

**“FAITH UNDER PRESSURE”  
STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL  
Daniel 2:1-49**

**“GOD Can Turn Your Nightmare Experience Into a Dream Job”**

**Introduction:** Kings in the Ancient Near East earned their position through victory in battle. Nebuchadnezzar proved a competent and successful military commander and assumed the throne of Babylon upon the death of his father. The king’s court would consist of counselors and advisors from a variety of expertise. The wise men or magi were spiritual advisors to the king. What happens when spiritual advisors have no spiritual power and no connection to the omniscient Spirit of God?

**SECTION I: FALSE gods ARE PUT TO SHAME WHEN FALSE PROPHETS ARE IN THE HOT SEAT (Daniel 2:1-18).**

- A. God knows how to communicate to everyone (Job 33:14-16). God says that His Spirit will cause people to experience visions and dreams (Joel 2:28-29). God is the living God and He communicates. Do you expect God to communicate with you?
- B. Nebuchadnezzar would only settle for an authentic supernatural display from the wise men. The idols of Babylon, like all idols, are false gods. Scripture identifies false gods with demons (1 Corinthians 10:20). This passage proves that there are limits to what demons can do. Every time false gods are put to the test they fail! The gods of Egypt failed. Canaanite gods failed. Babylonian gods failed. All these false gods are different versions of each other.
- C. Do you have prayer partners who can seek God with you in a crisis? Daniel and his friends chose seek God even though they were living in Babylon because of the sins of their nation. We appeal to God on the grounds of the shed blood of Christ. We have access to the Father by the Spirit through Christ (Ephesians 2:18; 1 John 5:14-15; Luke 18:1).

**SECTION II: AN APOCALYPTIC CRASH COURSE IN WORLD HISTROY (Daniel 2:19-45)**

- A. God revealed Himself to Nebuchadnezzar and answered the prayer of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah because He is Relational. God’s name is blessed. God controls circumstances and seasons. God controls who is in government. God is the source of wisdom and knowledge. God knows what is hidden and He reveals things to people. God wants us to understand what He communicates.
- B. The king saw a great image of a person made of various substances. The materials range from rare (gold) to common (clay). Empires built by fallen humans depreciate as time goes on as opposed to the false doctrine that we are evolving to a perfect society.
- C. Babylon and Nebuchadnezzar are represented by the head of gold. Babylon was the first kingdom mentioned after the flood (Genesis 10:10). All successive human kingdoms are spiritually rooted in Babylon (Revelation 17:5). The chest and arms represent the Media-Persian Empire. The bronze belly and thighs represent the Greek Empire. The iron represents the Roman Empire.

- D. The rock represents the Lord Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God (Matthew 21:44 Deuteronomy 32:4). Christ the King will overthrow all the kingdoms of the world and establish His kingdom that will last forever. God is confirming His plans to establish an eternal kingdom even though it looks like His people are totally defeated in captivity in a hostile spiritually dark pagan nation.

### **SECTION III: THE POWER OF GOD CAN HELP YOU THRIVE IN A HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT (Daniel 2:46-49).**

- A. Nebuchadnezzar, the most politically powerful man in Babylon, a pagan king, falls prostrate. Nebuchadnezzar is not worshipping Daniel, he is acknowledging the God of Daniel. The purpose of signs and wonders are to bring glory to God.
- B. Daniel is promoted to ruler of the province of Babylon and chief administrator over the wise men. Who can govern people better than a believer? It is a blessing when God promotes one of His people to positions of influence in government (Proverbs 29:2). Who better to manage the wise men than a believer? (Proverbs 9:10; 1 Corinthians 2:14; James 3:13-18; James 1:5). Scholars believe the magi in Matthew 2 were remnants of the disciples of Daniel. The wise men of Babylon witnessed the miraculous power and authority of God.
- C. Daniel used his influence with the king to advocate for his prayer partners. Remember those who helped you pray through tough times. Do you share the blessings with your brothers and sisters in Christ? Are you looking to create opportunities for others in the body of Christ as God blesses you?

**“THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, OF THOSE IN HEAVEN, AND OF THOSE ON EARTH, AND OF THOSE UNDER THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY TOUNGUE SHOULD CONFESS THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER” (PHILIPPIANS 2:10-11). UNBELEIVERS WILL BOW AND CONFESS AT THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGEMENT (RESURRECTION OF THE UNRIGHTEOUS). AT THIS POINT IT IS TOO LATE FOR SALVATION. TODAY IS THE DAY OF SALVATION. IN THE DAY YOU HEAR HIS VOICE DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEART. IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH “JESUS IS LORD” AND BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE SAVED (ROMANS 10:9)**

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