

Doing hard things well Pt 3

Daniel 2:1-23

- Chapter one ended with Daniel and his friends standing up for The Lord, then afterward they stand out before King Nebuchadnezzar, and he places them inside his court. Now from chapter one to chapter two the atmosphere in the King's palace is going to change radically, as it closed with recognition and security, and now were introduced to anxiety and danger, thrusting Daniel into an impossible situation.

V1-23

- Nebuchadnezzar father Nabopolassar established the Babylonian rise to power by defeating the Assyrians who had conquered the Northern Kingdom one hundred and twenty two yrs before Nebuchadnezzar himself could overtake the Southern Kingdom. Now after the throne had been passed to him something very troubling happened, a dream that bothered him tremendously in which he wanted answers to
- **V1-4** it was Shakespeare who said “**uneasy lies the head that wears the crown**” Nebuchadnezzar was finding out how hard it is to sit on the throne and rule a Kingdom, and some of his concerns was causing him some restless nights. How long he wondered will Babylon be great? How long will he sit on its throne? His mind was unsettled as he worried about the future of his Kingdom then he has a dream.
- The King possessed unlimited power and authority, so whatever he commanded it was the duty of his court to fulfill it. Nebuchadnezzar is so troubled by what he's dreamed he can no longer even try to sleep, so he calls his magicians, astrologers, and sorcerers to explain what his dream is trying to tell him. They respond no problem just tell us your dream and we will interpret it for you and put you at rest.
- From **V4** to **Ch 7:28** the Biblical text is written in Aramaic not Hebrew, this is the only section of the Bible written in Aramaic, as this was the language of the Babylonian empire. **V5-7** King Nebuchadnezzar throws them a curve ball telling them that he will not tell them his dream but being supposedly in tune with the spiritual realm they shouldn't need his help as the gods they serve will tell them what he dreamed.

- For further motivation he says if their gods don't reveal the dream then he'll have them cut alive into pieces and their homes burned and turned into trash dumps. But if you're able to tell him his dream and the interpretation then he will greatly reward them with wealth, prestige, and promotion, now he asks "tell me the dream and interpretation"? They again ask the King to make it easier on them and tell them his dream so they can interpret it and ease his mind, but Nebuchadnezzar stays firm
- **V8-9** he tells them he knows that they are stalling for time, and that if he gives them the details of the dream they will only conspire together to tell him what they think he wants to hear in order to win his favor and be rewarded. If you know your surrounded by a bunch of lying, slick, scoundrels, why would you have them around in the first place? But that's the world isn't it, they surround themselves with people who agree with them and tell them what they want to hear, whether its true or not.
- **V10-13** his court tries to explain to the king that what he's asking is an impossible request, and no King has ever asked this of his magicians, astrologers, or sorcerers. They go as far as to say "only God can answer your request". He basically called them phonies in the previous verses and they admit it here, but it doesn't get them off the hook, now we see why the eunuch in chapter one was so afraid of upsetting the King, as he has a real anger problem commanding that all the wise men be killed
- The killing of all the wise men includes Daniel and his friends also for the King intends to destroy his entire court if need be to get the answers to this dream. This shows that you don't have to be near a thing to get pulled in and become involved especially if its God's will.
- **V14-18** Daniel and his friends are minding their own business being new graduates into the King's counselors, when they hear the King's guard is killing all the wise men or royal counselors in which they have just become a new graduates, and being new they weren't even invited to the special session about the dream. Just as he did in chapter one when he spoke to Ashpenaz about their diet, Daniel in the midst of pressure and trouble speaks with wisdom and tact to the executioner Arioch.
- The executioner amazingly risks his life by allowing Daniel to go in and speak to the King asking for more time since he hadn't been in the original meeting with the others. Unlike the others Nebuchadnezzar gives Daniel more time to interpret the dream, so Daniel goes back and informs the others so that they all may seek "**The Mercies of God**" knowing that only He can reveal what the King has dreamed.

- This is how a prayer meeting should be, you since the desperate nature these young men are in knowing that they need God to speak or this is it for them. Two things > **1. Perspective**- unless we hear from The Lord we're dead, **2. Attitude**- I expect to hear from The Lord for I am His. You see this in the next few verses when Daniel speaks to Nebuchadnezzar, notice his perspective and his attitude upon knowing the dream.
- **V19-23** Daniel offers praise to The Lord before he goes and sees the King, thanking and praising God for His power and might, acknowledging that it is The Lord Who gives wisdom and knowledge, and reveals deep, hidden, dark, secret things, and brings them to the light for His glory and purposes > **Amos 3:7, Ps 50:15.**
- Before we close I must say this, Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel are examples of how people handle their problems, One took his **problems to bed with him**, while the other **took his problems to God, one got angry, violent, and mean**, the other got **humble, peaceful, and joyous**, which one will you be? All of us will face problems in our lives but how will we respond? Will it be by faith, or will it be in the flesh?