

## (7-7-24) DANIEL 2- THE KING DISTURBED - DANIEL'S DELIVERY .

**Intro:** In Ch. 1 as Judah was captured by the Babylonian Empire,  
Dozens of young men were taken back to the capital to be paganized.

- \* Daniel and 3 others showed themselves to be young men with uncompromising character, in the midst of the larger group who complied with the paganism and sinned against God.
- \* Because of the faithfulness of Daniel and his friends, God blessed them immensely, with great knowledge, skill and wisdom, which caused the king to elevate them.
- \* There are 2 main lessons we can learn from this following chapter.

### 1. Character and integrity will get you through a crisis.

- As the story continues, the character of Daniel and his friends will deliver the king and nation from a terrible situation.
- Daniel's faith is what connected him to God, which gave him God's wisdom, understanding, and favor, so he could deliver Babylon's wise men from certain death.

### 2. Character and integrity make's a person useful to God. (1a)

- Because Daniel loved and obeyed God, the result of this situation was that God revealed to Him the most detailed picture of the future of the world, ever given in scripture.
- And notice in 1a that God gave Nebuchadnezzar a dream in his 2<sup>nd</sup> full year of rulership, which was right at the time when Daniel and the others had graduated college.
- The point is- God used Daniel to reveal the king's dream when he was a late teenager, immediately after he was placed into the personal service of the king.
- \* This was not normal for God to do. Mostly, before God used someone in a great way, He took them through a lengthy time of hardship, to train and mature them.
- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob experienced this; Moses was in the desert 40 years. Joseph went to prison, David was tested as a young shepherd, then hunted by Saul 10 years, and Israel was 40 years in the wilderness.
- But God put Daniel up front before the nation and the king immediately, which launched him into high leadership as a very young man.
- Not many people are ever able to be used of God in this way.

## I. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CRISIS. (1-13)

### **A. THE KING'S DREAMS. (1- read, [28b-29] )**

\* Vs 1 says the king had dreams; But notice **v28b-29 (read)**. This tell us further, that he also had visions as he was awake, while contemplating what the future held.

@ Background history--- Understand that at this point, Nebuchadnezzar was a new king.

\* History shows that in 725 BC Assyria took Israel's 10 northern tribes.

\* In 632 Babylon and Assyria made an alliance, but Babylon soon took over Assyria in 612 BC.

\* In 5 years, king Nebo sent his son General-Nebuchadnezzar to take Egypt, and in 605, as he was headed home, he took Judah as well. (Jewish boys taken)

\* But while Nebuchadnezzar was conquering Judah, his dad died in late August, and Nebuchadnezzar had to rush home to be installed as king in mid-September.

\* **Now, a few years later**, Daniel (other 3) have graduated, are very wise, and have been elevated to new leadership, and v29 says the king's "mind turned to things to come".

\* Ch. 3 and 4 reveal how arrogant Nebuchadnezzar was. He built a statue to himself for him to be worshipped, and he took all the glory for the greatness of Babylon.

\* So now he contemplates the future (29a) He thinks- "awe, the Empire has grown, it's the largest in the world (to that time), it's great, Dad's gone, I'm famous, I have UNLIMITED control, and I have new, young, wise leaders; How much more can I conquer?"

\* He is thinking what covetous rulers think about- Pharoah, Tiglath-Pileser, Alexander - great, Stalin, Hitler, Putin, Sadam Hussien, Erdogan (Turkey), The Ayatollah's, China, etc.

@ **So-- as the king thinks on these things**, Vs 28 says God gave him visions (dreams while awake) and dreams as he slept, to show him the future.

\* But his dreams and visions were senseless to him, and being arrogant, he wanted to know exactly what's coming so he could prepare. All this made him troubled and sleepless.

\* "Troubled" (deeply disturbed). Why? He's the most powerful king, and has everything.

\* Answer- Peace belongs to God, and God must grant it, and the king doesn't know Him.

\* He thinks he's got it all, but he's severely troubled about the future.

**App-** This depicts the lost. They may think they have all they want, but mention the future, and often, fear comes because they either don't know it, or they do, and they fear it.

\* This king was successful in every human way imaginable, but he was Godless, and afraid.

**@ Interesting question.** The dream reveals prophecy about the future,  
so why did God give this info to this godless pagan king?

\* Why not give it to godly Daniel, or Jeremiah, or Ezekiel who would soon be brought to Babylon?

\* **4 reasons God gave this information to arrogant, ungodly Nebuchadnezzar.**

**1. God wanted the dream to be taken seriously.**

- Had God only given these dreams to Daniel, it's doubtful many would have paid attention, including the king, since Daniel was just a late teen, and a newcomer to leadership.
- But if the king got this information in a troubling way, the whole kingdom would hear about it.

