It was a time of crisis for the king and his wise men in Babylon. The king had a dream which he had forgotten. It was not an ordinary dream. It was a dream whose meaning and fulfilment would span the whole period of “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24). It was a dream that revealed the conflict of the ages, the conflict of the powerful kingdoms of the world which will culminate in the destruction of all earthly kingdoms and the establishment of Christ’s eternal kingdom. It was the greatest and the most extraordinary dream in the whole Bible. The great warrior-king was frightened. The dream greatly troubled his spirit and he woke up alarmed and terrified. What details in the dream terrified and alarmed him? He had forgotten but he remained agitated and frightened. In the course of history as this prophetic dream unfolds earth-shaking and kingdom-destroying wars will claim many lives in violent deaths. The sight of what would happen in the coming centuries would make strong men and stout hearts tremble and quake. “Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth” (Luke 21:26). The king’s fear and frustration was a representation of the “distress of nations with perplexity” that will come upon kings and nations, upon princes and people all over the Gentile world. There was a forgotten dream and there was an unforgettable Daniel. Daniel had been prepared for this time of crisis. “And Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams” (Daniel 1:17). Daniel was God’s man in the midst of crisis. He met crisis with calmness, faced conflict with courage, walked through chaos and confusion with confidence in God, and turned frustration into fascination.

PRAYING FOR GOD’S DIVINE REVELATION WITH CONFIDENCE
Daniel 2:17-19; Esther 4:15,16; Acts 4:23,24; Psalm 50:5,15; Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 18:19,20; Psalm 25:12-14; Proverbs 3:32; Daniel 2:30,47; Amos 3:7.

When the executioner, “the captain of the king’s guard”, got to Daniel, he “answered with counsel and wisdom” (verse 14). He was calm and composed. Fear, panic, worry and anxiety lessen a man’s ability to think clearly, act wisely and pray confidently. He asked, “Why is the decree so hasty from the king?” He was conscious of God’s protection. A believer who is conscious of God’s presence, promise, power and protection will be calm, knowing that at the end of every crisis everything will end in God’s perfect will (Romans 8:28). “Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time”. Daniel demanded time of the king and found favour with the king. The king had been “hasty” (verse 15) and would not allow his wise men to “gain time” (verse 8) but he granted Daniel his request because he assured him “that he would shew the king that interpretation” (verse 16). Daniel had great faith and confidence in God. Even before praying, he believed that God would reveal the forgotten dream with its interpretation to him. Then Daniel called “his companions” (verse 17) to prayer “concerning this secret.” They had to pray for revelation and inspiration. It was not a prayer by curious men wanting to see a spurious miracle of revelation. Their lives were in danger. The sentence of death was hanging on all the wise men of Babylon if the secret would not be made known unto the king. They must pray or “perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon” (verse 18). It was the effectual fervent prayer of righteous, uncompromising men (James 5:15). They “prayed in faith, nothing wavering”, confidently “asking wisdom of God, that giveth to all men liberally” (James 1:5,6). It was a united prayer with men of “like precious faith” (2 Peter 1:1; Matthew 18:19). Their motive in the prayer was pure and unselfish; there was no selfish desire or lust (James 4:3); it was to save the lives of others, provide solution to the king’s dilemma and also to preserve their own lives for further service to God and to His covenant people. With no iniquity in their hearts (Psalm 66:18,19), with no condemnation in the heart (1 John 3:21,22), with absolute confidence in God’s faithfulness (Hebrews 10:23), they knew that the answer would come speedily (Psalms 102:2; 143:7; Isaiah 58:8; Luke 18:8). “Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven” (verse 10).

PRAISING GOD FOR DIVINE REVELATION DURING CRISIS
Daniel 2:19-23; 1 Kings 8:56; 1 Chronicles 29:10-12,20; Jeremiah 32:17,19; Psalms 72:18,19; 113:1-5; 145:1-6; Job 12:13,16-22; Psalms 7:17; 45:17.

God does not disappoint the faith of His people when they seek Him unitedly in fervent and believing prayer (Jeremiah 29:12,13). After receiving a speedy answer to a spectacular prayer, they did not hurriedly rush out of God’s presence to appear before the king. They offered praise to God for His faithfulness and goodness. Daniel as the leader of the team praised God, but he did it with them. “I thank Thee, and praise Thee, who hast made known unto Me now what We
desired of Thee: for Thou hast now made known unto Us the king's matter“ (verse 23). Daniel blessed the Lord with a sevenfold praise: (1) “for wisdom and might are His”, (2) “He changeth the times and the seasons”, (3) “He removeth kings, and setteth up kings”, (4) “He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding”, (5) “He revealeth the deep and secret things”, (6) “He knoweth what is in the darkness” and (7) “the light dwelleth with Him” (verses 20-22). This answer to the prayer of Daniel and his companions was no ordinary answer. The answer proved that God is greater than all gods, that the gods of Gentile nations are impotent, that the wisdom of the world is foolishness with God, that Daniel and his friends were serving the true and living God, that the God of heaven is the only One worthy of our worship. Like Daniel and his companions we must always praise God for His merciful intervention in our lives.

PROCLAIMING GOD’S DIVINE REVELATION WITH COURAGE

Daniel 2:24-30; 4:8; Genesis 41:14-16; Numbers 24:14-19; Hosea 3:4,5; Amos 4:12,13; Jeremiah 1:7-9; Ezekiel 38:8,16;2 Timothy 3:1-5; Acts 26:16-23.

Daniel had become a prophet and our Lord, Jesus Christ, referred to him as “Daniel the prophet” (Matthew 24:15). As a prophet he received divine insight and inspiration by the Holy Ghost. He was one of the Old Testament “men of God (who) spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” He was sure of the infallibility of the revelation he had received from God and he said, confidently, “I will shew unto the king (the dream and) the interpretation” (Daniel 2:24). The king had decided and decreed death penalty for his wise men who had “prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before” him (Daniel 2:9), so Daniel knew that if he missed the forgotten dream, death was certain and sure. His was not guess work, his gift of the word of knowledge was truly from God. At the end, he said, “the dream is certain and the interpretation thereof sure” (Daniel 2:45). He even revealed the thoughts in the king’s mind before God gave him the dream (Daniel 2:29). Daniel was courageous to speak and proclaim the divine revelation before the king because he knew that God is immutable and His message is infallible. Courageously he spoke without adding to or diminishing from the divine revelation. Through his faithfulness to God and his unwavering commitment to declare the revealed truth, he reversed the king’s death sentence on the wise men of Babylon. If Daniel had been limited and restricted to what he learned with the wise men of the world he and his companions would have perished with the worldly-wise men. The insufficiency of this world’s education drove Daniel and his friends to seek the all-sufficiency of God’s revelation and inspiration. They laid aside the wisdom from beneath to seek the wisdom from above. The brainwashing of the Babylonian system of education had not affected Daniel in any way. He still implicitly “believed in his God” (Daniel 6:23). He declared before Nebuchadnezzar, “there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets” (Daniel 2:28). He spoke with the confidence and courage of a man who had been in the immediate presence of God.

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