

# “THE KING’S DRAMATIC DREAM”

## Daniel 2:1-23

At the end of Daniel 1 we are told that God blessed Daniel and his three friends with great favor. These blessings were given to them because they had strong convictions, and they were committed to the Lord. What were these blessings?

- **He gave them favor with Ashpenaz. (1:9)**
- **He gave them knowledge and intelligence (1:17).**
- **He gave them wisdom (1:17).**
- **He gave Daniel the ability to understand visions and dreams (1:17).**
- **He gave Daniel great influence for a long time (1:21).**

At the end of the three-year training period, Daniel and his friends were included in a group of Nebuchadnezzar’s closest confidants. But we need to remember that they were likely the low men on the totem pole.

Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were new to the job when something dramatic occurred. In fact, it could have resulted in their execution. Some people read the words of the prophets and consider their writings to be a leap into the dark. Others mock and sneer at what they consider to be sheer nonsense. However, there are true believers who take God’s Word seriously because it is truth without any mixture of error. I trust that as we get into our text you will approach it with a desire to understand what God has ordained concerning the future. H.A. Ironside, the great preacher of Moody Bible Church, highlighted the importance of this Daniel 2:

**“Daniel 2 contains the most complete and yet the most simple prophetic picture that we have in all the Word of God.” It is as another writer commented, “The backbone of biblical prophecy.”**

O.S. Hawkins considers this chapter to be one of the most amazing chapters in all the Bible. He wrote:

**Here is a man by the name of Daniel who lived 2500 years ago and he not only tells us in detail what has ensued in world history over the last 2,500 years but what is happening in our world today. The key to understanding this chapter is found in a few key phrases in Daniel 2:28-29, 45. He begins by informing us that there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets. He goes on to say that this God has made known what will be in the latter days. . .what will come to pass after this. . .what will be in the future. . . . It’s like watching the Super Bowl video before the game has been played. This chapter is prophetic in nature. Daniel tells us how world history will end. He reminds us in verse 45 that the dream is certain and its interpretation is sure.** Culture Shock: Advice From Daniel For Addressing Today’s

Culture, p. 47

Okay, let’s get started. Turn to Daniel 2. . .

## **1. THE DREAM**

**Daniel 2:1–2... Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.**

Nebuchadnezzar is in the second year of his reign. He had a disturbing dream. According to the eastern mindset, it was a bad omen to forget a

dream. He was deeply troubled (*root of this word means to strike as with a hammer on an anvil*). He issues a call to all of his spiritual advisors. These included...

**"Magicians"** these guys recorded the materials used in the Babylonian religion. They employed spells and rites to heal, to exorcise evil spirits, and to counter evil spirits.

**"Conjurers"** these guys used magic spells and incantations to communicate with the spirit world. (mediums and channelers)

**"Sorcerers"** these were wizards practiced witchcraft.

**"Chaldeans"** these men seemed to be the spokesmen for this group and they were experts in astrology.

These were elite leaders of the godless, demonic, false religion of Babylon. They were professionals. Their specialty was the spiritual world.

Occult practices are permeating every facet of our culture. Listen, the channelers, psychics, astrologers, and proponents of the wiccan religion today are wicked frauds. They are tapping into the darkness of Satan's kingdom. Stay away from them!

## 2. THE DEMAND

**Daniel 2:3–6... The king said to them, "I had a dream and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream." 4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: "O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation." 5 The king replied to the Chaldeans, "The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be made a rubbish heap. 6 "But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation."**

Beginning 2:4 the Book of Daniel changes from being written in Hebrew, which has been the case up to this point, to Aramaic, which continues to the end of chapter 7. For the most part the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. But there are a few exceptions, and this is one of them. Why is this important?

For one thing, it suggests that the earlier portion of the book (**chapters 2–7**), concerns Babylon and was therefore recorded in a language that would make God’s truth available to the people of that land.

The latter portion of the book (**chapters 8–12**), which concerns the future of the Jewish people, was written in their official language, Hebrew. In other words, Daniel expresses God’s concern for both the Babylonians and the Jews.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. THE DECISION

**Daniel 2:7-13...** They answered a second time and said, “Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation.” **8** The king replied, “I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, inasmuch as you have seen that the command from me is firm, **9** that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation.” **10** The Chaldeans answered the king and said, “There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has *ever* asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean. **11** “Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with *mortal* flesh.” **12** Because of this the king became indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. **13** So the decree went forth that

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<sup>1</sup> James Montgomery Boice, [\*Daniel: An Expositional Commentary\*](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003), 28.

**the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill them.**

The Babylonians were famous for their astrology, but it could not help these “astrologers” in their time of need. Over a hundred years earlier the God of Israel had challenged the wise men of Babylon to deliver their nation from his power by their sorceries, spells, and counsel from the stars (**Isaiah 47:12–13**). Only the true God possesses wisdom, power, and salvation—gifts granted to all who call upon his name.<sup>2</sup>

Their challenge was monumental. The king demanded that they reveal both the dream and the interpretation. Two different times they responded to the king by asking for the dream, and then they would give him the interpretation. The king was furious and threatened to execute every one of them. Finally, they said to him that his challenge was impossible. Immediately the order went out to execute the entire group.

**The stage was set for the first great revelation to Nebuchadnezzar of the reality, wisdom, and power of the one true God.<sup>3</sup>**

#### **4. THE DEFENSE**

**Daniel 2:14–18... Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king’s bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon; 15 he said to Arioch, the king’s commander, “For what reason is the decree from the king so urgent?” Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter. 16 So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king. 17 Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, 18 so that**

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<sup>2</sup> Stephen R. Miller, [Daniel](#), vol. 18, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1994), 83.

<sup>3</sup> James Montgomery Boice, [Daniel: An Expositional Commentary](#) (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003), 29.

**they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.**

Arioch comes to take Daniel, Azariah, Hananiah, and Mishael away to execution. In this passage, we have a clear example of how a leader responds in a time of crisis. Daniel asks for time to reveal both the dream and the interpretation to the king. Nebuchadnezzar grants it.

**So, Daniel gathers his friends who are equally committed to the God of Israel and they pray.** Their faith was phenomenal. They knew their request was not too big for the God of heaven! Notice that Daniel did not stress out and walk the floor all night long. He went to sleep and God gave him the same vision He had given Nebuchadnezzar. What a contrast we see here between the demon gods of the Babylonian priests and the God of heaven!

**Daniel 2:19–23... Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; 20 Daniel said, “Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever, For wisdom and power belong to Him. 21 “It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding. 22 “It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him. 23 “To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, For You have given me wisdom and power; Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You, For You have made known to us the king’s matter.”**

Their prayer led to praise. Here we have one of the most beautiful prayers recorded in the Bible. What insight we can learn from the great leader. He didn’t run off immediately to report to the king. No, he took time to bless the Lord his God!

God came through for Daniel and He will come through for you. Are you committed to the God of heaven? Have you given Him your whole heart? How would you respond in a crisis like this?

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