**2. God wanted to show Himself Sovereign over all.**

- By doing this, God showed that He can use anyone he wants, even a wicked lost king.
  - Jeremiah prophesied in 27:4ff that Nebuchadnezzar was God's "servant".
  - This was true in the sense that he was God's human instrument to carry out God's purposes.
- App-** God can, has, does, and will use wicked people to fulfill his plans. (Rev 17:12-13, 17)

**3. God was working to humble this king, and show him who God is.**

- Here's this pagan king who thinks he has it all, and saw himself as a god to be worshipped, and God started on Him by making him fearful, to begin humbling him before God.
- This didn't work right away, because as an arrogant man, we see in chapter 3 that the king only used the information Daniel revealed, to gain worship for himself.
- But in time, God will bring this man to embrace what's necessary to know Him-- recognizing sinfulness, guilt, shame and humility, and submission to the Lord.

**4. God used him because - the message in these dreams was for the whole world.**

- This is information about the coming events of all history leading up to Jesus' return.
- Few, if any, would have accepted this from a 19-year-old Jewish boy, exiled in Babylon.
- So God graciously revealed this to this greatest king of their time, so as these things came about down through history, God's Word being fulfilled would be a testimony to God's power and sovereignty over the world.
- Also note that this portion of Daniel from 2:4b- 7:28 was written in Aramaic, not Hebrew.
- Aramaic was the world language at that time, so God was giving this to the world.

## B. THE KING'S DEMAND. (2-11)

**Vs. 2a (read)** Because of his fear, the king summoned all the brain-trust of the land.

- The Magicians cast spells to get supernatural results, and determine future events.
- The Enchanters and Sorcerers were mediums to connect with the dead, and the gods.
- The Astrologers watched the stars and made monthly predictions from their movements.

**Vs 2b-11 (Read)- Notice 5 things.**

**1st notice-- The wise men's entrance.**

- In v4 - they came in, addressed the king -- "Oh king live forever" as his "servants".
- This was normal in ancient times. Pagan kings were often seen as gods and highly praised.
- But also -- Daniel (friends) recently made fools of these guys, so they needed to impress the king, and they're being called in on an urgent matter of interpretation.
- Contrast Daniel's greeting in v27- no flattery or mush, just truth about the wise men and God.

**2nd notice- They responded by asking the king to reveal the troubling dream.**

- Babylonians believed dreams were very important, and had devised a dream reading system.
- They created-- "dreamology", believing certain items were symbols of certain things.
- They recorded one's important dreams to compare future dreams to, to produce answers.  
(operating much like lawyers, as they compare a case to pass legal precedent)
- So to these guys, interpreting dreams was academic. You hear it, compare its elements to the person's past dreams, and arrive at the meaning of the dream.

**3rd notice-- The King's challenge. (5-6)**

- To answer their request, the king says they must tell him the dream first, then interpret it, and if they do- he will pour blessing on them, but if not, he will destroy them.

**NOTE-** Did the king forget the dream or just hide it from them on purpose? (Scholars divided)  
, But in v9 the king said--- "tell me the dream, and **I will know** you can interpret it."

, So how could he know if what they said was right, unless the king remembered the dream?  
, If he forgot it, they could just huddle, reflect on his past dreams, and tell him anything.

, We can't be certain, but it's very possible he didn't forget the dream, but that he was so serious about knowing it's truth, he wanted proof that they could deliver.

#### **4th notice-- the king's persistence. (7-9)**

- In v7 the wise men tried to dodge the issue, and again asked for the king to reveal the dream.
- It's no wonder Daniel and his friends were seen as 10 times smarter than these guys, because even after the king said he firmly decided (v5), they asked him again, Dah !!
- So now Nebuchadnezzar reveals what he really thinks of these guys.
- In v8 he accused them of stalling, in v9 he accused them of conspiring to lie to him,
- And his final statement in v9 is- "tell me the dream and I will know you can interpret it", which shows that the king suspected these wise men were nothing but phonies.

**\* What the king asked was not unreasonable.** These men claimed great spiritual abilities.

- And remember, This new king came from being a no-nonsense warrior General.
- He had often watched these men schmooze his father with flattery (normal toward kings).
- And He may have watched his father make bad decisions based on these men's advice, and probably saw these men make predictions that did not come to pass.  
(Micaiah- 1 true prophet among flatterers, told truth, the king ignored it and died. 1Kg 22)
- Nebuchadnezzar didn't want flattering lies to bolster his ego, he wanted the truth.

#### **5th notice-- the wise men finally revealed their incompetence. (10-11)**

- When they realized they couldn't stall the king, they reluctantly made 4 excuses to get themselves off the hook and avoid being destroyed.
- They said- '**no man can do this, it's impossible**', '**no ruler ever asked this**', '**only the gods can do this**', '**and they don't live among men**'. (enchanter, sorcerer)
- They blamed the king for being too demanding, they blamed their human weakness, and they blamed the gods for not speaking to them. (its everyone's fault but ours)
- So as God is in control here, he used this pagan king to outsmart the wise men's foolish system, show them as phonies, and ultimately elevate Daniel (friends) to high position.

**App-** These are the same excuses that false religious teachers make, who claim to have great power with God, but when called on to prove it, they can't.

\* These excuses are also made by believers who fail to live as righteously as they should. "The demands are too high, it's too hard, I'm only human, God's not helping me much."

5 **2 Pet. 1:3-** "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness..."