

A Troubling Dream

Daniel 2:1-18

I. Introduction:

A. Context

1. Chapter 1 of Daniel describes the history of how Daniel came to be in Babylon.
2. Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Jerusalem in 605 B.C. & King Jehoiakim surrendered making Jerusalem a vassal state of the Babylonian Empire.
3. A number of the young men in Jerusalem, princes & nobles, were taken to Babylon.
4. After training for 3 years, they were to then serve in Nebuchadnezzar's administration.
5. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah were among young men taken back to Babylon.

B. Blessed of God

1. God blessed Daniel & his three friends. They chose to honor God by obeying His law.
2. They didn't defile themselves with the king's food, they obeyed Jewish dietary laws.
3. Because of their faith, God was pleased to bless them. (**Daniel 1:17**)
4. Daniel's gift concerning visions and dreams will be important.

II. A Troubling Dream (Daniel 2:1)

A. No Ordinary Dream

1. The word "dreams" in this verse is in the plural form meaning more than one.
2. This indicates Nebuchadnezzar had this dream reoccurring or perhaps one dream would lead into another.
3. His Spirit Troubled: Nebuchadnezzar realized this dream or dreams wasn't normal.
4. It troubled him so much he couldn't sleep. This dream was from the true & living God.

III. He Called In The Experts (Daniel 2:2-4)

A. Brain Trust of Babylon

1. These wise men were known for their ability to interpret dreams.
2. Various classes, magicians, astrologers, & sorcerers applied their skills in interpreting dreams. They had confidence in the various skills they could bring to interpretation.
3. They were confident that if the king would tell them the dream, their collective effort would certainly give him a satisfactory interpretation.

B. King's Lack of Trust

1. Apparently the king did not trust his own wisemen. Perhaps, in the past they'd given him incorrect interpretations or perhaps he recognized their reliance on human understanding & didn't trust them for this dream.
2. This dream was different and he wanted to know the correct interpretation.

IV. King's response to their confidence (Daniel 2:5-9)

A. The King's Test

1. Because Nebuchadnezzar did not trust his wise men, he set a test before them.
2. He commanded that they tell him the dream and then the interpretation.
3. If they determined the dream, without being told, then he'd trust their interpretation too.
4. Motivation: To motivate them, if they failed, he'd have them all executed immediately.
5. If they could tell him the dream & interpretation, there'd be great reward for them.
6. Stalling For Time: The King even accused them of stalling for time.

V. **Not So Confident (Daniel 2:10-11)**

A. **Wise Men's Confession**

1. No human had or has the capacity to know the mind of God.
2. The dream was from Jehovah God & only He could give its interpretation.
3. These men confessed they could not do that for which the king asked.
4. Application: The only reason we know about God today is because He has revealed Himself to us. God is revealed to us today in **3** primary ways:
 - (1) – Creation
 - a. Creation declares the glory, majesty, and power of God.
 - b. All men are without excuse by the simple and single general revelation of creation.
 - (2) – His Word
 - a. God has given us special revelation through His word.
 - b. God revealed Himself in the O.T. through many and various ways.
 - c. God spoke to Job out of a whirlwind & came to Abraham in Ur of the Chaldeans.
 - d. God spoke to Moses out of burning bush & spoke to false prophet Balaam through a donkey. God spoke through visions and dreams on many occasions.
 - (3) – His Son
 - a. The greatest revelation of God to man is in His Son, Jesus Christ. (**Hebrews 1:1-3**)
 - b. In Jesus we have the full and complete revelation of God to man.
 - c. You can know God today in a personal way. You can know God like you 've never known Him before if you'll trust Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior.

VI. **Back to The Wise Men (Daniel 2:12-13)**

A. **Execute Them All**

- *Nebuchadnezzar was so angry he commanded his guards execute all Babylon's wise men*
 1. – Daniel's not in the initial conversation
 - a. Daniel & his friends were too young to be included in the initial discussion.
 - b. The young men were not normally included in such high-level matters with the king.
 2. – God's design
 - a. It was by God's design that Daniel & his friends weren't with rest of the wise men.
 - b. If Daniel had initially given the dream & interpretation, older wise men would've taken credit for it.
 - c. God sat the stage so that He would get all the glory for what was to be revealed.
 3. – Unfairness
 - a. Daniel & his friends had no part in the failure of the men in the room, yet they were to die along with them.

VII. **Daniel's inquiry (Daniel 2:14-18)**

A. **Daniel's Response**

- *Daniel's in another crisis situation: The order's been given for his & the other wise men's execution.*
 1. – Caught by surprise
 - a. Apparently no one outside of the royal court knew what had happened.
 - b. None of the wise men in training knew about the dream or the wise men's failure.
 - c. Daniel responded with calm and courage. Daniel's faith in God was unflappable.
 - d. Application: We are easily caught off guard by events we did not see coming.
 - e. The good news is our God is never caught by surprise.
 - f. No sickness, no accident, no loss job, no storm of life catches God by surprise.

2. – Courage and Confidence

- a.** Once Daniel understood the situation, he courageously asked to be taken to the king.
- b.** Daniel had to face an angry monarch who just ordered his execution.
- c.** Daniel had confidence that God would open the way for his meeting with the king.

3. – Daniel's Request

- a.** Daniel asked Nebuchadnezzar for a stay of execution.
- b.** He assured the king if he would give him time, the information he desired, he'd get.
- c.** The king granted his request.
- d.** Amazingly, God moved Nebuchadnezzar's heart to give Daniel the time he needed.
- e.** Likely all the other wise men were well pleased with Daniel at this point.

4. – Prayer Meeting

- a.** Daniel called a prayer meeting & asked his friends to pray for God's enlightenment.
- b.** The prayer was specific, that we might not perish with the rest of the wise men.
- c.** God, please reveal the dream so we will not be executed.
- d.** Application: Sometimes we pray in generalities. It is best to pray in specifics.
- e.** Name lost person you're praying for or situation for which you're asking God's help
- f.** God knows what we need before asking, so be specific.