

The Book of Daniel
"The ABC's of Prophecy"
Daniel 2:1-49

Introduction

1. Prophecy is in the Bible to be understood and known. It is not a hiding of truth, but a manner of unveiling it.
2. The basic facts of prophecy are well known. Many details are also. To suggest that the converse is true is to call in question many clear passages of the Bible. If one calls this arbitrary, he is only admitting that he wallows in uncertainty.
3. What are the ABC's of prophecy? How are they given? The following points are certainly to be included in any outline:

1. The METHOD of presentation. v. 1.
A most unique presentation--a dream!
This is a method employed by the Lord in various seasons:
 - a. In O.T. times--Num. 12:6; Gen. 41; Job 33:14-16.
 - b. In N.T. times--Matt. 1:20; 2:12, 13.
 - c. In eschatological times--Joel 2:28.

Note: We are living in a day when two very important investigations are being made, viz.: dreams (Freudian psychoanalysis and other psychotherapeutic means), and extra sensory perception (commonly known as E.S.P.). We do NOT categorize the dream of Daniel 2 with these psychic phenomena for there is little evidence that common dreams are prophetic. Furthermore, we are dealing with revelation (which is

defined as "that knowledge which God provides which would not otherwise have been known).

2. The MEANS of explanation.
- a. Not thru the perception of men. vv. 2-13.
All the wisdom of the land was insufficient to reveal the riddle propounded by Daniel.
 - b. Gained thru the supplication of men. vv. 14-18. Note the elements included in this matter:
Daniel prayed:
 - 1) Corporately
 - 2) Specifically
 - 3) Personally
 - 4) Thankfully
 - c. Accomplished thru the intervention of God. vv. 23, 28, 47. Cf. Deut. 29:29. Believers do not despair of the tremendous capacity of the human intellect, but they do feel keenly that man has his limitations and these are well known.
3. The MANNER of interpretation. vv. 24-35.
- a. The time element. v. 28.
The dream related itself to a season distinct and defined--latter days. A careful understanding of this phrase notes that it is escatological in every sense of the term.
 - b. The image visible. vv. 36-45.
Without verbalization, the truth which God sought to convey came in imagery.
 - c. The viewpoint given.
With rulers and their kingdoms given accent, the dream discloses matters as human rulers see them.

Conclusion. As one gets these points in the outline in mind, he realizes that 1. God is sovereign. 2. Man is free. 3. Individuals must come to terms with His purpose! Will YOU?