


Daniel 05 – Truth or Scientisms

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Daniel 2:1-16



Prologue: Daniel's Steps of Discernment

- Daniel sought to learn the goal and obstacles that may impede progress
 - **Daniel Listened:** Ashpenaz heard Daniel's respectful request; he then clarified his responsibilities and penalty for failing his responsibilities: Death
 - **Daniel Analyzed** all facets of the problem
 - **Daniel Synthesized** a workable solution and asked his immediate overseer to give him, and his three friends who walked in God's word, a vegetarian diet with only water for ten days and then compare their health with those Jewish young men who ate from the King's table to see if Ashpenaz's goals were met
 - Ten: Number of completeness, responsibility (Four-Judgment and Six-Mor)
 - After ten days Daniel and his companions gained weight, looked healthier; they met Ashpenaz's goals they and continue their diet. 2:16:23
 - They decided to set themselves apart to God and not be swayed by the King's table. 2:17:22



Prologue: Gaining Knowledge Does Not Limit Faith or Wisdom

- Daniel and his three friends **gained** godly knowledge and wisdom when learning Chaldean practices, beliefs and understandings
 - They were able to demonstrate solid grasp of Chaldean knowledge which impressed the king; yet, they did not compromise their faith.
 - Their sincere grasp of Chaldean knowledge insured their placement in high positions of government; Daniel and friends were **Ten Times** better than all others
 - Ten: Number of completeness, responsibility (Four-Judgment and Six-Mor)
 - Daniel already demonstrated his unwillingness to compromise truth; knowledge he learned was placed in a biblical context; Truth selected fact from fiction.
 - Daniel and his friends would remain very high in Babylonian and Persian governments without compromising their faiths; even if it meant their lives.

Nebuchadnezzar's Second Year: Didn't Daniel Train for Three Years?

- Question arises, "If Daniel trained for three years under Nebuchadnezzar, how can it be Nebuchadnezzar's second year as king?"
 - Nebuchadnezzar was not king when he first conquered Jerusalem, installed his own ruler over Judah, Zedekiah, and took Jehoiachin and family along with many nobles and skilled artisans, including families, back to Babylon for his coronation: Victory parade demonstrating his winning abilities (2K12:10-15)
 - Measures of time were not as precise as ours, part of a year would be considered a year; thus Daniel began his training before the coronation and continued until some time into the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign
 - Daniel was newly assigned his position; God waited until Daniel was in place before giving Nebuchadnezzar his dream.

Old Testament Economy Differed from New Testament Economy

- Conceptual understanding that God worked differently in the Old Testament compared to the New Testament: veil of sinful flesh (Visions)
(2K 23:44-46; 2Ch 33:2-18; Ps 111:4)
 - God warned Abimelech (Father King) not to violate Sarah when Abraham led (Gn 20:1-12)
 - Joseph interpreted dreams foreshadowing Daniel's ministry (Jm 37:40B-47)
 - Satan's dreams not so clear but no less disturbing: i.e., Elphaz (Job 4:13-21)
 - God spoke to people, saved and lost, via dreams which He does not do now because New Covenant: indwelling Spirit and the Bible revealing all mysteries; John's vision was the last which concluded the Bible (pp 13-15; 31-4; 84)
 - God differentiated between how He spoke to prophets, and the last, with how He spoke to Moses (Law), directly, just as He would speak with Prophet Christ (First fruits); He speaks to us via the Bible and Spirit (Jm 12:5B; Dt 18:18; Ac 2:17-26; Ps 110:3; 39:42)

Nebuchadnezzar's Disturbing Dream

- Nebuchadnezzar had a dream which so greatly disturbed him that he was **compelled** to obtain its interpretation
- Nebuchadnezzar turned to those who represented the complete knowledge of his day
- Nebuchadnezzar had reservations about the completeness of their knowledge
- Nebuchadnezzar designed a means to test the truthfulness and clarity of his advisors
- This test had never been applied before and was impossible for Satan to meet



Nebuchadnezzar Summons His Advisors: Founts of Knowledge

- Nebuchadnezzar had no problems incorporating the knowledge of other cultures as shown by his training of Daniel and the other Jews
 - When he summoned wise men or advisors, he was consulting the multicultural totality of knowledge of his day; except for the Jews who had just been inducted
 - Four depicts boundaries (Justice is punishment for violation of the boundary of good or what is right); thus, four categories of advisors: Completeness (vs 12:4)
 - Harumim (Egyptian): Dream interpreters and sources of such knowledge (vs 4:1-8)
 - Ashaphim (Akkadian/Assyrian): Power via spells/words, incantations (Wizards)
 - Mechashphim (Egyptian): Power of transformations, possibly (vs 7:11-12)
 - Casdim (Chaldean): Astrologers (Readers of stars), foundation of Babylonian guidance
 - While specifics cannot be clearly delineated; it would be a mistake to believe these were just myths to be lightly dismissed by modern people

