



“Where and when to serve God”, by Rev Samuel Mametsa,
Sunday Service, the 26th of February 2012.

Scripture Reading: Daniel 2:1-14, 27-28; 44-48.

Dan 2:1-14 *“Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. 2 Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. 3 And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream." 4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation." 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. 6 However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation." 7 They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation." 8 The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: 9 if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation." 10 The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. 11 It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." 12 For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13 So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream 14 Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon;” NKJV.*

Dan 2:27-28 *“27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the*



king. 28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:"

Dan 2:27-28, NKJV.

Dan 2:44-48 "44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold — the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure." Daniel and His Friends Promoted 46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. 47 The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret." 48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon."

Dan 2:44-48, NKJV.

The man Daniel was a man of faith and was known by all in Israel that he was serving the Lord. When they arrived in Babylon, we hear that Daniel never compromised his faith and service to the Lord. He was a humble man and even in Babylon, he was still humble. When the king wanted to give him a post, he was still humble.

Daniel was still honoring God. It doesn't matter whether you serve God or not but God is waiting for you to honour Him as God. We find in many situations people saying because of this and that; I am not able to serve to God. For God it doesn't matter where or what is happening, as long as you serve God. The bible says there came a time when Daniel knew very well what was happening in Babylon but still he decided to serve his God honestly. He did not care if he would be killed or not. He knew that king had made a decree which made it illegal for Daniel to pray and worship his God but still he persisted in the praise and worship of the Living God.

The bible says in Dan 2:3 *"3 And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream."* NKJV



Who made the king to dream? I believe it was God. Who put the zeal in the king to want to know this dream? This king was not dreaming for the first time. Even the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans were surprised as to what was special about this dream.

The bible says **5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.** Dan 2:5, NKJV. (own emphasis). Why was the king insisting that he would kill them? These were his people and they were there to support the king and now he is saying he will kill them. This shows that the dream really troubled the king. The next question is: Who made the king to dream this dream? The problem was not that the king wanted to kill them, he just wanted the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to interpret this dream. How could they try as the judgment of death was already out? *"If you can't tell me or if you lie to me I will cut you into pieces."* What a threat? These people started to shiver and wondered who amongst them was the best the magician, astrologer, sorcerer, who would solve the problem.

Somebody stood up and said to the king *"There is nobody there who can solve the problem"*. This meant that the wise men were ready to die, as they were aware that they could not solve this problem. This would have meant that even the children of God from Israel were in danger of being killed. Daniel asked his God in heaven for help *"God shall we die because of the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans who can't interpret the dream?"* God said *"No"*. It was not that Daniel was not prepared to die. He did not want his brothers Meshack and Abednigo to die. It doesn't matter who oppresses you, it doesn't matter what happens, God is alive and He will intervene on your behalf. Daniel took a very big challenge. If Daniel had failed he was going to die. He did not want to die with others; he wanted to die alone that is why he took the challenge alone.

Can you stand before the devil and say *"Devil you can't destroy me, as long as I am alive, I will make sure you fail in all your plans."* These are the type of people that God wants to serve Him, those who are brave to stand before the devil and the people and say *"This is the God I serve and he can't fail me."*

If you can't stand before the devil and show him that your trust is upon the living God, then you don't know this God, you are just claiming to know him.



Daniel said to the king *"I can't interpret the dream but the one I am serving can show me how to interpret the dream."* If Daniel was a proud person he would have said to the king *"I will interpret the dream for you king"* but he said *"The God I serve will interpret."*

We have a problem with people who are serving God and they feel they are God. They forget that they are the servants of God. Daniel knew his stand very well. Daniel said *"There is nobody including me, who can interpret the dream but the one I serve can interpret the dream."*

When the king heard this he was happy as he was going to get the answer he had so much wanted.

You must say *"By my God I can do it."* It is only God who can do it, you know nothing. The bible says not by might not by power but My spirit. It is because of the spirit in us that we are able and when the spirit does something we must not boast and think it is us but we must say *"The one in us enables us"*.

Dan 2:28 *"28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:"* NKJV

Dan 2:30 *"30 But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart."* NKJV.

This shows the spirit of humility in Daniel. This is not the first time this was said to the king. One of the astrologers said that this dream could not be interpreted by any person and this is what Daniel was telling the king, it can't be interpreted by a person.

"44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Dan 2:44, NKJV. (own emphasis).

This was the first statement that Daniel spoke to the king and it was a provocative statement as this might have made the king to kill Daniel himself. Daniel was telling the king that there is another king. Daniel was not afraid because he was saying to the king, it is not me who will do this but the King in heaven who will



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break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms. If Daniel had said it would be him (Daniel) who would come with the interpretation the king would have reacted against Daniel. The king realised that it was God speaking. Yes, he could have killed Daniel but he realised that it was not Daniel speaking. If Daniel had not given glory to God then the king would have killed him.

This is what people do these days *"I will heal this child."* and when the child is not healed the parents will come back to you and say *"You are a liar"* but if you say *"My God will heal the child"* you avoid a lot of problems and the burden remains between the child and the parents and you can even say *"I don't know why God hasn't healed the child but what I know is that the God that I serve heals"*. If you claim glory for yourself the parents will come to you and you will end up staying with that child in your house. It is only God who heals and the reason why that child is not being healed is known unto God and unto Him alone. As long as you call upon Jesus, your job is to put trust in God. You hear people say *"I have prayed and prayed, my knees are bleeding. There is no God."*

Just see what Daniel says in the bible *"King, the God that I serve, speaks to you through dreams."*

"The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.⁴⁸ Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹ Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king." Dan 2:47-49, NKJV.

Wherever you are whatever situation you find yourself in, don't compromise your faith in God. The faith of Daniel in Babylon changed the faith of the king in other gods to faith in the real God and he said *"Daniel, you are serving the real King who is above all the other kings"* It is our time to showcase our faith in God so that the other people can see and know God for who He is. Wherever we are people must change their attitude. Can people see that the God you are serving is the real one? People are not changing because wherever you are, you are also doing what they are doing.

I remember what Daniel said when they said he must worship the image. He said with humility to Darius *"No ways"* Darius knew about Daniel from what had happened between Daniel and his father king Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel was not



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afraid even when he was told he would be put in the lion's den because Daniel knew the God that he was serving. When the decree was made, they starved the lions and Daniel did not spend sleepless nights frightened or worried, he knew the God he was serving. He knew "If they burn me they burn my God." Whoever torments you, torments the Jesus in you.

When they threw him into the lion's den, they closed the door, they did not want to see the lions tearing him up. The king was fasting. The king came to the tomb and listened and heard nothing and said "*Daniel, are you there?*" Daniel responded and said "*Yes*". The king said "*Daniel servant of the Most High God, come out*" Why did the lions not touch Daniel? Why is it that the lions which had been starved so many days did not eat Daniel?

This book of Daniel is meant to encourage you. "*I will be with you, I will walk with you, it doesn't matter what is happening.*"

When they bound Daniel to put him in the lion's den, some of the soldiers fell into the cave by mistake and those lions devoured them before they even touched the ground. These lions were starved but when they saw Daniel they did not see meat. So what did they see? They saw a fellow lion and one lion can't eat another lion. They saw the Lion of the tribe of Judah in Daniel.

John the evangelist says "*See the lion of Judah, who carries the sin of the world*" These words shut the mouths of the lions. When those lions saw Daniel, they just started playing with Daniel as a fellow lion.

We serve a mighty God. When Shadrack, Meshack and Abednigo were put in the fire, those who put them in the fire did not only see three people, they saw four. You are not alone, do not fear anything. Do not fear the witches and wizards who are tormenting you. The angel of the Lord is with you; the consuming fire is with you and will walk with you. What is needed is that you declare "*Devil you are a liar, you can't torment me. My day is coming, you cannot destroy me.*"

Do you think your God is so stupid that He would allow you to be tormented by the devil whilst you are calling upon His name? What happens is that God will allow the devil a short time to torment you but the time of prosperity will be tripled and made long. It will be increased seven fold. It doesn't matter how long you are suffering. The God we are serving will add more and when He adds more He wants those people who spoke badly about your life, to live long and see you prospering. They will see and they will repent. This God is not stupid and he is not blind. He wants people who understand that they came to this world alone and will leave alone. Whether I have or I do not have, I will walk with my God up to the



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destination. Why should we allow our situations to blackmail us? Why should you open your mouth and say *"If God doesn't bless me, I will not serve him."* People think by coming to church they will receive many blessings but the bible says, seek ye first the kingdom of God and the rest will be added.

God adds blessings to those who are serving Him. Have you been to the hospital? Many people are there sick and in pain. Even the millionaires are there. I one saw a business man in hospital and he was very sick. Many pipes from the machine were connected to his body. On the table next to the bed, were different cheque books and people would come and say sign this cheque for two million and he would sign. He could not speak and so he could not ask what the cheques were for. Many people were coming in and out and making him sign cheques for different things. I asked myself *"Why can't he sign and buy his life?"* If a man like that can die, a lot of people would fight for his monies.

Don't worry about what is in your life, what you have; what you must worry about is whether or not you have Christ. If you do not have Christ, you will have problem.