

Daniel 2:1-35 Fear, Faith and the Future

Daniel 2:1-3 *In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream."*

1. Fear leads to anxiety.

- Healthy fear: our reaction to a perceived threat... burst of energy to run away... lift something, call 911... short-lived... diminishes fairly quickly, Energy to fix the problem
 - Doesn't affect your daily life
 - Is caused by real threats
 - Lasts only as long as you are in danger
 - You forget about the fear once the danger is over
- Unhealthy fear: creates paralysis, immobilization, incapacitation...Feeling the problem can't be fixed, perception of brokenness that lasts
 - Affects your daily life
 - Is caused by perceived threats
 - Lasts only as long as you're in perceived danger
 - You become fixated or obsessed on the danger reoccurring

2. Fear leads to deceiving ourselves.

Ephesians 4:17-18 *Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their **minds**. They are darkened in their **understanding**, alienated from the life of God because of the **ignorance** that is in them, due to their **hardness of heart**.*

2 Corinthians 2:11 *So that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not **ignorant** of his **designs**. (thoughts or minds)*

2 Corinthians 11:3 *But I am afraid that as the serpent **deceived** Eve by his cunning, your **thoughts** will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

2 Corinthians 4:4 *In their case the god of this world has **blinded the minds** of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 *For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. We destroy **arguments** and every lofty **opinion** raised against the **knowledge** of God, and take every **thought** captive to obey Christ.*

Daniel 2:4-7 *Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. 6 But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation." 7 They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation."*

Daniel 2:8-11 *The king answered and said, "I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm— 9 if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation." 10 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great*

and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. 11 The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

Daniel 2:12 *Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed.*

3. Fear leads to intimidation.

Daniel 2:13-16 *So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. 14 Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king’s guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. 15 He declared to Arioch, the king’s captain, “Why is the decree of the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. 16 And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.*

4. Faith leads to wisdom.

Daniel 2:17-19 *Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.*

5. Faith leads to prayer.

Daniel 2:20-23 *Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21 He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; 22 he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. 23 To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king’s matter.”*

6. Faith leads to praise.

To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king’s matter.” (23)

- Fear led to intimidation... faith leads to praise...
- We are to praise the Lord... especially when we are afraid of the future... fearing the unknown

Daniel 2:24-30 *Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation.”*

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: “I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation.”

26 The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?” 27 Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: 29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. 30 But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

7. Faith leads to confidence in God.