



Pastor's Page

***....God is wise and powerful! Praise him forever and ever. 21 He controls the times and the seasons; he makes and unmakes kings; it is he who gives wisdom and understanding. 22 He reveals things that are deep and secret; he knows what is hidden in darkness, and he himself is surrounded by light. 23 I praise you and honor you, God of my ancestors. You have given me wisdom and strength; you have answered my prayer and shown us what to tell the king.”
Daniel 2:20-23 (TEV)***

Daniel and all of King Nebuchadnezzar's royal advisors were under the king's death sentence. It was only a whisker away from being done.

In the second year of his rule, the king had suffered from a dream and wanted to know what it meant and was determined to ask his national royal advisors about it. But there was a trick to it all: the king did not tell the advisors what the dream was; instead, (unbeknownst to Daniel) he asked his advisors to tell him what he had dreamed and what it meant.

His advisors told him that was impossible and no matter who the king asked they would not be able to tell him what the dream meant without knowing what the dream was. The king got really mad, said the advisors were a bunch of frauds, that if they really knew what they were doing they would know what he had dreamed (this is like reading the king's mind in a dream) and sentenced them all (including Daniel and his friends) to death.

When Daniel found out about it, he asked for a little more time and in a vision that night God told him what was the content of the dream and what it meant.

The long and short of it all was that Daniel got a stay of execution, explained what the king had dreamed and what it meant to Nebuchadnezzar, saved his own life and that of his friends and also the lives of the other royal advisors, and he and his friends were richly rewarded by the king. (Daniel 2)

And here, all along you were thinking that the times in which we live are

governed by capricious, unstable, fluctuating, irregular decisions and hours of which we are hardly aware what is going to happen next. Imagine living in Daniel's time and under his conditions!

But you will notice that Daniel didn't get anxious or blow his cool. Instead he prayed and God answered his prayer.

I'm writing this as the year comes to a close. It's been interesting to say the least. The year ahead promises to be interesting as well. In many ways, it's like the king's dream of which he wants to tell no-one. It's closed to the knowledge of everyone except God and God has not chosen yet to open it to anyone to say nothing of what it's going to mean.

But like Daniel prays (above vs. 21), it remains true: *"He controls the times and the seasons; he makes and unmakes kings; it is he who gives wisdom and understanding."*

I trust we can count on that for the year ahead and enter it without anxiety and not blow our cool. We like Daniel, can trust that the God who can control the times and seasons that are certainly not in our control is able to keep us in safety and provide for our needs, whatever those are going to be.

God bless us all in the New Year,
Pastor T.