**Going deeper in Daniel 2:14-28**

**INTRODUCTION –** King Nebuchadnezzar had a most disturbing dream and called on the wise men of Babylon to not only interpret the dream but to actually tell the king the content of the dream. The wise men are stymied by the demand. It is impossible for mere men to do what the king has asked! “There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men.” (2:10, 11) In a rage, the king decrees that the wise men of the kingdom be summarily executed.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* Daniel 2:14-28

**14**When Arioch, the commander of the king’s guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. **15**He asked the king’s officer, “Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?” Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. **16**At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.**17**Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. **18**He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. **19**During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven **20**and said:

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
    wisdom and power are his.
**21**He changes times and seasons;
    he deposes kings and raises up others.
He gives wisdom to the wise
    and knowledge to the discerning.
**22**He reveals deep and hidden things;
    he knows what lies in darkness,
    and light dwells with him.
**23**I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors:
    You have given me wisdom and power,
you have made known to me what we asked of you,
    you have made known to us the dream of the king.”

**24**Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, “Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”**25**Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, “I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.”**26**The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”**27**Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, **28**but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. How does Daniel respond to the king’s execution decree? What empowers his response?

2. Embracing the death-defying dare to reveal and interpret the dream, what role is played by Daniel’s faith? Corporate prayer? Daniel’s indoctrination in all things Babylonian? God’s revelation?

3. What is significant about the timing of Daniel’s prayer of praise? What does he praise God for? What does the prayer say about God? About Daniel?

4. Daniel was given wisdom. The king has power. Who in your life or society claims to have wisdom and/or power? How does this compare to God’s gifts to us?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Ask the God of heaven to grant wisdom to our country’s leaders and the leaders of our church

\*Praise God for the gifts He has given you

\*Ask God what role He would have you fulfill during this time of “double exile”

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

Like Daniel, we too are in exile and living in a culture that is counter to the ways of followers of Jesus Christ. This week, prayerful consider your calling during this tough time. In what ways are you responding as a Daniel? In what ways are you not responding as a Daniel?