

DANIEL - Chapter 2- King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Part 1

DN-03

King Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Much could be said about Daniel 2. It is one of the great prophecies of the Bible. Many souls have been convicted and even converted because they heard a lecture or read about the prophecy of this chapter and its remarkable fulfillment. Though this prophecy of Daniel is an introductory lesson, we should realize that God has arranged the prophecies of this book in order:

from _____ to _____
and from _____ to _____

God's Love for Astrologers

It can be humiliating for "religious leaders" who are counsellors to the king not be able to advise the king as 'they should' and then to learn that a young SDA student in a secular university provides the 'counsel' to the complete satisfaction of the king who promotes him and his buddies to top levels of government. What these 'enchanters and magicians' should have realized is that this young godly student requested that their lives be spared and revealed God was trying to reach them with our 'prophetic understanding' so they too would receive a fuller picture of the character of our benevolent and compassionate God and how He longs to abide with them also.

In order to get the full impact of what God did, we must not sell these people short. Highly trained and apparently well motivated, they were charged with discovering the will of the gods, something that surely seemed important. So, who were these people? (See Daniel 2:2)

Magicians/Sorcerers = _____
_____.

Astrologers = _____
_____.

Chaldeans = _____
_____.

(Babylon was sometimes spoken of as the land of the Chaldeans. See Jer.25:12)

The whole body of wise men saw themselves as scholars and scientists. They believed that the events of people's lives were controlled moment by moment by natural forces. But just like modern astrology, superstition pervaded much of their so-called 'science'. The God of heaven desired to show them their error with the intention that they as 'their king' might come to revere and fear Daniel's God.

More on the King's Dream

*“God had light for Nebuchadnezzar, and through Daniel were presented to the king things foretold in the prophecies concerning Babylon and other kingdoms. By the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, **Jehovah was exalted as more powerful than earthly rulers.** Thus, through the faithfulness of Daniel, God was honored.” (7T 161.1)*

An Excellent Spirit

When we recognize that Daniel's first act after his early-morning praise service was to find Arioch, the executioner and “secure the safety of the wise men.” Though it is likely that while Daniel and his three compadres were studying at the “University of Babylon” they had presumably suffered their share of ill-humored jibes and jests. {Remember, they were Jews, who kept the Sabbath and avoided the local ‘pubs’ on the weekend that students typically resort to.} But we find no hint of bitterness in Daniel, no evidence of a self-flattering verdict that “God gives sinners the punishment they deserve.”

Daniel had a concern for these ‘wise men’ of Babylon, he was amiable as well as earnest. Early in the book we find Daniel exhibiting an “excellent spirit” because the love of Christ was shining through him. As a result, God gave time for these men to see their folly and repent and thus become ‘sons of God’ in allowing them to live.

“The history of Daniel, if all was written, would open chapters before you that would show you the temptations he had to meet, of ridicule, envy, and hatred; but he learned to master the difficulties. He did not trust in his own strength; he laid his whole soul and all his difficulties open to his heavenly Father, and he believed God heard him, and he was comforted and blessed. He rose superior to ridicule; and so will every one who is an overcomer. Daniel acquired a serene and cheerful state of mind, because he believed God was his friend and helper.” {4BC 1168.3}

Daniel's Prayer and Praise Service

We will explore Daniel's prayer with his fellows more fully next time. But there is much we can learn from his prayer of thanksgiving and praise as he and his fellows, ‘Blessed the name of God for ever and ever.’ (Dan 2:20)

“Daniel's first act was to thank God for the revelation given him.” {PK 494}

“Then Daniel called together his companions, and thanked God that their prayers had been heard and answered, and they presented to God an offering of praise and thanksgiving, that was wholly acceptable to the Ruler of the universe.” {YI Nov. 22, 1894}