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Daniel's attribution of revelation to God rather than himself model proper stewardship of spiritual gifts?
2. When you receive insight or success, do you direct attention to yourself or to the God who grants all wisdom?

Interlinear Text

אֶנְתָּה	מֶלֶךְ א	בְּעֵינֶיךָ	עַל	מִשְׁכְּבְּךָ	סָלַקוּ
As for thee	O king	thy thoughts	into thy mind upon	thy bed	came
H607	H4430	H7476	H5922	H4903	H5559
מָה	דָּ י	לְהָיָא:	אַחֲרַי	דָּנָה	וְגַלֵּא
to thee what	H1768	shall come to pass	hereafter	H1836	and he that revealeth
H4101		H1934	H311		H1541
רָזֵי א	הוֹדֵעַךָ	מָה	דָּ י	לְהָיָא:	
secrets	maketh known	to thee what	H1768	shall come to pass	
H7328	H3046	H4101		H1934	

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 2:28 (Kingdom): 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;

Amos 4:13 (Parallel theme): 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 2:47 (Kingdom): The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldst reveal this secret.