

Dream On  
(Daniel 2: 19-47)

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**O Lord, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ,**

**Listen for the Word of God:**

**19-23** That night the answer to the mystery was given to Daniel in a vision. Daniel blessed the God of heaven, saying,

“Blessed be the name of God,  
forever and ever.

He knows all, does all:

He changes the seasons and guides history,  
He raises up kings and also brings them down,  
he provides both intelligence and discernment,  
He opens up the depths, tells secrets,  
sees in the dark—light spills out of him!

God of all my ancestors, all thanks! all praise!

You made me wise and strong.

And now you’ve shown us what we asked for.

You’ve solved the king’s mystery.”

**24** So Daniel went back to Arioch, who had been put in charge of the execution. He said, “Call off the execution! Take me to the king and I’ll interpret his dream.”

**25** Arioch didn’t lose a minute. He ran to the king, bringing Daniel with him, and said, “I’ve found a man from the exiles of Judah who can interpret the king’s dream!”

**26** The king asked Daniel (renamed in Babylonian, Belteshazzar), “Are you sure you can do this—tell me the dream I had and interpret it for me?”

**27-28** Daniel answered the king, “No mere human can solve the king’s mystery, I don’t care who it is—no wise man, enchanter, magician, diviner. But there is a God in heaven who solves mysteries, and he has solved this one. He is letting King Nebuchadnezzar in on what is going to happen in the days ahead. This is the dream you had when you were lying on your bed, the vision that filled your mind:

**29-30** “While you were stretched out on your bed, O king, thoughts came to you regarding what is coming in the days ahead. The Revealer of Mysteries showed you what will happen. But the

interpretation is given through me, not because I'm any smarter than anyone else in the country, but so that you will know what it means, so that you will understand what you dreamed.

**31-36** “What you saw, O king, was a huge statue standing before you, striking in appearance. And terrifying. The head of the statue was pure gold, the chest and arms were silver, the belly and hips were bronze, the legs were iron, and the feet were an iron-ceramic mixture. While you were looking at this statue, a stone cut out of a mountain by an invisible hand hit the statue, smashing its iron-ceramic feet. Then the whole thing fell to pieces—iron, tile, bronze, silver, and gold, smashed to bits. It was like scraps of old newspapers in a vacant lot in a hot dry summer, blown every which way by the wind, scattered to oblivion. But the stone that hit the statue became a huge mountain, dominating the horizon. This was your dream.

**36-40** “And now we'll interpret it for the king. You, O king, are the most powerful king on earth. The God of heaven has given you the works: rule, power, strength, and glory. He has put you in charge of men and women, wild animals and birds, all over the world—you're the head ruler, you are the head of gold. But your rule will be taken over by another kingdom, inferior to yours, and that one by a third, a bronze kingdom, but still ruling the whole land, and after that by a fourth kingdom, ironlike in strength. Just as iron smashes things to bits, breaking and pulverizing, it will bust up the previous kingdoms.

**41-43** “But then the feet and toes that ended up as a mixture of ceramic and iron will deteriorate into a mongrel kingdom with some remains of iron in it. Just as the toes of the feet were part ceramic and part iron, it will end up a mixed bag of the breakable and unbreakable. That kingdom won't bond, won't hold together any more than iron and clay hold together.

**44-45** “But throughout the history of these kingdoms, the God of heaven will be building a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will this kingdom ever fall under the domination of another. In the end it will crush the other kingdoms and finish them off and come through it all standing strong and eternal. It will be like the stone cut from the mountain by the invisible hand that crushed the iron, the bronze, the ceramic, the silver, and the gold.

“The great God has let the king know what will happen in the years to come. This is an accurate telling of the dream, and the interpretation is also accurate.”

**46-47** When Daniel finished, King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face in awe before Daniel. He ordered the offering of sacrifices and burning of incense in Daniel's honor. He said to Daniel, “Your God is beyond question the God of all gods, the Master of all kings. And he solves all mysteries, I know, because you've solved this mystery.”

**This is the Word of the Lord.**

I can remember when I was younger always being fascinated by dreams. Both the idea of them and the visual in your mind's eye that dreams produce. I used to wake up and first thing I would do was run downstairs to recount my dreams to the first person I saw in the morning, so that I wouldn't forget the dream. Some historians debate whether Nebuchadnezzar forgot his dream or simply wanted it to be told to him as proof of wisdom, but much like Nebuchadnezzar, if we don't replay these dreams back to ourselves we can quickly forget them...Insert God.

In the visual representation of dreams you find a vision, a dream's purpose. That's why Daniel is brought forth. This is why Daniel is so important to the king, in that he provides understanding and purpose to this dream. He isn't the first in the bible to successfully interpret a dream.

Remember there's Joseph and his brothers and the prophet Jeremiah, but he does stand apart because of his ability to recount the king's dream without being told of it in the first place. In today's world we would immediately label Daniel a psychic. "Oh what magical mind-reading powers!" people might say. But here in Daniel we have a faithful servant, and it shows in his humility before he even begins to tell Nebuchadnezzar of his dream. "No mere human can solve the king's mystery, I don't care who it is—no wise man, enchanter, magician, diviner. But there is a God in heaven who solves mysteries, and he has solved this one" Daniel exclaims (Daniel 2: 27-28). Daniel is hammering in this truth that we are who we are solely thanks to the glory and power of God. Daniel is wise in prefacing that he only understands this dream because God has allowed him to. Through the interpretation of the dream itself Daniel is making known to Nebuchadnezzar that he is king because God put him there, but as shown through the dream God also has the power to take away his kingdom, and he will.

