

# **“Thriving in Babylon”**

## ***Seeing God Over All***

### **Daniel 2**

*Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Peter LaRuffa / Mar 11, 2018*

---

**I. Don't miss out on “now” because you're waiting for “wow.” Even in the seemingly mundane, God is always at work!**

If you think God's first appearance is in Daniel 2:19, you're missing it. God's **providence** was at work, in every aspect as the events unfolded, from beginning to end.

#### **Everything is a “God thing.”**

- a. God **KEEPS** us existing.

**Psa. 54:4** – Behold, God is my helper; **the Lord is the upholder of my life.**

**Psa. 55:22** – Cast your burden upon the Lord, **and he will sustain you.**

**Col. 1:17** – And he is before all things, **and in him all things hold together.**

- b. God **COOPERATES** with our every decision & action.

**Eph. 1:11** – In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him **who works all things according to the counsel of his will...**

**Prov. 16:33** – The lot is cast into the lap, **but its every decision is from the Lord.**

**Prov. 20:24** – **A man's steps are from the Lord;** how then can man understand his way?

- c. God **DIRECTS** all things to fulfill His purposes.

**Rom. 8:28** – And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called **according to his purpose.**

**Prov. 16:4** – **The Lord has made everything for its purpose,** even the wicked for the day of trouble.

Don't wait around for the proverbial “God-thing.” Waiting for the “wow” will cause you to overlook what God is doing in the “now,” the everyday, seemingly mundane events of your life. Every circumstance, everything about you, every opportunity

you're afforded, and even the ones you're not, are all covered with the fingerprints of our sovereign, gracious God.

## II. 3 Ways To Cultivate a Sense of "Wow" in the "Now"

- 1) **PRAY first** (...and use "grace" & "mercy" language as much as possible).

**Dan. 2:17-18** - <sup>17</sup> Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, <sup>18</sup> **and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery**, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Mercy & grace language reminds us that we're already being treated infinitely better than we deserve, so to receive anything additional is truly extraordinary.

- 2) **PRAISE now** (...and be as specific as you can).

**Dan. 2:21-23** - <sup>21</sup> changes times and seasons...removes kings and sets up kings... <sup>22</sup> reveals deep and hidden things...knows what is in the darkness... <sup>23</sup> you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter.

Praising God sooner rather than later helps us to specifically call to mind exactly how He has helped us, blessed us, and shown us His favor yet again. (Don't feel bad going overboard, just like Daniel!)

- 3) **POINT to God soon** (...and acknowledge His work as much as possible).

**Dan. 2:28,30,45** - <sup>28</sup> but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:... <sup>30</sup> But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind... <sup>45</sup> A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

Pointing to God reminds and teaches others that the good we're doing is a work of God in and through us. Look for that opportunity, and jump on it!

**Questions for Personal Reflection and/or Small Group discussion:**

- (A) Pastor Peter said “Everything is a ‘God thing.’” What do you think of that?
- (B) Do you think you’re looking too hard for God in the “wow,” and perhaps missing Him in the “now”?
- (C) Pastor Peter said oftentimes he’s more excited about God’s providence than His miracles. Does that statement resonate with you? Why or why not?
- (D) Is it hard for you to pray “first”? Why or why not?
- (E) Pastor Peter said “God sets Himself up to receive the most glory possible in a situation.” Can you recall a time in your life when you’ve seen that to be true?
- (F) Of the **3 Ways To Cultivate a Sense of “Wow” in the “Now”**, which one can you implement this week?