



## 2020 1Q Daniel: Lesson 3 From Mystery to Revelation

by Tim Jennings (announcements last page)

### SABBATH

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What does the title, *From Mystery to Revelation* bring to mind?

Do you think merely of the infinite knowledge of God and our finiteness and all the mysteries of the universe we seek to understand?

Is God the revealer of mysteries? Is the Bible one of God's primary means to reveal mysteries to us? But what mysteries is God revealing through the Bible?

- Is it all mysteries?
- Are some mysteries not especially revealed by God but left for us to discover on our own?
- What type of mystery is God actively revealing—especially in the Bible?

I read this quote from the book *Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, what do you think?

**So also Christ presented the principles of truth in the gospel.** In His teaching we may drink of the pure streams that flow from the throne of God. **Christ could have imparted to men knowledge that would have surpassed any previous disclosures, and put in the background every other discovery. He could have unlocked mystery after mystery and could have concentrated around these wonderful revelations the active, earnest thought of successive generations till the close of time. But He would not spare a moment from teaching the science of salvation.** His time, His faculties, and His life were appreciated and used **only as a means for working out the salvation of the souls of men.** He had come to seek and to save that which was lost, and He would not be turned from His purpose. He allowed nothing to divert Him. CT 385.7

Does this suggest there are different types of mysteries and God is not actively revealing all of them?

What truth is God actively working to reveal?

Before we specify what the mystery of God is—what is the theme of Scripture?

It is a war between the forces of God and the forces of Satan; truth, love, freedom versus lies, selfishness and coercion.

Satan is the father of lies—what would lies create in the minds of people who believe them? Misunderstanding, confusion, distortion, falsehood, i.e. things not understood, mysteries.



God is the God of truth, of light, of openness. God is the revealer of truth, the source of truth and God is constantly shining truth out for our understanding.

Satan is the father of lies, the creator of falsehood, the obstructor of understanding, the founder of superstition and thus the promoter of mystery, and mysticism, and spiritualism.

And what is spiritualism—it is a form of mysticism, that purports to pursue knowledge but its method is to seek knowledge without evidence and without reason—which actually darkens the understanding.

Spiritualism seeks to know something via:

- the lines on the hand
- the selecting of cards
- the shape of tea leaves
- the falling of bones
- the entrails of animals
- the declaration of a fortune teller

None of the methods of spiritualism is based upon evidence, facts, or reality, but merely claims—thus it is the ground of the deceiver and liar who has no truth on his side!

Satan the creator of lies is the creator of confusion and mysteries in regard to God, God's design law, God's character, God's method, God's purposes, and God's plan of salvation.

God is the source of truth and is the revealer, the one who makes known, the one who provides light, evidence, facts, and reality to free our minds from lies. God wants us to think, to reason, to understand and to follow the truth for the truth will set us free.

Now, let's examine a little more closely the specific mystery that Satan's lies have created and the truth God is revealing.

“Having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times **He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth—in Him.**” Eph 1:9,10 NKJV

What is this mystery, this thing that was not known or understood and which God is revealing?

That the universe will be unified by Jesus—He will be the One who brings us all into unity as we unite with Him.



In Daniel Chapter 2, Daniel in revealing Nebuchadnezzar's dream says:

<sup>27</sup> “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the **mystery** he has asked about, <sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who **reveals mysteries**. [notice God is a revealer, One who makes known, not one who obscures or creates confusion] He has **shown** King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you lay on your bed are these:

<sup>29</sup> “As you were lying there, O king, your mind turned to things to come, and the **revealer of mysteries showed** you what is going to happen. <sup>30</sup> As for me, this **mystery** has been **revealed** to me, not because I have greater wisdom than other living men, but so that you, O king, may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.