To even begin to understand a dream's purpose and God's purpose for a dream we must first understand what a dream is. Dreams come in two forms, conscious and subconscious. Conscious dreams can be related to words such as aspirations or goals. The subconscious dream is equivalent to the ones Nebuchadnezzar experiences throughout Daniel and the ones we have when we are fast asleep. God not only produces the dreams in our sleep, the Lord is the one who inspires us with passion, aspirations, and dreams for a better tomorrow. God inspires us through

dreams to thrust ourselves into the future. We look in our dreams towards something that at the present time is fantasy, but it carries meaning for our tomorrow. Through imagination we set goals for ourselves to create reality. Now it is important to note that we can dream all we want, but if we don't understand the purpose of that dream they fall flat. They end up as "what ifs", they simply die. The term failed dreams is one I hear quite a bit. It's one you hear a lot playing pick-up basketball. My coach used to say "these courts are full of failed dreams. Guys who wished they could've been professional or have played in college." I'd say a lot is due to not trusting in God's plan for them or never realized where God really wanted them. Often we get caught up in what we want and ignore the gifts, talents, and people God has surrounded us with to pursue our dream. Our dreams call for trust in God's guiding hand. Sometimes we are inspired by our dreams and aspirations, but lose sight of why God provided us with the inspiration and we fall to a pursuit through selfishness and greed, forgetting that Christ himself taught us to live not for ourselves, but for the well-being of others.

So I pose this question, where does faithfulness play a role in our dreaming? The name Daniel means "God is my judge". Throughout his life Daniel continues to dream and be faithful in the midst of a rule in which God is not the Lord of Lords and King of Kings to all people. In reality he is in the minority, yet maintains such an unwavering faith...how? As you pursue your dreams and aspirations the world will present obstacles, but how do we stay aligned with God's will? Faith. Easy in understanding but so difficult in practice. We should ASPIRE to be as faithful as Daniel. We should yearn to be faithful dreamers.

2003. That is the year that a dream for a presbyterian church in Lakewood Ranch began to grow. Powered by faithful dreamers that dream found its vision in the calling of a beyond capable pastor in Elizabeth Deibert. (November 2013). That is the month that Peace Presbyterian Church found its permanent home. I've only been here a summer but I know that ever since moving here there has been a dream to construct a sanctuary on property. In the movie Field of Dreams, a movie about an Iowa farmer who hears a voice telling him to plow his corn field and construct a baseball field. The voice repeats throughout the movie "If you build it, they will come". "If you

build it they will come.” The vision for a sanctuary at Peace has always been one that provides this congregation with a space to worship God with more than the limits of this former office building.

However, there is a lesson to be learned from Daniel. In the construction of this sanctuary it is crucial to remain faithful dreamers. It is imperative that throughout this process the purpose is not only to have a new place of worship, but to have a house that is able to welcome a growing community of God’s children so that you are better suited to meet the needs of God’s people. A house that allows you to spread God’s love and Christ’s compassion to a community in need. Keep your eye on the purpose God has for the dream. What is God’s will for the dream?

Chance the Rapper says in his song “Blessings”, “Don’t believe in Kings, believe in the Kingdom.” Is that not God’s message to Nebuchadnezzar in the interpretation of his dream? To believe in the kingdom that will rise out the rubble and ash...a future that won’t waver, from this rock forms a mountain! So I charge you, don’t believe in the dream but believe and have faith in the vision. Believe in the vision of a new sanctuary providing Peace with the means to serve a greater number of God’s people and impact more lives. The dream that encompasses worldly kingdoms as well as the kingdom of God.

As this is my last Sunday here at Peace I have taken some time to reflect on my summer. If you were here the last time i preached you know I spoke on the idea of being a faithful listener. That’s what this summer was all about for me. Being a faithful listener and through that being faithful in the present. Living in the day-to-day present life of Peace Presbyterian, creating and nurturing relationships with incredible youth and inspiring members....Listening.

But as I think about myself further I am brought back to this idea of a faithful dreamer. Through this faithful listening I’ve allowed myself to hear God’s call to move on the opportunity to be a Young Adult Volunteering mission, YAVs, a program in the Presbyterian church that sends people between the ages of 19 and 30 to cities around the country and a few cities internationally

serving those communities...the opportunity for a faithful future. You see faithful listening creates faith in the present while faithful dreaming creates a faithful future. This is a dream as I pivot from one stage of life to the next. Leaving Tallahassee to embark on my next adventure.

We must have a willingness to allow a dream to be shaped in a Godly direction, using the gifts & dreams that God has given to you. Now, we can easily take those gifts, talents, people placed in our lives and run...run until we see success, separate from the success of bettering God's kingdom. But that leaves us complacent. Complacent with success for ourselves, stuck in selfish intent. But to faithfully dream we are called to be bold and boldness does NOT involve complacency. Boldness means you push forward. Boldness means you dream with your faith at the forefront of your mind. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed boldly. John Lennon dreamed boldly. Harriet Tubman dreamed boldly. I leave you with this quote from Ms. Tubman emphasizing our need to understand and to know that through God we have vision for a better future, *"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world."*

Dream On my friends, Dream On.

Amen.

Hymn #383