Nebuchadnezzar Summons Elders of the Guilds

- Nebuchadnezzar probably summoned the elders or leaders of each of the four guilds of knowledge expecting these men to give an interpretation
 - Yet, either through experience or through the dream itself, Nebuchadnezzar distrusted his sources of knowledge
 - His advisors asked him to relate his dream for them to interpret: SOP
 - Since Satan is finite, and did not give the dream, he could not know the dream to give his minions direction, though such direction is foggy at best (vs 10:20-21)
 - Nebuchadnezzar demanded clear, unequivocal demonstration of their ability based on telling him knowledge he possessed, and they did not; i.e., his dream
 - Communication between these parties was clear, they spoke Aramaic and the text records these events in Aramaic until Chapter Eight

Nebuchadnezzar Gives Options

- One always has options; you may not like your options; Nebuchadnezzar gave his advisors options for success and for failure
 - If these advisors were successful, they would receive wealth and honor
 - If these advisors were incorrect, they would receive harsh treatment: Die
 - Each person, and their families, would be brutally dismembered, usually while alive
 - Their houses will be turned into public outhouses as examples for all who used them
 - Hammurabi's Law Code carried a death sentence for nearly every offense and continued to do so over a millennium later
 - As the king was the final arbiter of justice, there was no appeal from his sentence
 - Mosaic Law: Death was rare, required witnesses and the Law flowed from God's Ten Words which promised consistency; even David had to yield to God (vs 12:7-12)

Competing "If...Then" Logics

- For a second time Nebuchadnezzar's advisors request for him to tell them the dream so they can apply their learning; Safan always requires your cooperation for him to trick you (Dan 3:7, 14-17)
 - Nebuchadnezzar accused them of conspiring to lie to him; if they cannot tell him the dream then it follows that they cannot interpret the dream; I.e., he has no means to testing the correctness of their answer
 - Classic "If-Then" Logic: If you can tell me the dream, then I can trust your interpretation of that dream; If you cannot tell me the dream (which I know but you do not), then I know that you cannot do what you claim - Reveal secrets
 - "...All the times change" means Nebuchadnezzar is accusing them of stalling until he relents and tells them the dream since he has no others who can reveal this knowledge: If you really want an answer, then you must tell us the dream...

Third Time: Emphasis

- The number three denotes emphasis and closure of the context
 - Triangle: Simplest complete, stable structure - Three lines
 - Trinity: Completeness of the Godhead - Father, Son and Spirit
 - Family: Completeness of basic social relationship - Husband, wife, and children
- Third time the advisors request Nebuchadnezzar tells them his dream
 - They try to flatter him, great and powerful, while telling him the truth; there is no man, or spirit, on earth who can alone, implied, can read another person's mind; I.e., he is being unreasonable, demanding the impossible
 - Advisors make a startling admission: only gods can tell the king his dream, but they do not dwell with men; advisors do not have access to the gods; They just repudiated the basis of their knowledge confirming Nebuchadnezzar's Suspicions

Foolishness of Kings: All or Nothing Fallacy

- Nebuchadnezzar, as king, has had little training in self-control which is a fruit of the Spirit; hence, he gives the order to exterminate ALL advisors (Dan 3:22-24)
 - Nebuchadnezzar's guards are to round up all advisors
 - Whereas only the elders were present, their disciples are deemed guilty since they would have been taught these nefarious practices by them
 - The order probably limited to the city where Nebuchadnezzar resided as it could be implemented immediately
 - Now, the Jews are included in this round up though they had not been present
 - Daniel is introduced in his official capacity which is a continuation of our previous lesson (Dan 1:20-21)
 - Daniel is heard because he communicates with prudence and discretion

Arioch, King Nebuchadnezzar's Lion

- Arioch, head of the King's retinue or personal bodyguard, personally leads the round up as the King is urgent and these people are powerful
 - Arioch is probably a title denoting why he has the position: Fercestness
- Daniel, acknowledging Arioch's position of authority, uses the same methodology as with Ashpenaz, the Chief Eunuch:
 - Respectfully sought to understand the problem then he listened
 - Analyzed the answer via God's context (Understood the problem in biblical context)
 - Synthesized a biblical answer that would meet God's glory and man's demands
 - Let the authority decide: He could live or die; he would be content with either (2:13-15)
- Daniel asked Arioch, "Why is the King's decree so hasty, urgent?" (Paraphrase)

Arioch Reveals the King's Anger

- Arioch tells Daniel that which we have already discussed which means that he was probably present at such a prestigious audience
 - No one approached the King without guards being present as the danger of assassination was real; to do so could be death; as Esther well knew (9:4-10:1)
 - Even in the King's presence you could die if the king did not like your visage, took a sudden dislike to you or your feared intentions; as Nehemiah well knew (14:21-6)
- Thus, for Daniel to ask for an audience with the King who, had just decreed he should die, was not without real danger; Nebuchadnezzar could have interpreted Daniel's request as impudence and ordered him executed immediately, nor did Daniel have an answer yet