- What was this mystery that was revealed to the king through Daniel? “**In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed**”
- What was the mystery revealed? All the universe being brought back into unity through the Rock, and that Rock is who? Jesus Christ

Notice this mystery in the New Testament:

- Romans 11:25,26: “I do not want you to be ignorant of this **mystery**, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved...”
  - What is this mystery? Bringing Jews and Gentiles together into one group of unified saved—the same mystery—God's eternal kingdom.
- Romans 16:25-27: “Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the **mystery hidden for long ages past**, <sup>26</sup> but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that **all nations might believe and obey him**—
  - What is this mystery? Bringing all nations into unity—the same mystery.
- 1Cor 15:51-52: “Listen, I tell you a **mystery**: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— <sup>52</sup> in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”
  - What is this mystery?
  - The fulfillment of eliminating sin and restoring His creation back to perfection and thus bringing us back into unity with the rest of the universe—the same mystery—just a little more detail
- Ephesians 3:2-6: “Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup> that is, the **mystery** made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. <sup>4</sup> In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the **mystery** of Christ, <sup>5</sup> which was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. <sup>6</sup> **This mystery is that through the**



**gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.”**

- What mystery? The same mystery—bringing all back into unity through Christ!
- Ephesians 5:25-33: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> **This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.”**
  - What mystery? Bringing all people back into unity or oneness with Christ as Jesus prayed in John 17—the same mystery!
- Col 1:26-27: “the **mystery** that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. <sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this **mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”**
  - What mystery? Healing of our hearts and minds by the indwelling Spirit who takes the perfection of Christ and reproduces it in us who choose to trust Him—and thereby bringing us all unto unity with God and His design laws for life.

So what is the mystery of God? It is bringing the universe back into unity—but how? What method does God use? God wars against the liar and deceiver by revealing the truth about Himself, His character, His methods, His design laws, and the truth purges the lies and wins us back to trust. In trust, we receive a new heart and right spirit, become partakers of the divine nature—the victory of Christ applied in us.

So, the mystery of God is His plan and actions to remove sin, selfishness, lies, corruption, and all deviations from His perfect design of love and restore His character of love, methods of truth and freedom into the hearts and minds of all who trust Him, thus bringing us into genuine unity with him and the unfallen universe.

Why is this a mystery? Because our minds are infected with lies that obscure the truth about God. God is the revealer, the source of truth who is warring against the liar in order to fix the damage in our hearts and minds.

And when will God’s ultimate completion of this mystery, this healing and restoration of all who trust Him occur?

Consider this text:

- Revelation 10:7: “**But in the days when the seventh angel is about to sound his trumpet, the mystery of God will be accomplished,** just as he announced to his servants the prophets.”



Do we find ourselves nearing this time? Do we see more truth being revealed today than ever before in human history? Remember the prophecy of the “Sun of righteousness arising with healing in his beams”?

Do we have a role to play? What is our role?

## **SUNDAY**

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### The Immanence of God

Immanence means: to remain with, to indwell, to be inherent

So, the immanence of God would refer to God with us, God remaining close to us, God indwelling us.

The lesson focuses our attention on Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the multi-metal statue and his inability to remember the details, yet the conviction that it was extremely important. The story unfolds with Nebuchadnezzar demanding his wise men tell him the dream and its interpretation and how they argue this is impossible, culminating with the death sentence and then Daniel’s petition for time, Daniel’s prayer to God and God’s revelation to Daniel of the dream and its meaning.

We all know the story—what I want to focus upon are the methods of God revealed in this story.

What is the context of OT Scripture? It is the war between good and evil: God working to eradicate sin and heal His creation and Satan opposing Him. The one single requirement upon which God’s plan hinges is the coming Messiah. Without Jesus, God cannot save planet earth.

Thus, the OT is the record of God working to bring the Messiah and Satan warring to prevent His arrival.

But Satan failed to stop Jesus from being born, so once Jesus was born to Mary, Satan’s war had to shift focus. During the 33 years of Christ’s life on earth the war shifts to Satan trying to either kill Jesus before Jesus can accomplish His mission on earth (which was to reveal the truth about God AND to develop a perfect, sinless human character thus eradicating the infection of sinfulness) or to get Jesus to corrupt Himself with sin and thus fail in His mission.

Thus, Satan inspired Herod to try and kill baby Jesus. When that didn’t work Satan tried to deceive Jesus, bribe Jesus, coerce Jesus but praise God, all of that failed and Jesus accomplished His mission!

After Christ’s resurrection Satan’s warfare strategy shifts again—no longer is he trying to stop Jesus from being born as a human; no longer is he trying to stop Jesus from accomplishing His mission as a human because those events have happened. So, Satan begins his new strategy to try and destroy all those who know the truth and are followers of Jesus. But that strategy fails, so Satan initiates his final war strategy—he wars to prevent the application of what Jesus accomplished into the hearts and minds



of people. In other words, Satan works to infect Christianity with a false view of God so that we fill our Spirit temples Satan's methods and principles i.e. view of God, thereby obstructing the partaking of the truth of God which would restore us to trust and open our hearts to receive the indwelling Spirit to cleanse and restore us.

Satan teaches a false religious system built upon imposed law in which salvation is a legal process occurring in books in order to obstruct people from experiencing the mystery of God—Christ in you the hope of glory.

So, in this story of the dream—notice God's methods? He reveals truth to Nebuchadnezzar—God is a revealer of truth. But God prevents Nebuchadnezzar from remembering the details—why? Because it inspired a real passion, interest, desire in the king do know the truth.

Remember, we will find God when we seek Him with all our hearts. God works to instill a desire for truth, for good, to put enmity between Satan and people. We see this in this story.

God simultaneously, through this method, exposes the counterfeit of Satan, the soothsayers, mystics, fortunetellers as frauds. God does this to undermine the king's confidence in the methods built on deceit and lead the king to value actual truth.

Did God use force to coerce Nebuchadnezzar to believe a certain thing or to take a certain action? No, God used His power to reveal truth to the king which triggered within the king a desire, but the king made freewill choices on how he responded.

While God was working to expose the frauds and to reveal truth, was Satan also working through his agents to try to obstruct the truth? Did the king have to decide how he would respond to the appeals and ideas presented to him by the soothsayers?

What is the application for us today?

## MONDAY

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The lesson points out that when we face problems we need to remember we are not alone, that we have a God who loves us, who is interested in us personally, who wants to dwell with us and is eager to help us—so we do well to seek Him and to seek His direction, insight, wisdom, will, and direct involvement in solving our problems.

As we do this, however, how can praying to God for His intervention be misused?

- Praying to God for healthy lungs while one continues to smoke
- Praying to God for a healthy marriage while one...fill in the blank:
  - cheats on their spouse
  - physically or verbally abuses their spouse



- Or—is being physically or verbally abused and one prays for a healthy marriage, but NEVER sets any boundaries, just submits to the mistreatment when they have the ability to leave.
- Praying to pass an exam but not studying when one has the time
- Praying for good health but refusing to eat healthy foods or exercise

What is the point I am making here about prayer?

We err in prayer when we pray for God to overrule the choices we make that He has put into our control. God has given us control over the decisions we make in governance of ourselves. We err when we pray for deliverance but refuse to choose what we know is in harmony with what has been revealed.

God provides us with truth, wisdom, opportunities, but God never does the choosing for us. So to pray to God to act in places where it is our responsibility to act is to misunderstand reality and to stay trapped in some destructive situation.

Sometimes we are faced with opportunities that we don't have sufficient evidence to determine which is the path God would have us take—a job offer comes—should I take it, should I move to a new city etc. In this situation it is quite proper to pray to God for wisdom, discernment, and evidences to seek where He is leading. We ask God for insights, conviction of the Spirit, and ultimately to overrule, we might pray “God, this seems the best given the facts that I currently have. If this isn't your will, reveal to me the evidences to show me and/or simply overrule by closing the door to this opportunity.”

I have personally experienced God's answering my prayers in this fashion. But notice, the action one is asking of God is not to act in to make your choices for you, but for insight, wisdom, facts, evidences which you currently don't know, or to overrule if there is something beyond your awareness that would be counter to God's will. God honors these prayers.

In the case of Daniel and his friends, they needed information they could not obtain by study, by research, or from any means within their power. The only way for them to get this information was for God to reveal it to them. So they went to God and asked Him.

The lesson points out two types of prayers—the request for what is needed, and then after the prayer is answered, the prayer of thanksgiving and praise.

Why are these two types of prayer important?

More precisely, *for whom* are these types of prayer important? Does God need our prayers?

Do our prayers have some impact upon us? What impact to these two types of prayers have upon us?

First type of prayer—the prayer of need—brings our hearts and minds into the truth of our own helplessness, our own limitation, our own inability, and our own hopelessness without God in our



lives. It is a prayer of humility that opens our hearts and minds to God, to connect with God, to seek God's presence in our inmost being. This is more than the pursuit of knowledge, such prayer seeks the will of God in our lives and thus opens us to the healing and recreating presence of God. Our fears and insecurities are replaced with love and trust in God. It is part of the process of being transformed as we come into connection with our Creator.

The second type of prayer—the prayer of thanks and praise—solidifies our hearts in love, adoration, appreciation, affiliation, confidence and faith in God. Again working to eradicate our fear and selfishness in the bonds of love and trust.

In other words, prayer is real and has real impact upon those who pray. It is not wishful thinking, it is not magic, it is not mystical, it is tangible and practical, the operating of the mind and heart of a sentient being connecting with our Creator God.

The lesson asks us to read Psalms 138 and consider how it can help us learn to be more thankful to God. I thought we could compare the NIV to *The Remedy* for a few verses:

**Verse 1:**

**NIV:** I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart; before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

**REM:** With all my heart I give you thanks, O Creator God, before the heavenly assembly I sing your praise.

**Verse 2:**

**NIV:** I will bow down toward your holy temple, and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things, your name and your word.

**REM:** I humble myself to your healing presence as taught by your holy temple, and I praise your character of love; for your methods of truth and love never change, and your promise confirms that your character of love is supreme over all creation.

**Verse 3:**

**NIV:** When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted.

**REM:** The day I acknowledged my need and called for help, you answered me; you gave me confidence and strength to do what is right.





### Verse 7:

**NIV:** Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me.

**REM:** Though I live in the midst of a world of troubles, you heal me to live eternally; you send your Hand to stand against my enemies — through the One at your right hand you save me.

### Verse 8:

**NIV:** The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever— do not abandon the works of your hands.

**REM:** The Lord will complete his healing work in me; your love, O Lord, gives life forever — don't give up on restoring your creation.

## TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY

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The lesson reviews the history foretold in the prophecy:

- Head of gold—Babylon
- Breast of silver—Media-Persia
- Belly of Bronze—Greece
- Legs of Iron—Rome
- Feet of Iron and Clay—Post Rome Europe

What does this prophecy mean to you? Why do you value it?

Does this prophecy give you confidence in God? Does it give you confidence in the Bible?

In Wednesday's lesson the first paragraph says, "It is an apocalyptic prophecy: a definitive prediction of what God foresaw and would actually bring to pass in the future."

I find this language a little troubling. It appears the way it is written it could be construed as merging foreknowing with causing. In other words, it sounds like if God foreknows it then God will make it happen. This idea is what those who reject God's foreknowledge are objecting to.

They object to the loss of freedom because they realize if we are not free to make our own choices then:

- love doesn't exist
- God is not love



- what we experience in our lives is fraudulent, fake, pretend, preordained to look like we have a choice, but we really don't
- God is a sadistic creator of evil as He makes things happen the way they do

So, to me there are many problems if we merge foreknowledge with causality, which this statement could suggest.

I think a better way to say it would be apocalyptic prophecy is a definitive prediction of what God foreknows people will do along with what God foreknows He will do—i.e. God brings to pass the establishment of His eternal kingdom and the eradication of sin. But God, does cause people to make the choices they make; thus He doesn't bring about their choices, but foreknows their choices.

## THURSDAY

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The focus is on the stone that destroys the image, let's read Daniel 2:34-35:

While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken to pieces at the same time and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

What does it mean? What law lens do you read it through?

Is it describing the use of might and power to physically overwhelm and destroy?

Are we still reading a prophecy? Does the prophecy use symbols? Do we need to interpret the symbols?

What does a hand or hands represent in Bible symbolism? When we think of the "hand of God" are we thinking of an appendage at the end of God's arm, or does the "hand of God" represent God's power?

So, would a rock cut out without human hands represent without human power?

And the context is in the rise and fall of nations—and how to human kingdoms arise and fall? What power is used? So, does the prophecy reveal a kingdom that doesn't come about by the power humans use? This is an amazing revelation of God's kingdom which will be established but not by the power and methods that human governments use.

What power and methods do human governments use? Lies, coercion, force, power-over to exalt the rulers—selfishness. Destroy one's enemies to protect oneself.



But this kingdom is a rock—would it be the rock of salvation? Would it represent Jesus the rock from whom Israel drank in the desert?

And what power did Jesus use to establish His kingdom, which is NOT of this world? Truth, love, freedom—including giving us the freedom to kill Him.

Thus, there is a kingdom that is coming that will destroy the kingdoms of the world, but it will not use the methods or power over others, the methods of the world to do it. It will not use physical might to kill its enemies. Understand, this is exactly the opposite of what all the false religions of the world teach—including much of Christianity.

Thus Paul writes,

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.  
(2Corinthians 10:3-5 NIV84)

Daniel goes on to interpret the meaning of this rock, set up without human power in verse 44:

In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.

What do you think? It will crush those kingdoms—do any other Bible texts come to mind?

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will **crush** your head, and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:15 NIV84)

Jesus will crush Satan's head—the ruler of the kingdoms of this world—how? What power did Jesus use to crush Satan?

Hebrews 2:14, 15:

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

What power did Jesus use? The power of truth and love presented in an atmosphere of freedom.

The God of peace will soon **crush** Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. (Romans 16:20 NIV84)



How does God crush Satan under our feet? By restoring in us His character and methods of love.

God's kingdom is the kingdom of truth, love and freedom. It is built upon the design laws of God, the supreme law being the law of love. Love cannot be coerced or forced. Thus, the kingdoms of this world are crushed—lies are crushed by truth, selfishness and fear are crushed by love and coercion is crushed by freedom.

The Rock, Jesus, establishes His kingdom, but not by human power or methods.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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**Thank you to all of our supporters!!! We appreciate your prayers and financial support.**

**Multi-Languages:** Check out our multi-language section, it is growing every month.

**Questions:** If you have questions please email them either at [requests@comeandreason.com](mailto:requests@comeandreason.com) or [topics@comeandreason.com](mailto:topics@comeandreason.com). If you post on Facebook it is likely they will not be answered as I often miss questions posted on Facebook.

**January 17-19, 2020:** The Power of Love Training and Equipping Course. If you would like to be prepared to more effectively share this message then come to this course. More details will be forthcoming shortly. Allen Texas (30 miles north of DFW airport). See [events.comeandreason.com](http://events.comeandreason.com) for more details and to sign up.

**February 8, 2020:** Come and Reason Class will meet at Bake Crafters at 10673 S Lee Hwy, McDonald, TN 37353 for this Sabbath only. Class will start at our regular time.

**March 27,28, 2020:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at an AACC River Conference at Plano, TX. More info at <http://theriverconference.com/>

**April 17,18, 2020:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the Lakewood SDA church in Lakewood OH.

**September 17-19 2020:** Dr. Jennings will be speaking at the AACC National Conference in Dallas, TX

**October 3, 2020:** Come and Reason will have a one day seminar in Chattanooga TN on Healing the Mind, Recovering from Sexual Abuse, the Impact of Digital Media on Kids and more. Details coming soon.