

Studies in Daniel: Lesson Two

Daniel 2:1-49

Rev. Paul R. Martin,

Alliance Bible Church of McHenry

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Dreams in the Night & A Humble Prophet

In this first analysis of Daniel, Chapter 2, we will examine the questions, "What is the main purpose of this chapter?" and "How does it apply to us today?" In some ways the Book of Daniel is a connected series of evolving events, the following dependent upon the preceding. Chapter two is no exception.

I. Nebuchadnezzar Has a Troubling Dream (vv. 1-3)

- A. Apparently this was a dream that repeated every time Neb returned to sleep so that finally he could sleep no longer:
- B. He calls for the wise men of Babylon to come and explain to him the meaning of his dream.

II. The Wise Men's Dilemma (vv. 4-13)

- A. Neb is wise the their ways and wants to be sure they are giving him a true interpretation
- B. He insists that they first tell him his actual dream before they interpret it for him, and threatens them with dire consequences if they do not do so

III. Arioch Seeks Daniel to Include In the Death Sentence (vv.14-16)

- A. Arioch explains the dilemma to Daniel
- B. Daniel, who was not present at the original summons, approaches Neb and asks for time, promising to give the King what he desires

IV. Daniel's Method for Discovering the Meaning of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (vv. 17-23)

- A. Daniel solicits a prayer covenant with his three friends
- B. God reveals the mystery to Daniel in a night vision
- C. Daniel praises God for His Faithfulness and answered prayer

Q1: Chapter 2 follows Chapter 1 and demonstrates opportunities that come to those who are faithful. It also lays the foundation for Daniel's role in the King's Court, establishing his future ministry.

Q2: Chapter 2 gives us guidance in how to discover the will of God and gain understanding of His mysteries.

V. The Dream and Its Interpretation (vv. 24-28)

- A. Arioch brings Daniel into the King's presence (and take a bit of credit himself!)
- B. Daniel gives all the credit to God for granting him understanding

VI. The Dream God Gave to Nebuchadnezzar (vv. 29-35)

- A. God reveals to Neb what will happen in the future many years hence
- B. Daniel tells him what the dream was that troubled him so much

VII. Daniel Reports What God Gave Him as the Interpretation of the Dream (vv. 36-45)

- A. The elements of the vision: gold, silver, bronze, iron (and the mixture at the feet)
Gold: Babylon, Silver: Medeo-Persia, Bronze: Greece, Iron: Rome
- B. Each level is inferior to the previous one and finally results in an unstable mixture in the feet of the statue
- C. The Stone from the mountain that crushes the feet and pulverizes the statue, blowing the kingdoms away like chaff

III. Daniel Is Promoted to the Highest Office Among the Wise Men (vv.46-49)

- A. The King recognizes the truth of Daniel's interpretation
- B. He does homage to Daniel and worships God
- C. Daniel requests his three friends be appointed local administrators over the province of Babylon

The Nature of Prophetic Vision:

