

## Daniel: Conviction in a World of Compromise Part 2: A Risky Proposition

**Objective:** To challenge us to face seemingly impossible situations with hope and faith that God will do through us what we cannot do on our own

**Read together:**

God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

Daniel 1:17

When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact. He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. 16 At this, Daniel went into the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him." 17 "Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. 18 He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon."

19 During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision.

24 Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, "Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him."

Daniel 2:14-19, 24

Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.

Daniel 2:27-28

- When you come face to face with an impossible situation what is your normal response? Do you give up? Do you fight through? Do you try to figure it out on your own? How do you handle it?
- Do you have an accurate understanding of the skills and abilities you have? If so, what are some of them? If you're not sure, what can you do to discover and develop those skills and abilities?
- What is the difference between reacting and responding? When faced with a difficult situation, do you tend to react or do you take the time to respond?
- Is it easy for you to ask others for help when you need it? Why or why not?
- Have you ever had to trust God even when it didn't make sense? How did you feel in that moment? Did you obey? How did it work out?
- When a difficult circumstance works out well for you, do you tend to take the credit or do you honor God?

**Final thought:** God loves to work through us and our difficult circumstances to point other people towards him. The next time you face an impossible situation, look for ways you can point people to Jesus as you trust him to work things out through you.

