

## Lesson 91: God Shows Daniel and the king the Future

Scripture: Daniel 2

Memory verse: Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings. Daniel 2: 47

One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they **tell him what he had dreamed**. As they stood before the king, he said, "I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means."

Then the astrologers answered the king, "Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means."

But the king refused. He said, "If you tell me the dream, **THEN** I'll know that you can tell me what it means. If you can't tell me the dream, then I'll know you have no real power. And if you can't tell me the dream, then I'll do away with you ALL!"

The astrologers replied to the king, "No one on earth can tell the king his dream! And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or astrologer! The king's demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people."

The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be done away with, and this included Daniel and his friends.

When the commander of the king's guard, came to get them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. He asked, "Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?" So Arioch told him all that had happened.

Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. He said,

"Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."

Then Daniel went in to the commander of the army, and Daniel said to him, "Don't kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream." And the commander hurried to deliver Daniel to see king Nebuchadnezzar.

The king said to Daniel, "Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?"

Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. But **there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets**, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.

Daniel proceeded to tell the king exactly what he dreamed. About a giant impressive statue made of many different metals and baked clay. Then, a rock was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands. It struck the statue and crushed it into small pieces. Then the rock grew into a giant mountain that covered the whole earth!

Daniel said, "That was the dream. Now we will tell the king what it means. Nebuchadnezzar, you are a great king because the God of heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor. But your kingdom will not endure forever. There will be kingdoms that come after yours, but they won't last either! But one day, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever.

Then King Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed, "**Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries.**"

Then the king appointed Daniel to a high position and gave him many valuable gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men. At Daniel's request, the king appointed Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah to be in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained in the king's court.