

AUGUST 7, 2022 DANIEL 2:1-23

RESPONDING—NOT REACTING IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

The times were perilous, Daniel was calm. He went home and called together a prayer meeting. They cried out for mercy. Mercy is God's response to a person's need. Daniel was painfully aware of his inability to interpret the dream. He turned to God with confidence and full expectation of the Lord interceding for him and his companions.

God is in complete control over the events of history.

God is in control of the destiny of the nations. God is the One who sets up kings and deposes them.

In 2:4b-7:28 the language used in Scripture is Aramaic. "These chapters deal with matters of empire-wide concern. But in chapters 8-12 the language reverts to Hebrew because in them the center of attention is on the future destiny of the Jews." *Gleason L. Archer, Jr.*

Beginning in verse 16 one reads of a life and death situation for Daniel and his three friends. Daniel simply asks for time to work through the dilemma. It is granted. (Grace!) Daniel went home and told his friends of the matter. They held a prayer meeting right then and there. Daniel's request was granted. Mercy extended.

At this point Daniel does not know what the king's reaction will be. Yet, he breaks out in praise to the Lord for the answered prayer. This is what responding in faith looks like.

In Daniel's prayer of thanksgiving he spoke of several characteristics of the Lord: wisdom, power, and knowledge. Thanksgiving for great things the Lord has done flows freely from the man who had determined in his heart not to defile himself with things of this world. Daniel had determined to obey the Lord in all things at all cost. Can you say the same? If put to the test will you do the same?

Application:

Let's pray about it! There are dangers, toils, and snares out there. There are hopes and goals we have set, pray about them! There are needs within our personal lives, the lives of our families, and our church family, pray without ceasing! There is uncertainty and instability now days in many things that in the not so distant past never entered our minds. Let's follow Daniel and his friends example, respond to crisis do not react to them! Pray believing and with expectation James wrote, do be not double minded instead, pray believing and trusting in God to do what is right and then, PRAISE HIM!