

# Daniel 2:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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 couldest reveal this secret.

## Analysis

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Nebuchadnezzar's declaration "Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods" represents significant theological progress for a pagan polytheist, though it falls short of full monotheistic conversion. The Aramaic *Elah elahin* (אֱלֹהִים אֱלֹהִים, "God of gods") and *Mare malkin* (מָרַא מַלְכִין, "Lord of kings") acknowledge Yahweh's supremacy within Nebuchadnezzar's polytheistic framework—he recognizes God as supreme among many deities rather than as the only God.

The phrase "revealer of secrets" directly responds to Daniel's earlier testimony (verse 28). Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges that Daniel's God accomplishes what Babylon's entire class of wise men could not—supernatural revelation of mysteries. This confession demonstrates God's power to testify to His reality through His servants' faithfulness. Though incomplete, Nebuchadnezzar's acknowledgment represents genuine progress toward recognizing Yahweh's uniqueness.

This partial revelation anticipates fuller disclosure in subsequent chapters. Nebuchadnezzar's theological journey spans the entire book's narrative section (chapters 1-6), progressing from polytheistic assumptions toward acknowledging the Most High God's sovereignty. His confession illustrates how God gradually reveals Himself to unbelievers through His people's faithful witness. This points to Christ, the ultimate revealer who makes the Father known (John 1:18) and through whom all nations will acknowledge God's sovereignty (Philippians 2:10-11).

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern kings regularly acknowledged powerful foreign deities while maintaining loyalty to national gods. Nebuchadnezzar's statement reflects this syncretistic approach—adding Yahweh to Babylon's pantheon rather than recognizing Him as the exclusive God. However, even this limited acknowledgment was significant, publicly elevating Daniel and validating Jewish monotheism before the empire's court.

Archaeological evidence reveals that Babylonian kings sometimes honored foreign deities to consolidate conquered territories and gain divine favor. Nebuchadnezzar's subsequent actions (particularly erecting a golden image in chapter 3) demonstrate his incomplete conversion. Nevertheless, his public testimony prepared the way for Daniel's continued influence and eventual fuller acknowledgment of Yahweh's sovereignty in chapter 4.

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does God use believers' faithfulness in pagan contexts to gradually reveal Himself to unbelievers in authority?
2. What is the difference between acknowledging God's power and submitting to His exclusive lordship, and how can you discern this distinction in evangelistic contexts?

## Interlinear Text

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עָנָה	מֶלֶךְ יִן	לְדָנִי אֵל	וַאֲמַר	מִן	קִשְׁטֹ	דִּי	אֱלֹהֵי יִן
answered	The king	unto Daniel	and said	Of	a truth	it is that	is a God
H6032	H4430	H1841	H560	H4481	H7187	H1768	H426
וְהָיָה	אֱלֹהֵי יִן	אֱלֹהֵי יִן	וַיְמַר אֵל	מֶלֶךְ יִן	לְמַגִּיל אֵל	כִּי אֵל	
H1932	is a God	is a God	and a Lord	The king	and a revealer	of secrets	
	H426	H426	H4756	H4430	H1541	H7328	
דִּי	יֵכֶּלְךָ	לְמַגִּיל אֵל	כִּי אֵל	דָּנָה:			
it is that	seeing thou couldest	and a revealer	of secrets	this			
H1768	H3202	H1541	H7328	H1836			

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

**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 3:7** (References God): Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets.

**Deuteronomy 10:17** (References God): For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward:

**Daniel 11:36** (Kingdom): And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvellous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done.

**Revelation 1:5** (Kingdom): And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

**Revelation 17:14** (Kingdom): These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

**Revelation 19:16** (Kingdom): And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

**Psalms 72:11** (Kingdom): Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

**Psalms 82:1** (References God): God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods.

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