

AUTHOR OF REVELATION

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Daniel 4:1-18

Calvary Church of Pacific Palisades

August 28, 2011 ♦ Sunday Morning Worship

Fairweather Mountain. Running out of gas, have to turn back. Can't see anything. Clear view only 20 days a year ... the rest of the time flying above the clouds, in a dense fog. The skies open, and grandeur of the mountains come clearly into view. Exhilarating. p. 5 Looking into bathroom mirror after hot shower (obscure). Driving in a blinding snowstorm (white out) Where am I headed? Why have things gone the way they have? Where was God in all that? Ready to take the next step, waiting for an open door, some confirmation, looking for a sign from God. Wouldn't love to wake up every morning, crystal clear on where God is taking you?

Please open your Bibles to Daniel 4 ... page 628.

Searching for the Holy Spirit in the OT. ***"the spirit of the holy gods."*** 4 times ... ***author of revelation.*** Here we encounter a pagan king (Nebuchadnezzar ... most powerful warlord) who recognizes the Spirit's work in the life of a servant named Daniel (Babylonian name Belteshazzar). Daniel's special gifts, his knowledge/understanding, evidence of God's Spirit ... **UNDENIABLE** power.

Takes place in 600 BC or 600 BCE if you're PC. Babylonian kingdom; country of Iraq. Powerful kingdom had conquered Jeru and conscripted the Jews living in Israel to work as servant, slaves, managers and wise men (interpreters and advisors) in the greatest city in the world, not NYC, LA ... Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar built Babylon, which became one of the 7 wonders for the world, the Hanging Gardens ... Ishtar gates, currently housed in an archaeological museum in Istanbul.

Read vv. 1-4 Nebuchadnezzar praises God most high ... favorable interpretation of a dream. He was on top of the world ... But he had a problem, a dilemma, he had a bad dream, it was more of a nightmare. FEAR, TERROR and he couldn't shake it.

Read vv. 5-7 So he called his advisors, psychologists, psychics, physicians. But none of them could interpret it. Until Daniel showed up.

Read vv. 8,9 Notice how Nebuchadnezzar described, ***"the spirit of the gods is in him"***. Nebuchad knew that Daniel could reveal the truth ... disperse the fog, give an accurate interpretation. He had previously interpreted a dream no one else could unlock, and the interpretation was favorable.

Daniel could have been a Market Predictor, buy sell, run for the hills. Nebuchad tells the dream ...

Read vv. 10-18 Daniel was disturbed ... **Read v. 19** if only this were about your enemies. Tree is YOU. Cut down. 7 years you're going to chew the cud with barnyard animals, lose your marbles/dignity.

Read v. 25 Diagnosis ... AIP. Acute intermittent Porphyria. Metabolic disorder.

Madness of King George III... 1780's regency crisis House Season 1 Episode #6, S4E4, S4E6, Other forms S3E9, S5E10, S7E10. Doc Martin (more my speed BBC) S4E2 ...

Disturbed ...Nebuchadnezzar knew the one filled with "the Spirit of the gods" could reveal the meaning Disregarded. **Read v. 28-30** Boasting of his greatness, the Most High God would bring the king low. How the mighty have fallen. It could happen to anyone, it did happen to him.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE AUTHOR OF REVELATION ...

If indeed the Holy Spirit is the author of revelation and you are dying to know the truth (clarity), then ask the Spirit (like Nebuchad did) to break through the fog and reveal the truth.

How does the Spirit reveal truth? **1st Through Spirit led, Spirit filled servants like Daniel.** Listen carefully to your spiritual advisors. Ask them for an interpretation. Daniel didn't break and enter, king asked for interpretation, and Daniel gave it to him. He had permission to speak.

2nd Spirit speaks to us it through the scriptures, Spirit is the author of revelation.

2 Tim 3:16 ... All scripture is inspired by God and is profitable.

2 Peter 1:21 ... men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

3rd The Spirit reveals truth through visions & dreams (Psalm 16 even at night heart instructs me)

4th The Spirit reveals truth through the spoken word, living word Jesus, written word Bible.

Whenever truth is revealed, it is the Spirit who reveals it.

While Nebuchadnezzar referred to the Holy Spirit as “the spirit of the holy gods” 4 times ... Jesus refers to Holy Spirit as Spirit of Truth three times in John 14,15,16.

Please turn in your Bibles to John 14. Page 763.

Jesus speaking to disciples. Great to have me with you; but there is something and someone much better.

My Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth ... who will live in you and bring clarity to life.

Read John 14:15-17 SPIRIT OF TRUTH ... THE AUTHOR OF REVELATION. John 14:26

... teaching is active; changes the way we live.

Not just inform our minds, but live in us and transform our lives. What Nebu saw in Daniel.

The truth the Spirit reveals produces TRANSFORMATION.

Ill. C.I. Sheffield (instructor at the GM training school in Garland, Texas). Brilliant; describe the physics/mechanics of AC. White lab coat, black rimmed glasses w/ Coke bottle lenses, double tiered Pocket protector, thermometer, micrometer ... I had found my mentor. Finally found someone who could explain to me how to remove the heat from air. I wanted to pick his brain.

Sat on the front row, asked all they questions that came to mind. Then the demonstration.

You don't really know the truth if you haven't experienced it, used it, applied it, transformed by it.

Read John 16:13 ¹³ **But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth.**

The truth the Spirit reveals provides UNDERSTANDING.

Pull back the clouds ... wipes the fog off the bathroom mirror ... shows us who we are and where we are going; guide us into all truth.

Ill. Understanding the Bible. Jibberish before trusted Jesus. Have to receive in order to understand.

Ill. APPLICATION ... not what do I think this means, but how does God want me to apply this.

Ephesian 6:1 “Parents, do not exasperate...” God, show me how to encourage child's heart for God.

Read John 16:14-15. That's when sky opens up, we get just a peek of what's really going on.

The truth the Spirit reveals makes us CONFIDENT.

Ill. Where is God in this? How does God feel about me? Rely on what Father has done for us. WOW!

Romans 8:32 (NIV84) ³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

EVERYTHING God has is ours. Wisdom and revelation, pull back the clouds, dispel the fog, clarity.

Conclusion:

“the spirit of the holy gods” is the breath of life, the restrainer of evil, the giver of gifts ... Spirit gives us words to speak when we don't know what to say, and reveals the truth to us so we can be transformed, understand God's plan, and live with confidence.

If you are above the clouds, in a fog, ask God to reveal the truth to you BY THE SPIRIT. Author of REV.