

Character Study: Daniel
Part 2 – Daniel Explains the King’s Dream
Daniel 2:1-49

What’s happening?

- King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that deeply troubled him. He took the dream so seriously that he gathered the magicians and astrologers (whom he called “wise men”), and promised great honor to the one who could give the interpretation, but death to anyone who could not. (2:1-6)
- There was an additional catch to the king’s offer. To show that the men really had insight into the dream, the king refused to tell them what the dream was about. The men had to figure that out for themselves. (2:7-9)
- The men told the king that his request was humanly impossible. Furious that they did not have the power they had claimed, the king sent a decree out to have the wise men killed. Daniel realized his life was also at stake, so he told the king he would give the interpretation. (2:10-16)
- Daniel, along with his friends, prayed for God to reveal the dream. In a vision, God revealed the dream to Daniel. Giving God the credit, Daniel explained that in the dream the king saw a man who represented his kingdom and other kingdoms, but that the Kingdom of God would come, consume their kingdoms and last forever. (2:17-45)
- Nebuchadnezzar was amazed at his correct understanding of the dream and recognized Daniel’s God as “the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and the revealer of secrets.” Daniel was promoted and made ruler over the main providence of Babylon. (2:46-49)

What’s God doing?

> Within the Babylonian kingdom, God had shown Himself superior to the other, so called, wise men of their day. The dream gave a picture of world history in which God made it clear that even the powerful King Nebuchadnezzar must recognize Him as the Supreme Ruler.

What’s to learn?

→ When needing answers from God, Daniel did not panic. Rather, he gathered information about the situation, and then went straight to God in prayer (and asked others to pray with him). When God answered, he praised God and then acted on the revelation he had. When you need answers from God, do you follow these same steps? Do you act on the revelation He gives you? Today, God has given us the answers we are looking for in His Word. How are you using that revelation?

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