

Daniel Rose Up to the Challenge – 03 Apr 05

- Joshua Daniel

Now in the second chapter of Daniel we see a very grave crisis where Daniel could have been killed, cut in pieces as the king's decree said. The 5th verse, you know the king had dreamed a dream and had forgotten the dream and he called for his wise men, astrologers, sorcerers and the rest and said tell me my dream and my interpretation. They said tell us your dream then we shall tell you the interpretation. He said, no, it is gone out of me. 5th verse: The thing is gone from me: if you will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. When this decree was about to be carried out and they saw Daniel and his companions to slay them, the 14th verse: Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. Then Daniel went in and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions. Whom did he have in his house? His companions; what class was the level of his companions? They were classy men. What was their class? Praying men! That old adage which said, show me your friends and I will tell you what you are. Now let me ask you have you got a praying friend who has ever told you when you called him hey I am in the middle of the prayer, please call after 1 hour. Of course, we tell people. I don't like to be disturbed and you know what an interruption, some fellows are found jabbering on the phone all the time as though they are talking great matters of state. That is almost recognized today as a mark of status. I can understand if a surgeon is on call you know. We had the beepers before, a surgeon is on call, there is emergency, a man is dying that's another matter. Sometimes people try to get hold of me in all kinds of places for very important reasons. Not frivolous reasons. But think of all the frivolous kinds of friendships that people have. They just pick up that phone and if they have nothing to talk, they must to spin a long story over something which can be spoken in a few seconds. If you have that kind of friends, that's the level at which you will be. Are they talking about spiritual victories? Are they talking about the things that will inspire their friends to further prayer life? Nothing of the sort. It's just jabbering and you know what it is with some of these fellows who get into these ethnic groups. You know my friends, I am against color, I cannot see that in the New Testament we have any racial division I cannot see the social status should separate us brother from brother. What actually we see in practice is people are almost afraid of somebody who is different. What is different? His skin is different. No matter what his heart is. If we are going to be so blinded by prejudice how are we ever going to be a part of that company where there shall be men of

every race and kindred. How are we going to worship the king with the company of the redeemed? Look at the kind of companions that Daniel had in his house and Daniel went home to his house and he told his companions, 18th verse: that they would desire mercies of the god of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. What was he telling them? Hey boys there's a problem now, here is the king who is in wild temper he has sent to cut us to pieces. What about, why? Apparently he had a dream which troubled him and he wants the interpretation but of course he forgot the dream. Let's all pray. You see just like praying for a headache you know that was the level of their faith. Would you dare go tell you friends any such thing? They will laugh at you. Common boys we've got a challenge before us now common let's get on with it. And there is a time dead line of this thing, mark you. Now how can you tell another man's dream? How do you know if some pre-historic animal was chasing the king and he fell off a cliff for something? How would you know? What the dream is? The lord revealed to them. 19th verse: then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the god of heaven. Daniel answered and said. Blessed be the name of god for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: so Daniel said praise the lord. When did he say that? After this marvelous revelation came to him. You know some times when I am praying with people they have gotten into a very bad habit worldwide, what is that habit? Under their breath they are muttering all the time praise the lord, praise the lord, praise the lord. They are meant to hear what is being prayed, they won't hear. Praise the lord, praise the lord, praise the lord. So they have made prayer unmeaningful. They won't even hear. Now when did Daniel blessed the lord? When the secret was revealed then Daniel said blessed be the lord. Go and ask those people who go on muttering vain words, you see get them into a temper you will have something else. You will have to run out of the room. I don't believe in such religion. Here Daniel says blessed be the name of god for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his. Look at the discipline cultivated by this men and he came out and declared this to the king. The future history and talked by the kingdom of god. 44th verse: In the days of these kings shall the god of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Our citizenship in this kingdom which is forever, I don't know whether we really understand it. A fellow sat next to me and he kept toying with his passport because it was his prized possession. Do we ever toy and delight in our passport saying I belong to the king of kings, a kingdom which is forever? No, we don't. We tuck it away, try to forget it and are afraid if others see it. What kind of kingdom is that? Must be a very pretty cheap kingdom, that you don't value your citizenship in that kingdom. What a privilege to work for our king and for that kingdom. Look at the discipline of it all. Standing before the king, making this declaration, this interpretation and you know not desiring the gifts of the king. I owe it to tell you these things, keep your gifts. Now the king answered 47th verse: unto Daniel, and said, of a truth it is, that your god is a god of gods, and a lord of kings, and a

revealer of secrets. We are not making the highest quarters in this world cognizant of the lord of lords and the king of kings. Daniel brought the word of god and the truth of god to bear upon the nation. Here Daniel just by a personal walk with god and it is right before our eyes and the price to be paid, you and I can pay if we choose to, if we are humble, if we are going to be disciplined, and bring under this body. See how naturally the flow of blessing comes. My dear friends, you and I have the bible before us we had better purpose in our hearts that everything unclean should go out of our lives.