

PASTOR  
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# DRIVING IN BABYLON

THE BOOK OF DANIEL  
MAY 28TH, 2023

First  
BAPTIST CHURCH • LEO

## A Nightmare in Babylon: *Daniel 2*

“ During the third year of King Jehoiakim's reign in Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.”

~ DANIEL 1:1 (NLT)

“ This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies, the God of Israel, says to all the captives he has exiled to Babylon from Jerusalem: <sup>5</sup> 'Build homes, and plan to stay. Plant gardens, and eat the food they produce. <sup>6</sup> Marry and have children. Then find spouses for them so that you may have many grandchildren. Multiply! Do not dwindle away! <sup>7</sup> And work for the peace and prosperity of the city where I sent you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, for its welfare will determine your welfare.'”

~ JEREMIAH 29:4-7 (NLT)

A King's \_\_\_\_\_ .

“ One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such **disturbing dreams** that he couldn't sleep. <sup>2</sup> 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, <sup>3</sup> he said, 'I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means.'

<sup>4</sup> Then the astrologers answered the king in **Aramaic**, 'Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.'”

~ DANIEL 2:1-4 (NLT)

“ The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that **all the wise men of Babylon be executed**. <sup>13</sup> And because of the king's decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends.

<sup>14</sup> When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, **Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion**. <sup>15</sup> He asked Arioch, 'Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?' So Arioch told him all that had happened. <sup>16</sup> Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.”

~ DANIEL 2:12-16 (NLT)

Daniel's \_\_\_\_\_ .

Surviving in Babylon requires \_\_\_\_\_ .

“ Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. <sup>20</sup> He said, 'Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. <sup>21</sup> **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. <sup>22</sup> He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. <sup>23</sup> 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.'”

~ DANIEL 2:17-23 (NLT)

God is in \_\_\_\_\_ , even in \_\_\_\_\_ .

The King's \_\_\_\_\_ Revealed.

“ Daniel replied, 'There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. <sup>28</sup> **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 2:27-28 (NLT)

“ In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man. It was a frightening sight. <sup>32</sup> The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay. <sup>34</sup> As you watched, a rock was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits. <sup>35</sup> The whole statue was crushed into small pieces of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. Then the wind blew them away without a trace, like chaff on a threshing floor. But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> That was the dream. Now we will tell the king what it means.”

~ DANIEL 2:31-36 (NLT)

## The Statue

Head of Gold – \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 37-38)

Chest & Arms of Silver – \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 39)

Belly & Thighs of Bronze – \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 39)

Legs of Iron – \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 40)

Feet of Iron and Clay – \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 41-43)

“ During the reigns of those kings, 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. <sup>45</sup> That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain.”

~ DANIEL 2:44-45 (NLT)

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_, the mountain is the \_\_\_\_\_.

“ Then Jesus asked them, ‘Didn’t you ever read this in the Scriptures? ‘The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone.’”

~ MATTHEW 21:42a (NLT)

Kingdoms \_\_\_\_\_, only God’s Kingdom \_\_\_\_\_.

“ 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.”

~ DANIEL 2:48 (NLT)

## SO WHAT?

What do you do when faced with a \_\_\_\_\_?

Don’t \_\_\_\_\_. Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion (v14)

Get \_\_\_\_\_. Why has the king issued such a harsh decree? (v15)

Slow \_\_\_\_\_. Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time (v16)

Get your friends \_\_\_\_\_. He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy (v18)

Expect the \_\_\_\_\_. That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision (v19)

\_\_\_\_\_. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven (v19)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP | Roku

- How often do you dream? What is the craziest dream you have ever had?
- Read Daniel chapter 2 together. What strikes you most about Daniel’s response?
- If you have lived in America your whole life, you have always lived in a society that is a superpower on the world stage. How do you think Daniel reads differently to people in a third world country? Or maybe a place where being a Christian could get you killed?
- Re-read Daniel 2:21. How do you respond to leaders whose agenda is against everything you believe in? How does this passage give you perspective on that?
- What have you learned about God and His character from your own crisis situations of the past?
- What is your nightmare situation right now? What do you need to do with God’s help in that situation? Ask your friends to pray with you for that.

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