

Daniel 2

Daniel 2:¹ In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. ²Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. ³And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.” ⁴Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.” ⁵The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. ⁶But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation.” ⁷They answered a second time and said, “Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation.” ⁸The king answered and said, “I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm— ⁹if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation.” ¹⁰The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. ¹¹The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” ¹²Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. ¹³So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they

sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. ¹⁴Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁵He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. ¹⁶And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king. ¹⁷Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸and 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. ¹⁹Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. ²⁰Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. ²¹He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; ²²he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. ²³To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for 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." ²⁴Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation." ²⁵Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation." ²⁶The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" ²⁷Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king

the mystery that the king has asked, ²⁸but 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: ²⁹To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. ³⁰But 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. ³¹“You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. ³²The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, ³³its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. ³⁶“This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. ³⁷You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, ³⁸and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. ³⁹Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. ⁴¹And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and

partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. ⁴²And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay. ⁴⁴And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, ⁴⁵just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.” ⁴⁶Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. ⁴⁷The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.” ⁴⁸Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

1. Even if you are rich and powerful you might not be able to sleep.

Neb. PORTRAYED as having ABSOLUTE POWER

Biblical Story > MOST Powerful man on EARTH

Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. Daniel 1.1

Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility... Daniel 1.3

Like the ISIS Forces are CUTTING Thru IRAQ like Melted BUTTER

NO MAN on Earth could STOP Neb. – Uncontested Monarch on EARTH

Book of Daniel > there is SOVEREIGN God in HEAVEN!

It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; *for he gives to his beloved sleep.* Psalm 127.2

Sometimes GOD gives people GIFT of SLEEP during MY Sermons!

v. 1 In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him.

2nd Year – of Israel's Captivity? Of UNIFIED Empire? Not LONG in....

HEIGHT of Power > Anticipate LONG Reign > Very EARLY Cannot Sleep

NOTHING Good happens in Life without GOOD NIGHTS Sleep

SLEEP Clinics, Doctors, Machines, Pills, Treatments > VITAL NEED!

Blessing NAME BLAIR sounds like BEAR > We all SLEEP SOUNDLY!

Kid's Camp Counselor > Woke Up 6 Campers looking at Me

“Wow, Pastor Mark! You really SNORE Loud!” Like WIFE Says! Never Heard!

Then & NOW – Especially in places without BIBLE > God speaks DREAMS

End Civil War in USA, April 15, 1865: Pres. Abraham LINCOLN met Generals

Gather write up Terms of Peace / In Morning Told DREAM from Night Before
 Indescribable Sailing Vessel Moving for Glorious, Infinite Unending Shoreline
 That NIGHT President Lincoln Assassinated

MANY REASONS – for Lack of Sleep – Physical, Mental, Spiritual

Paul in PRISON: Threat of Death – Peacefully Speaks to Roman Governor Felix

And when the governor had nodded to him to speak, Paul replied: "...I cheerfully make my defense.. this I confess to you, that according to the Way, which they call a sect, I worship the God of our fathers, believing everything laid down by the Law and written in the Prophets, having a hope in God, which these men themselves accept, that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust. *So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man*"

Acts 24.10-16

2. Power leads to Paranoia

Higher you CLIMB on LADDER of Human Power, More see how Short you Are

Neb treated like GOD – Knew LIE – God NOT Need Successor or Substitute

FLATTERERS and FALSE Prophets > Could NOT Help his Troubled Soul

Out of RAGE and EMPTINESS he Shows his PARANOIA

v. 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins.

v. 12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed.

More this POWERFUL Man attains, More DESPERATE he is to KEEP it!

Even if have NO POWER > Still sometimes LASH Out in ANGER at Others

Modern Theologians: "SHOCK of Possible Non-Being" / MORTALITY

“Vanity of vanities, says the Preacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity” Ecclesiastes 1.2

Neb. sees Thru SCAM of Interpreters – IF know Meaning should KNOW Dream

v. 3 And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.”

3. The servant of God serves even pagans, we “live and die” together.

Ch 1 – NOBLE Behavior of Daniel & 3 Friends was to SAY NO!

Ch 2 – RIGHT thing to DO was to SAY YES! – Way to LIVE!!

MORE than Self-Preservation – Save other YOUNG Scholars / KING / Nation

vs. 13-16 So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, “Why is the decree of the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

AMIDST the CHAOS – Daniel Keeps his Head – He alone acts DECISIVELY

His PEACE in this PANIC > Based on FAITH in God – Sovereign, Trustworthy

Secret of Kingdom of God > Try to KEEP your Life, you will LOSE it

In GIVING Life Away, FIND Life >> Greatest in Kingdom is SERVANT of All

4. The servant of God does not command and control the gifts and power of God.

Daniel is CONFIDENT in God but NOT COCKY about his PLAN

vs. 27,28 Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 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...

TODAY some “Name it, Claim it” Preachers > think they COMMAND God

IF the Lord wills.... Daniel will receive the VISION, Meaning of DREAM!

ANXIOUS Tension runs thru Entire Story > before Execution begins...

v. 25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation...."

Before Killing starts > Servant CALMS his Mentally Deranged King

Grand Announcement > There is a God in Heaven who Reveals Dreams!

5. The Kingdoms of this World are Conquered by the Kingdom of God

Interpretation: Comes from God > MEANING: God is Lord of this World

v. 21 "He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings"

Thru Dream God gives Neb. GLIMPSE of the SPAN on Human History

Neb. occupies PRIVILEGED Position > Head of GOLD on Massive Statue!

Most SCHOLARS believe these METALS describe these MAJOR Kingdoms



FOCUS Not on Gold Statue but on STONE that CRUSHED THEM...

v. 44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever...

Daniel describes what FEW Captive Judeans bound in Babylon Understood

HISTORY is HIS STORY > Outworking of HIS Power and Providence

kingdoms of men		Kingdom of God
Human	ORIGIN	Divine
Temporary	DURATION	Eternal
Overcome by each succeeding kingdom	POWER	Unconquerable

6. Every Person will Praise God

Judah's EXILE was Divine Punishment for Failing to Give Him GLORY

Thus they became unclean by their acts, and played the whore in their deeds. Then the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people, and he abhorred his heritage; he gave them into the hand of the nations, so that those who hated them ruled over them. Their enemies oppressed them, and they were brought into subjection under their power. Many times he delivered them, but they were rebellious in their purposes and were brought low through their iniquity. Nevertheless, he looked upon their distress, when he heard their cry. For their sake he remembered his covenant, and relented according to the abundance of his steadfast love. He caused them to be pitied by all those who held them captive. Save us, O LORD our God, and gather us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name and glory in your praise. Psalm 106.39-47

Historians CANNOT Believe the END of this Story > Great Neb. BOWS Down?

vs. 46-47 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery."

We'll see more of Neb's Spiritual Journey in this Book / UPS and DOWNS

What we SEE is PREVIEW of What we WILL SEE on Final DAY

Every KNEE, Every TONGUE, Every KING & Commoner, Man, Woman

1715 – King Louis 14 of France Died – called self “The Great”

Said “I am the State” - His Court was most Magnificent in Europe

Spectacular Funeral – Body lay in Gold Coffin in center of Great Cathedral

For Dramatic Effect, just ONE Candle lighted above the Coffin

Bishop gave One Sentence Funeral Message – Walked over – Blew OUT Candle

“Only God is Great!”