



According to Daniel 2, the prophet needed first to understand an issue needing an urgent resolution. Only first by understanding the dilemma would he be understood. Daniel 2:16 indicates that Daniel asked the king for time to learn his dream and declare the interpretation to the king. Looking at Daniel's example, ***the superlative response to a crisis or dilemma is to bring the issue before God in prayer.*** Verses 17-19 of Daniel 2 reveal Daniel and his three friends doing exactly that. They asked for God's help and God revealed the information needed. As a result, they knew Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its meaning.

Having the information needed and knowing what to do with that information necessitates God's help. Every servant of God will have an experience similar to Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel. Most certainly, there will be a crisis necessitating answers. The difference between Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel is what? ***Daniel knew how to obtain the answer. He prayed to God.***

There is one specific aptitude that will determine whether you respond to a dilemma like Nebuchadnezzar or Daniel, and that is prayer. ***God promises to grant his wisdom – with great liberality – to those who seek it through study of his Word and through prayer.*** From God, Daniel received the insights needed to resolve an impossible conflict. When you seek the Lord in prayer, He can help you resolve issues that come to you, many times in a way that no one else can. When He does, be certain to give proper credit.

Prior to telling the king and his captain that he could interpret the dream, Daniel overtly praised God. He knew all "wisdom and power belong to Him" (v. 20) and that He is King of kings with ultimate authority. "He removes kings and establishes kings" (v. 21). ***Nothing surprises God*** because "He knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with Him" (v. 22). Daniel praised God for letting him know what He, God, knows. Daniel gave thanks and praise to God because He provided the answer Nebuchadnezzar sought.

In the first 6 chapters of Daniel's prophetic book, he demonstrated a common practice which is a great example. In his 60 years of public service, Daniel had many conversations with Nebuchadnezzar, in addition to succeeding kings of other empires. ***Daniel consistently affirmed the allegiance of his heart to God.*** He always conveyed God's will concerning a matter, and trusted the Lord would always accomplish the best in any given situation. In his conversations, Daniel credited God for any good that he was able to convey, and sometimes would praise the Lord publicly.

What is astounding is that Daniel's service resulted in a pagan king giving praise to the God of Scripture to an ungodly nation, and this occurred because ***Daniel was certain to give proper credit*** and we can expect that to be repeated when public servants seek to glorify God. When praying to God and the Lord answers, resulting in wise answers emerging with regard to a dilemma, give God all the praise. Give praise to God, and expect that to inspire others also to praise Him.