

Daniel 2

The Dream of a King



Chapter 2 — Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

- ◆ They're in Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar thinks he's the one getting the glory in this chapter, but we'll see that it's God — 2:22 — He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light.
- ◆ God can and will use whomever He wants, even superstitious Gentile unbelievers — His will will be accomplished

Daniel 2

- ◆ The God of Dreams

- ◆ Job 33:15 — He speaks in dreams, in visions of the night, when deep sleep falls on people as they lie in their beds.

God uses dreams

- ◆ He gives dreams to Gentiles, too
 - ◆ Gen 41 — Pharaoh received two dreams and Joseph interpreted them
 - ◆ Matt 2 — God gave dream to magi to worship Jesus
- ◆ in chapter 2 of Daniel, God is directly communicating with a world-dominating king

Be careful with dreams and always
test them against the Scripture

- ◆ God can still speak through dreams today if He pleases
 - ◆ He guides us today by His Holy Spirit as we pray, seek His face, meditate on His Word and consult with our spiritual leaders
- ◆ Dreams may not come from the Lord
 - ◆ Jeremiah 23:25-32 — demonic forces can cause dreams that are Satan's lies and not God's truth

- ◆ Chapter 2 and Nebuchadnezzar's Dream
- ◆ this chapter is built around a nightmare
- ◆ it made the king tremble in his dream
- ◆ it woke him up and he couldn't get back to sleep
- ◆ it was a dream of great significance for his future and he couldn't understand it

Daniel 2:1-3

- ◆ One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. 2 He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. As they stood before the king, 3 he said, "I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means."

- ◆ he woke up from this dream
- ◆ he didn't know what it meant
- ◆ he was upset
- ◆ he calls for his advisors
 - ◆ they would have been involved in the occult

Daniel 2:4

- ◆ Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, “Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.”
- ◆ they want him to tell them what he dreamed

Daniel 2:5-6

- ◆ 5 But the king said to the astrologers, "I am serious about this. If you don't tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble! 6 But if you tell me what I dreamed and what the dream means, I will give you many wonderful gifts and honors. Just tell me the dream and what it means!"

- ◆ he woke up from this nightmare and calls his "wise" men
- ◆ he wanted them to tell him what he dreamed AND the interpretation of it
- ◆ he tested them - in the unknown future AND the unknown past
- ◆ he wanted to know if they could do what they were paid to do
- ◆ he didn't make idle threats - if he said he was going to do something then he did it - he was furious

- ◆ did he really forget the dream?
- ◆ probably not
- ◆ anyone can be told a dream and make up and interpretation
- ◆ Nebuchadnezzar wanted them to tell him what he dreamed AND what it meant

Daniel 2:7-9

- ◆ 7 They said again, "Please, Your Majesty. Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means." 8 The king replied, "I know what you are doing! You're stalling for time because you know I am serious when I say, 9 'If you don't tell me the dream, you are doomed.' So you have conspired to tell me lies, hoping I will change my mind. But tell me the dream, and then I'll know that you can tell me what it means."
- ◆ they were stalling - they knew they were going to die
- ◆ notice what he tells them in verse 9 "there is but one decree for you"

Daniel 2:10-11

- ◆ 10 The astrologers replied to the king, “No one on earth can tell the king his dream! And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or astrologer! 11 The king’s demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people.”
- ◆ they couldn’t do it — this is probably the first time they’re really telling the truth
- ◆ they knew they were as good as dead

Daniel 2:12-13

- ◆ 12 The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed.
13 And because of the king's decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends.

Daniel 2:14-16

- ◆ 14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. 15 He asked Arioch, "Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?" So Arioch told him all that had happened. 16 Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.
- ◆ Arioch was the captain of executioners
- ◆ Daniel asked for a little time because he had to consult with Someone
- ◆ he had such confidence in the Lord - he knew he would die if he couldn't do this
- ◆ notice Daniel's calmness — what a lesson for us!
- ◆ he was probably around 19 years old

- ◆ this was a great opportunity for the “wise” men to be promoted and receive great wealth and prestige, but they couldn't meet the challenge
- ◆ this set the stage for Daniel to exalt the TRUE and LIVING God of Israel who alone can predict the future
- ◆ Isaiah 41:21-23 — mocking how idols can't tell the past or the future

Daniel 2:17-18

- ◆ 17 Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. 18 He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon.
- ◆ prayer meeting time!
- ◆ prayer was Daniel's first resort, not last

Daniel 2:19-23

- ◆ 19 That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. 20 He said, "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. 21 He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. 22 He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. 23 I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."

- ◆ they called on the One, True, Living God that could answer
 - ◆ they were asking for an undeserved favor to be given them, the answer to the dream
- ◆ there is power in united prayer
 - ◆ Matthew 18:20 — For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”
- ◆ it's not just getting together for one person to pray and the others listen - they all prayed

- ◆ after he prayed, he gave thanks
- ◆ these were prayers of “please” and “thank you”
- ◆ because of this prayer and thankful heart, Daniel received a vision and the explanation of future world history

- ◆ Daniel was a man of prayer!
- ◆ we need to learn from him
- ◆ in our times of crisis
- ◆ in our times of unbelief
- ◆ in our times of frustration
- ◆ in our times of confusion

Daniel 2:24-28

- ◆ 24 Then Daniel went in to see Arioch, whom the king had ordered to execute the wise men of Babylon. Daniel said to him, “Don’t kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream.”
- ◆ 25 Arioch quickly took Daniel to the king and said, “I have found one of the captives from Judah who will tell the king the meaning of his dream!”
- ◆ 26 The king said to Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar), “Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?”
- ◆ 27 Daniel replied, “There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king’s secret. 28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future (latter days). Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.