

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

Info: (651) 283-0568 Discipleship Training Ministries, Inc. www.dtminc.org Today's Date: June 5, 2022

God Is The Revealer of Mysteries

by Dan Trygg

“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, ‘My purpose will be established...’” Isaiah 46:9-10

“The secret things belong to Yahweh our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.” Deuteronomy 29:29

“Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king's presence and spoke to him as follows: ‘I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!’ ²⁶ The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, ‘Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?’ ²⁷ Daniel answered before the king and said, ‘As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. ²⁸ However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. ²⁹ As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place.’” Daniel 2:25-29

People have asked me to teach about what the Bible says about the end times, the events leading up to the conclusion of this age, and the return of Christ. I have been somewhat resistant to spend time on this, because for so many it is just an intellectual curiosity. It has little to do with learning how to abide in Christ, here and now, ...or learning to watch for and walk in the leading of the Holy Spirit. This is also an area of theology where there is a great deal of debate. All kinds of theories and positions have been proposed, ...and often people have been divided over them. People get entrenched in what they have heard or read, and they become stubbornly protective of their theories, and can get into heated debate. We don't need heated debate, or divisiveness. We need to learn to be careful Bible students, and become skilled at “rightly dividing the word of truth”. Nevertheless, God has chosen to reveal a great deal about these matters, ...truths and insights that are important, encouraging and fortifying to our faith. “All scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness, so that the person who belongs to God might be equipped, thoroughly-prepared for every good work” (2 Tim. 3:16,17). So, let me invite you on a journey through the biblical passages that God has shared with us to prepare us for what lies ahead.

The first thing to clearly state is that God does know the future. This seems to be very plainly stated in the scriptures. He has already told us a great deal about the end. In recent times, this belief has come under challenge by some, but God Himself says that this is one of the ways He is clearly distinct from other so-called gods. He knows and declares the future. He has done it repeatedly, ...and in great detail. Isaiah 46:9-10 clearly says that He declares the end from the beginning, even declaring from ancient times things that had not come to pass in Isaiah's time, but would come to pass, ...and eventually did happen. God's purposes will be established. In fact, in Isaiah 40-48, this is a recurring theme. There is none like Yahweh, ...He is the Creator of all. The nations are like a drop in the bucket to Him, ...like a mere speck of dust on the scales, meaningless, less than nothing. He reduces rulers to nothing. His understanding is inscrutable. In 41:22-23, Yahweh challenged other gods to declare the future, of what is to come. In vs. 25-26, He predicts a mighty warrior, who would come from the north and the east, who will march over rulers as if they were mud. “Who announced this first?” He asked. No one, but Him. In chapter 42, He prophesies about His Servant, His Chosen One, describing the character and ministry of Jesus. In 44:6, Yahweh calls Himself the “first and the last” and declares that “there is no God but Me”. In vs. 7, He asks, “Who, like Me, can announce the future? Let these other gods declare the coming things, and what will take place.” He predicts that Judah and Jerusalem will be rebuilt by a man named Cyrus (44:25-28). At the time Yahweh declared this to Isaiah, Israel had not even been destroyed, ...and Cyrus would not be born for over 100 years! Nevertheless, God called him by name, and would bring him to power to accomplish His purposes, ...even though Cyrus did not know Yahweh. In 45:21, He challenged the so-called other gods, “Who has predicted this, or announced it from ancient times? Is it not Me, Yahweh? There is no one like Me.” In 47, He predicts the demise of Babylon. It will happen suddenly and unexpectedly (vs. 4). Their prognosticators and astrologers will not see this coming. In 48:3, Yahweh again said that He had declared past events before they took place, and had announced them before they happened, so that no one else could claim to have known them.

