

## Daniel

## "The God of Dreams and Destinies"

(Daniel 2:1-49)

**The Date:**

The events in Chapter 2 took place in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, or in 603 BC. This would have put Daniel within the three-year training program. The fact that he is in the program explains why he was not called with the other wise men to identify and interpret the King's dreams but was to be held accountable when they could not do so.

**The Outline:**

- A. Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the failure of his wise men (2:1-13)
- B. Daniel's requests; God's answer; Daniel's thanksgiving prayer (2:14-24)
- C. Daniel's appearance before the King (2:25-30)
- D. The content of the dream (2:31-35)
- E. The interpretation of the dream (2:36-45)
- F. Nebuchadnezzar's response (2:46-49)

**The Key Players:**

- God
- Nebuchadnezzar
- The wise men
- Daniel
- Daniel's companions
- Arioch

**Nebuchadnezzar's dream and the failure of his wise men**

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| 1 | Nebuchadnezzar had disturbing dreams causing insomnia (1).             |
| 2 | In response he called in all his wise men (2).                         |
| 3 | The King demanded that they tell him the dream and its meaning (3-6).  |
| 4 | The wise men acted as if they didn't hear him correctly (7).           |
| 5 | The King reiterated his demand with potential rewards/penalties (8-9). |
| 6 | The Chaldeans told the King that he was being unreasonable (10-11).    |
| 7 | Enraged, the King sentenced the wise men to death (12).                |
| 8 | Daniel & his companions were sought as part of the wise men (13).      |

**Daniel's requests; God's answer; Daniel's thanksgiving prayer**

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| 9  | Daniel learned of the King's edict from Arioch (14-15).              |
| 10 | Daniel requested time from the King (16).                            |
| 11 | Daniel enlisted his friends to seek God with him (17-18).            |
| 12 | God revealed the dream and its meaning to Daniel (19).               |
| 13 | Daniel spoke of God's wisdom, power & sovereignty in prayer (20-23). |
| 14 | Daniel requested that Arioch bring him before the King (24).         |

**Daniel's appearance before the King**

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| 15 | Arioch brought Daniel before the King (25).                             |
| 16 | The King asked Daniel if he could state the dream and its meaning (26). |
| 17 | Daniel said that no one could but the God that he served (27-28).       |
| 18 | Daniel said that God gave him a dream about the future (28-29).         |
| 19 | Daniel said that God had revealed the dream/meaning to him also (30).   |

### **The Content of the Dream:**

- Daniel said that the dream included a human image and a stone (31-35).
- Daniel said the image was human in form, huge, bright and scary (31).
  - The head of the image was gold (32).
  - The chest & arms of the image were silver (32).
  - The belly & thighs of the image were bronze (32).
  - The legs of the image were iron (33).
  - The feet of the image were part iron and part clay (33).
- Daniel said that as the King looked a stone emerged (34).
  - The stone was not controlled by human hands (34).
  - The stone struck the feet of the image and they broke in pieces (34).
  - Then the image disintegrated and was swept away by the wind (35).
  - The stone became a mountain and filled the entire earth (35).

### **The Interpretation of the Dream:**

Daniel told the King that:

- God gave the King his kingdom and his authority to rule (37).
- He and his kingdom were the head of gold (38).
- A second inferior kingdom would arise after Babylon (39).
- A third kingdom of bronze would arise and rule the whole earth (39).
- A fourth kingdom of iron would arise and crush all others (40).
- Daniel distinguished between the legs and the feet/toes (41-43):
  - The distinction represents two stages of the fourth kingdom (41).
  - The feet contain some iron and have some strength (41).
  - The feet contain both iron and clay and be weakened (41).
  - The feet represent a divided, less strong & brittle kingdom (42-43).
- A fifth kingdom (the stone) would be established (44-45):
  - It would come in the feet/toes stage of the fourth kingdom (44).
  - It would be established by God (44).
  - It will destroy all Gentile Kingdoms (44-45).
  - It will exist forever on earth (44).



### **Nebuchadnezzar's response**

20	The King paid homage to Daniel (46).
21	The King acknowledged God as above all others (47).
22	The King gave gifts to Daniel and made him a Ruler (48).
23	Daniel requested a promotion for his friends (49).
24	The King granted this promotion (49).
25	Daniel remained in the King's Court (49).

**Next Week:** "Faith and the Fiery Trial (Daniel 3:1-30)"