

# Daniel 22 – Interpreting Nightmare of Truth

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Daniel 4:19-27

## Conflicting Realities or Worldviews

One's Self Worldview



God's View of All Sinners



## Understanding Basic Hermeneutics

- Daniel demonstrates principles of hermeneutical interpretation (24:1-14:27)
  - Each passage is written in one particular manner with words that have specific definitions as understood by the writer
- There can be only one interpretation for each passage based on the following items **as understood by the writer**. Reader must see via Writer's eyes
  - Historical context – Regional, national and even local historical currents
  - Societal context – Religiosity, governmental and local cultural/ethnic traditions
  - Language – Language and word meanings are not fixed but change reflecting changing historical and societal trends
  - Problem(s) Addressed – What problems were being highlighted; this could be multiple depending on the size and historical expanse of the book
  - Solution(s) Posited – What direction(s) did God give in the above context

## One Interpretation: Many Applications

- Daniel does interpret and make application in respect to the King's current situation; however, subsequent readers may also make application to their situation **if** they do not abandon contexts used during the interpretation
  - Israel, later Judah, were theocratic monarchies; modern applications may not apply to today's nations are national socialisms or religio-political apostasies
  - Christians have not replaced Jews as God's chosen people; applying God's direction to Jews in our modern context may be erroneous
  - Allegorical **modern** meanings to metaphors apart from biblical definitions will skew both the interpretation and subsequent applications; Common practice
  - Interpretations should be integral with the Scriptures unless a **clear** change is indicated; i.e., general references to Messiah → Jesus is Messiah
  - This lesson weaves together two eschatological applications for our times

## Daniel Respects the King

- Daniel is dismayed at the vision's interpretation as he has great respect and affection for the King even though Jewry hates him for destroying the Temple and resulting Captivity; they ignore that it came from God (Dan 1)
- Daniel reanalyzes the interpretation to determine if there was any other meaning
- Daniel wishes the interpretation were for the King's enemies which hints at Daniel's ignorance of God's purpose for the King; Salvation (Isa 42:23-24; 49: 1:10-12)
- King tells Daniel to tell him the true interpretation; intellectual honesty, rare quality
- Intellectual dishonesty, or ignorance, leads to erroneous applications
  - False teachers working within churches lead the ignorant (saved) and lost astray
  - Eisegesis, reading your meaning into Scriptures leads to erroneous applications
  - Laziness, failure to study, imprisons you to the beliefs of others; Check what you hear against the Bible

## Prophetic Language: Tree as Metaphor



- Tree covering earth is silly and physical impossible (Metaphor)
- Tree is metaphor the King (Daniel)
- Nimrod's culture baseline for all people group's religiosity
- King representative of Babylon's culture, influences other Empires
- Cutting tree down represents height of Babylonian influence; also, change of the king from pantheism to salvation

## Babylon's Cultural Influence Persists: Subsequent Gentile Cultures

- Nebuchadnezzar's first vision, Head of Gold, showed Babylonian culture as basis of pantheistic culture that influenced all subsequent cultures
  - **Persian** – Silver chest: First major monotheism retaining pantheistic elements such as worship of light; rejected truth of God though known to Cyrus
  - **Hellenism** – Bronze thighs: Secular humanism, man the measure of morality, grew from pantheism; Gnosticism merges pantheism and humanism; Kabbalistic Jews
  - **Romanism** – Iron legs: Leader worship unifies empire and respective religions if deems compatible; Gnosticism with Christianity becomes Roman Catholicism
  - **Antichrist** – Iron/Clay feet: Living leader worship uniting all non-Christian faiths into a coalition against God until it becomes **only** allowable practice and faith
  - **America** – Established on Greco-Roman Gnosticism; Washington becomes god, Apotheosis of Washington in Capital Rotunda (American gnostic pantheism)

## Angelic Gospel: Warning of Judgment

- Angelic messenger of his vision says this will come until the King realizes that God is very God; Animal mindset cannot realize truth without God (24:13-26)
- Angelic gospel of Revelation proclaims a similar message, (εὐαγγέλιον; euaggelion) gospel, to the World (24:14-15)
  - Fear, reverence, God who can kill both body and soul in Hell (24:10-12)
  - Give God glory who alone judges the living and the dead (24:11; 24:23-25)
  - God can judge because He created heaven and earth; seas and springs of water
  - Angelic gospel announces judgment but without hope since angels do not understand the gospel of mercy (24:13-15)
  - Nebuchadnezzar, like all sinners, was **dead** in his sins; he, we, had no hope without mercy from God (24:24-27; 25:10; 26:11-12; 26:14-15)

## Tree Rooted in the Earth: Pantheism Persists Today

- Tree rooted in and sustained by the earth depicting a symbiotic singularity nourishing all life; essence of Pantheism ([Encyclopedia Britannica](#))
  - Interdependence of gods and man, nature and culture, cornerstone of ancient cultures of which the leader was interface of society to achieve **balance**
  - Science is seen as disruptive of symbiotic unity of man and nature causing catastrophic disruptions such as climate change, environmental harm, etc.
  - Modern pantheistic movements common basis for United Nations establishing climate standards, population limitations and energy resource choices
  - **Scientific pantheism** seeks to merge pantheism and science into a congruency without God; knowledge is based on beliefs, not facts, resulting in **scientism**
  - Reality, God is outside of Creation effecting His will according to His plan (24:13-15)
  - **Nature** grows as man destroyed unity via sin, entropy; no unity until new earth (24:13-15; 25:10; 26:11-12; 26:14-15)

## Two Current Forms of Gnosticism: Both Embrace Pantheism

### Scientific Gnosticism



### Pantheistic Gnosticism



## Daniel Suggests Hope: If the King Changes

- Daniel is clear, Nebuchadnezzar will live like an animal for seven years until he realizes God rules, not himself
- Daniel begs King to change and avoid this fate; however, this also shows limitation of Daniel's understanding, man can change his nature: Salvation as an intellectual exercise is bastion of hope for lost and naive (Free Will)
  - Practice Righteousness – This would be evidenced by producing the fruits of repentance as John the Baptist demanded of the Jews; every **tree** with **bad** fruit would be chopped down and thrown into the fire (Mt 23:13)
  - Show Mercy – Mercy is unique quality of God's nature; those who have been changed into His nature seek **god**, exhibit mercy (Mt 23:23; 23:23-24; 23:23-24)
- But the King cannot change his nature as repentance, with God's intervention, is required (Mt 23:23-24; 23:23-24; 23:23-24)

## Salvation Always the Same: Chopping Down the *Old Self* of Sin

- Repentance is **not** possible if the old self of sin is not crucified with Christ (Mt 23:23-24; 23:23-24; 23:23-24)
  - Our sinful self is unified only with sin and remains in rebellion against God who created nature; sinners claims of pantheism are disingenuous lies at best
  - Christ brings one to the point of crisis when one's sin nature is removed being replaced with His nature evidenced by crying out, "Abba, Pappa" (Mt 23:23-24)
- One's life **begins** producing fruit resembling Christ's words and deeds
  - When one is unified with Christ then one is hated by the world (Mt 23:23-24; 23:23-24)
  - Your life is a living testimony to God's truth which reveals the world's lie (Mt 23:23-24)
  - World seeks your harm including members of one's own family (Mt 23:23-24)
- Has God cut the **old**, dead tree of sin from your life so you may live in Him?