These are just declarative statements from nine chapters of one prophetic book. J. Barton Payne, in the *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecy* (Baker Publishing, 1980), page 675, determined that about 27% of the Bible is predictive prophecy. When those prophecies were written, or pronounced, they were declarative statements about the

future. So, **over one fourth of the Bible is material describing future events, ...over 1800 prophecies!** Of those, **over half have already been fulfilled exactly as God had predicted!**

The amount of prophecy in the Bible is one of the features that makes it unique among the religious literature of the world. There is no comparable emphasis on prophecy in the Quran and the Hadiths of Islam, the Vedas and Upanishads of Hinduism, the Tipitaka of Buddhism, the Kojiki of Shintoism, the Dao De Jing of Taoism, or even the Book of Shadows of Wiccan paganism. **None of these so-called “sacred texts” has anything to compare with the emphasis on prophetic declarations and fulfillments from God and His prophets, and recorded in the Bible. Clearly, Yahweh knows the future, ...and knows that no one else can state future events with accuracy like He does.**

So, when someone makes the statement that “God does not know the future”, I have to ask, “Did you read the Book?” It is so obvious that He does, ...and He has made it to be a test stone that HE is the only God. *I didn’t decide that, ...HE did!* He is the One that put that out there as a test. God is omniscient. He knows everything. There is nothing hidden from Him. Psalm 139 says that He knows our thoughts. He knows what we would say, even before we say it. When we were still unformed in the womb of our mother, He wrote down the days of our lives that are designated to us. David rightly said, “Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is too high, I cannot attain to it.”

The second thing to clearly state, when considering God’s statements to people about the future, is that God does not share everything with us. He has not chosen to give us all the information. Deuteronomy 29:29 says that “the secret things belong to Yahweh our God, but the things revealed belong to us and our children”. **The Bible speaks of “mysteries”. A mystery is information about something that is not available to us.** It is hidden, out of our awareness, or not plainly revealed. **We need to understand that there is a great deal that we don’t know. Obviously, there is an immense amount of information that simply is beyond our capability to possibly understand, right now.** We don’t have the mental or experiential capacity to even begin to grasp it, ...so God has not shared that with us. **But there are other things, ...things about His plan, His purpose, His working in the world, ...things about events that happened in the past, or are happening right now, or will happen in the future..., that He also has not chosen to share with us.** Again, we are not omniscient, so we couldn’t take in everything, anyway, ...but there are other things that possibly we *could* understand, ...or at least partially understand..., that He has not chosen to share with us. **Some of that is just that we don’t need to know, ...and, in some cases, we would misunderstand or misuse, or misconstrue, ...or things which must remain hidden until it is time for them to come to pass. We have to trust God’s character and wisdom regarding what He shares with us.** ***It could very well mean that we do not have enough information to accurately understand some of the prophetic information given to us in the scriptures. Some things may have to be revealed in time, before they can accurately be understood.***

A third very important point to make, as we begin to pursue an understanding of the prophetic information given to us is that God is the Revealer of Mysteries. In the second chapter of the book of Daniel, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had a dream that was troubling him. He called for the wise men of Babylon, including the astrologers, soothsayers, magicians and occultic practitioners, to declare to him the dream and its interpretation. They said that they would be glad to give him the interpretation of his dream, if he would tell them what he had dreamed. He was suspicious of their abilities, and insisted that he would only know that they could give an accurate interpretation, if they could accurately tell him the content of what he had dreamt. Of course, they said that was unreasonable. No one could tell him the dream he had had in his sleep the night before. He insisted that if they could not tell him the dream, then they would be put to death as frauds! He ordered his soldiers to begin killing all the wise men in his kingdom. Daniel and his friends were in training to be “wise men”, so they would fall under this same sentence. When Daniel heard about this matter, he went in to the king to ask for a little time, so that he would be able to declare the matter to the king. That night, Daniel and his friends sought God in prayer, and He revealed the dream *and* its interpretation to Daniel in a dream in the night. The next day, he went into the king to report what had happened. The king asked, “Are you able to declare to me the dream, and its interpretation?” Daniel said, “None of the wise men, astrologers, soothsayers, magicians or occultic practitioners had been able to declare to the king what he asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days.” He went on to report both the dream and the interpretation to the king. The king was so awestruck that he fell on his face before Daniel, and honored Daniel’s God. We learn from this interactions of Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel, people can puzzle and stew over information that is unknown, ...or has been revealed but is symbolic or figurative or partial..., and still not understand. ***It is appropriate to respectfully ask God for revelation and wisdom, ...and He is capable of revealing unknown information, insight and wisdom to accurately perceive what God is revealing, ...understand what it means, ...and make practical application in response to what is being revealed. God is the Revealer of Mysteries, ...the One who brings what is hidden and beyond perception out into the open, so that we can see and put together things we had never entertained or understood before.***