Daniel Asks for Time

- Daniel ushered into the presence of Nebuchadnezzar
 - Daniel asked the King for time to divine the dream and its interpretation
 - Daniel receives time probably because he uses prudence and discretion and he was a Jew and thus not associated with the advisors
 - Nebuchadnezzar did not have experience with Jewish wisdom and may have been curious to determine if it was difference
- Daniel, as far as we know, has never interpreted anything nor does he have any assurances that he can do so; he believes that if it is possible then only God can do this because...only God can interpret dreams; i.e., he knows his Scripture, he remembers Joseph's words (10:41-6)

Daniel Goes Beyond Joseph

- Joseph had to be told the dreams by the cup bearer, baker and Pharaoh before he could provide an interpretation
- What Nebuchadnezzar demanded had never been done, not even in Scripture; thus, Daniel would be going beyond Joseph's accomplishments
- God used Daniel to inform Jews and Gentiles His preparation for Messiah's First and Second Advents: One in our past; Other in our future
- This sign gift, revelation of the vision, would authenticate truth of Daniel's interpretation; this is what Nebuchadnezzar demanded of Satan
- Nebuchadnezzar put Satan to the test as Elijah did, Satan failed again (1K 18:20-46; 2K 4:7)
- These revelations are why Daniel's book is often attacked; to keep the truth hid from the lost to maintain their delusion (2K-23-18)

Fallacy of Modern People Scientism

- Modern people believe themselves beyond mythology; this explains why most reject the Bible: Collection of myths that cannot be verifiable
 - Their position is predicated on the fallacy in the scientific method as the means to obtain truth, repudiated since Francis Bacon (Thus, apart from God and His Bible)
 - (Observational) science is measurable and repeatable – Empirical (Five Senses)
 - Science limited: "who, what, where & how"; observations cannot answer "why"
 - The statement that knowledge comes only through science (experience) (AJ Ayer) is beyond science as it is non-empirical: Logical Fallacy
 - Thus, science cannot prove the existence of God; He is non-empirical
 - And science cannot define concepts such as truth, beauty, goodness, evil, etc.
 - Scientism is forced application of science to the non-empirical: Postmodernism

Scientism: Ancient Fallacies Different Label Ec 1:1-11

- Scientism claims to know the non-empirical; Nebuchadnezzar's advisors
 - Psychology – Claims to know behavior including its whys
 - Sociology – Claims to know societies including its whys
 - Education – Claims to understand how people learn, and its whys
 - Evolution – Claims to know non-observable creation and subsequent events including its whys; from origin of man and the earth to universe without God
 - Scientism, with its Postmodernism, postulates that truth is unknowable admitting that it cannot discover truth; Same admission of Nebuchadnezzar's advisors
 - If scientism's disciples were advising Nebuchadnezzar, they would have the same difficulties and the same excuses: Such knowledge is beyond the realm of knowing; yet, they claim to know God does not exist (Jn 14:1-4)

Scientism Infiltrates Science

- Today's scientisms have invaded the realms of the sciences claiming to do what science cannot: Provide the whys
- Scientism corrupts research to reach acceptable conclusions
 - Astrophysics frequently ignores Newton's laws to prove its preordained conclusions ([Stu Scholze](#))
 - Medical research has become so corrupted that even its guidance on diet and disease has become ludicrous ([Tom Cummins](#)) ([Dr. Shari Tennant](#))
 - Psychiatry/Psychology has deemed nearly everyone mentally unstable and in need of universal pharmacological control ([Psychobabble](#)) (Brave New World)
 - Climate Change advocates ignore science of solar/galactic influences and fabricate research to impose global governance ([Suspicious Citizen](#))

Nebuchadnezzar Appeals to Truth

- Through Daniel's intervention, Nebuchadnezzar could appeal to God, source of all truth, though he did not understand this at the time
 - Modern people can appeal to the Bible
 - Forensic Science validates Scripture despite all attempts to discredit the Bible
 - Attempts are merging into nearly outright bans of God's truth and churches
- President Trump's scientism advisors during so-called Covid-19 crisis gave guidance that was not borne out by facts: Nebuchadnezzar's advisors
 - Entire countries shut down nearly their economies due to advice from these wise advisors: very few were brave enough to discount such guidance
 - Scientism's false guidance reinforces Satan's delusion of man's control while agreeing with one's return to serfdom

You Can Have the Truth

- God has not left us without guidance; He has given us His Word to guide us into all truth (Jn 1:9-12; 14:24-26)
 - Testimony of people is limited, and flawed, as all dimly perceive the truth; yet, God uses people to bring the Gospel to others (Jn 10:45; 1Co 12:12)
 - The Spirit guides everyone into truth via the Bible (Jn 2:24)
 - Blood and water point to Christ who purchased life for those who believe
 - Truth before each person: if you have the Son, you have life; if you do not have the Son, you do not have life and have called the Son a liar
- How did Daniel understand the dream to present it to Nebuchadnezzar?
 - He had the same access as all of us: Scripture, Prayer, Faith and fellow believers