



DANIEL CHAPTER 2

*It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But the glory of kings is to search out a matter.
- Proverbs 25:2.*

Wisdom... Daniel 2 can be summed up in the quest for REAL wisdom! King Nebuchadnezzar was deeply disturbed by a dream he had and summoned all his sorcerers, magicians, wise men, and astrologers (Horoscope readers) to tell him the dream and what it meant, but quickly realized in all of mankind there is no true wisdom. As the Chaldeans answered in verses 10 and 11, *“There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. 11 It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”* Needless to say, the king didn’t like this answer, however, we should take note of the last line, ‘whose dwelling is not with flesh.’ The magicians knew that they did not possess the kind of power and wisdom the King was searching for, AND that this power was not of this world. To make matters more interesting, due to this event, Daniel was known as the one who had the spirit of God within him. (Daniel 5:10-16) Daniel, much as we do, had access to the spirit of God for wisdom and decrement. Further, as we should, but often don’t, he gives credit to God for that wisdom. As the narrative plays out, King Nebuchadnezzar orders all the ‘wise men’ to be killed for their failure and Daniel finds himself in the crosshairs of the king. Here Daniel shows a remarkable compassion for the lost and wicked as he intervenes for the Babylonians he served with. These men were sorcerers and magicians, and ‘wise men’ of the dark arts. The furthest thing from Godliness one could imagine, and yet, he cared for them that they should not be put to death. He kept calm under the mountain of pressure and trusted the Lord to bring the dream to light and save his friends.

Under the seemingly insurmountable pressure of Life, how do you keep calm and trust the Lord? What is the key to Daniel's unshakable faith in a fickle world?

Discussion Questions

1. What are some areas that your non-Christian friends seek wisdom from? Have you fallen into those same traps before? (How did that work out for you?- share your experience)
2. Sometimes darkness shows us the light. Much like Daniel, we live and operate in a world of mixed theology and ‘Dark Arts’. When the darkness closes in, and we find ourselves in the crosshairs, how do you let God’s light shine?
3. How do problems, stressors, and distress humble the proud? How has God humbled you? Did that humility change your life?
4. King Nebuchadnezzar in verse 47 recognizes ‘Daniel's God’ as the greatest among gods. Does this make him a believer? Can people recognize Jesus as the highest power and still reject Him? How do we minister to false converts?
5. Pastor Steve mentioned that Rome fell because it let foreign cultures influence its empire until the point of total division. How have we let the ‘American’ culture influence the Church? Are there positives from this influence? Negatives?