

DANIEL - Chapter 2: Addendum --Christ in Daniel

DN-03a

One Decree for You—Death!

Daniel 2 in some respects is a summary of the Plan of Salvation. Let us see how this is so:

Christ in Daniel

<u>Literal</u>		<u>Spiritual</u>
King Nebuchadnezzar has a dream that troubles him. He can't recall the dream, so he calls in his 'wise' men (magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and Chaldeans)	vs.1-2	
But they cannot make known to the king the dream or interpret it. So then the king is furious and tells them that there is but "one decree" for you. --A Death Decree—	vss.3-12	A "death decree" occurred when Adam sinned. Jesus presses into the presence of "The King" and beseeches Him to give man 'time' a second chance so He would come and "show" to the universe and men, God's redemptive 'dream'/plan for humanity. {1SP 45.1}
Daniel answered with 'counsel and wisdom to Arioch and then the king to grant time in order to show him (and possibly his court vs.24), the interpretation.	vss.14-16	Michael (Jesus) makes known to the angels, 'the Plan' that they would have a part to play in bringing to men mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, to reveal to 'man' the Salvation plan, so that man might not 'perish'. In Christ's earthly life, He sought in prayer to His Father mercies so that humanity might not perish.
Daniel made the thing known to his companions in order that they would "desire mercies" of the God of heaven, Concerning this secret, that Daniel and his fellows might not perish with the "rest of the wise men of Babylon."	vs.17,18	
God heard the prayer of Daniel and his 3 friends in the night season and Daniel "blessed the God of heaven"...for the answer to their prayers, for "wisdom and might are His." Daniel thanked and praised God for making the matter known unto him.	vs.19-23	Jesus thanks the Father for always hearing Him, that the people might believe. (John 11:41,42)

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Literal

Just as “Daniel kept his religious training on an equal with the advantages which were given him of becoming a wise and learned man”, {4MR 121-122} so did His Master when He walked among men on earth.

vs.22-23

“From the beginning God has wrought through His people to bring blessing to the world... Through the integrity of Joseph, the life of that whole people was preserved. *Through Daniel God saved the life of all the wise men of Babylon.* And these deliverances are as object lessons; they illustrate the spiritual blessings offered to the world through connection with the God whom Joseph and Daniel worshiped.”
{AA 13.2}

vs.24-25

In the description of the image which Daniel shared with the king, we see a depreciating of moral worth with each succeeding kingdom, as his represented in the inferior metals (vs.39) symbolizing each nation depicted. What does this convey? As sin ‘degrades’ people and thus, nations over time, a ‘humbling’, by God is occurring in these great nations of history. Not by their choice, but that they may know “there is a God in heaven” who will bring “to the end of all things earthly” and set up “God’s everlasting kingdom.” {YI Oct. 11, 1904}

[see also 4BC 1168.4 - The image revealed to Nebuchadnezzar, while representing the deterioration of the kingdoms of the earth in power & glory, also fitly represents the deterioration of religion & morality among the people of these kingdoms. As nations forget God, proportionally they become weak morally.]

Daniel exemplified Christ to King Nebuchadnezzar in that He gave the glory to God for being the One Who revealeth secrets to the children of men.

Spiritual

Jesus “increased in wisdom and stature and favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52; John 8:28,29). He always did those things pleasing to His Father.

“How many blessings Jesus bestowed on the world. How many discouraged, desponding and distressed ones he relieved (*delivered and preserved*). His work was to bless and save. He covered his glory with humanity, bringing from Heaven the very best gifts which could be given to man; spoke peace, gave messages of light and hope.” {ST June 15, 1876 par.5}

According to Phil. 2:5-9, we see that God in Christ ‘humbled’ Himself, step by step to the point of death, even the death of the Cross. Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted Him and given a name above every name.

The difference from the humbling of the nations, is that He did it voluntarily, where as they rejected the light shining upon them and thus God ‘overturned’ them until the time will come when the God of heaven sets up His ‘everlasting kingdom.’

Christ gave the ‘mysteries of the kingdom’ to His disciples. {Matt.13:11} Further, he always gave the glory to His Father, for revealing hidden things to His humble children. (Matt.11:25) for Christ was sent to reveal the Father to men. {John 5:36,43; 6:39; 8:42; 11:41,42}