

“Peace through Prayer”

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

Perplexing Problems

Daniel 2:1-11 – (1) “In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. (2) Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. (3) And the king said to them, ‘I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.’ (4) Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, ‘O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.’ (5) The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, ‘The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. (6) But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation.’ (7) They answered a second time and said, ‘Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation.’ (8) The king answered and said, ‘I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm— (9) if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation.’ (10) The Chaldeans answered the king and said, ‘There is not a man on earth who can meet the king’s demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. (11) The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

Contributing Calm to the Chaotic Crisis

Daniel 2:12-16 – (12) “Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. (13) So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. (14) Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king’s guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. (15) He declared to Arioch, the king’s captain, ‘Why is the decree of the king so urgent?’ Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. (16) And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.”

Praying for Precise Wisdom

Daniel 2:17-19 – (17) “Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, (18) and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (19) Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.”

Takeaways:

Human “Expertise” only goes so far (11)

Daniel 12:4 – “But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Deescalate Drama (14)

Proverbs 15:1 – “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Collaborate with Companions (17)

Acts 4:24 – “And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, “Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them...”

Vertical Ventilation (18)

Psalms 55:22 – “Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.”

1 Peter 5:6-7 – (6) “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, (7) casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”

What God Wants

Psalms 50:14-15 – (14) “Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and perform your vows to the Most High, (15) and call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me.”

James 1:5 – “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)

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