

The Book of Daniel Part 4

Daniel 2:26 – 2:30

by Erik Olsen

I. “THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES” INTRODUCTION

-- **illustration 1:** mining for gold analogy... overview of main components...

A. HISTORICAL LEVEL: Daniel 2:28: “But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.”

-- God’s plan for Gentiles unknown at this time... unprecedented prophetic detail revealed to a Gentile (Nebuchadnezzar) foreshadows the meaning of that prophetic detail – God’s plan for Gentiles...

--**illustration 2:** seismograph

-- a period Jesus called “the times of the Gentiles” – Luke 21:24: Jesus said, “And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

-- general characteristic of “the times of the Gentiles”:

-- no Jewish King on throne in Jerusalem (period between 586 BC when the last king of Israel to rule in Jerusalem to the next king of Israel to rule in Jerusalem – Jesus Christ at His second coming)

-- Jerusalem “trampled under foot” by Gentiles

...in part 5 we’ll look explore this topic further...

B. SPIRITUAL LEVEL: “the mystery of His will...”

--Eph. 1:7-10: “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace 8 which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence, 9 **having made known to us the mystery of His will**, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might **gather together in one all things in Christ**, both which are in heaven and which are on earth — in Him.”

...in part 6 we’ll look explore this topic further...

C. RICHES IN THE SPIRITUAL LEVEL: “the riches of the glory of this mystery...”

--Col. 1:25-27: “I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, 26 the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. 27 To them God willed to make known what are **the riches of the glory of this mystery** among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**.”

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D. ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR THE GOOD: Israel’s fall paved the way for God’s plan to save Gentiles:

--Rom 11:12-33: “Now if their fall [Israel’s fall] is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! ... 33 **Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!** How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”

-**illustration 3:** timeline of power concentration

II. THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM...

--Daniel 2:30: "But as for me, **this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone...**"

--Daniel's wisdom: the fear of God...

--Daniel didn't have some esoteric insight... he simply went to God in humility and prayed, and God answered

--Psalm 111:10: "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise."

--later episode where Nebuchadnezzar learns to humble himself before God again points to the underlying theme of God's plan for the Gentiles... Nebuchadnezzar may be the first Gentile to "praise and extol and honor the King of heaven" (Daniel 4:37)

--Nebuchadnezzar's second dream prophesied the madness that eventually plagued him. After the prophecy was fulfilled and his sanity returned to him, he exhibited the fear of God for the first time.

--Daniel 4:34-37: "34 And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: ... 37 I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down."

--Solomon asked God for wisdom...

--Solomon's final words in Ecclesiastes 12:13: "Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: **Fear God and keep his commandments**, for this is the whole [duty] of man..."

--obedience through the power of the Holy Spirit...

--back to Colossians 1:27... **the riches of the glory of this mystery** among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory... "**(refer to illustration 1)**

--in our lives the Holy Spirit empowers us to keep his commandments...

--Romans 8:13-14: "if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

--we won't be perfect until we get to heaven

--Galatians 5:4-5: "For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."

...in part 6 we'll look explore this topic further...

III. THE RESULT OF WISDOM:

--**“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. “ (Matthew 6:33)**

--in Daniel’s life:

--rewarded by Nebuchadnezzar: Daniel 2:47-48: “The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.” 48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.

--in Solomon’s life:

-God response to Solomon’s request for wisdom: 1 Kings 3:10-13: “The speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 Then God said to him: “Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, 12 behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. 13 And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days.”

--in our life:

-ultimate fulfillment at the time of Christ’s return...

--Matthew 19:29-30: “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name’s sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

--Rev 22:12-13: Jesus said, “And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

--we will “reign with Him” (Rev. 5:10, 20:4; Romans 8:17)

--the climax of Daniel’s visions and Nebuchadnezzar’s first dream: The second coming of Christ and His reign over the earth...