

# Daniel Part 2 HANDOUT

3.1.26

## “When God Doesn’t Make Sense”

**DANIEL 2:1** <sup>1</sup>In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.

- **Power does not equal peace.**
- You can have success and still feel afraid at night.

**DANIEL 2:4–11** ... <sup>5</sup>The king replied to the astrologers, “This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble...<sup>10</sup>The astrologers answered the king, “There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks!

- The king demands the impossible. “Tell me the dream and its meaning.”
- Babylon’s worldview assumed divine distance.
- **Israel’s worldview proclaimed divine nearness.**

**DANIEL 2:12–16** <sup>12</sup>This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. <sup>13</sup>So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

<sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>He asked the king’s officer, “Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?” Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. <sup>16</sup>At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

- Daniel didn’t cause the problem.
- But he still feels the consequences.

**Sometimes you suffer because of someone else’s insecurity.**

<<Bad leadership decisions affect faithful people.>>

If you’re chaotic inside, crisis will expose it. **If you’re anchored inside, crisis will reveal it.**

**KEY THOUGHT #1** Crisis Reveals What Conviction Has Built

**DANIEL 2:17–18** <sup>17</sup>Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>18</sup>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.

- Daniel gathers his friends.
- He urges them to “plead for mercy from the God of heaven.”

Daniel gathers community. ***Spiritual isolation is dangerous.***

**DANIEL 2:19–23** <sup>19</sup>During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven...

- God reveals the mystery.
- Daniel doesn’t run to the king first.
- **He worships first.**

Verse 21: God is not reacting to history. **He is directing it.**

- If you believe news headlines are sovereign, *you will live anxiously.*
- If you believe God is sovereign, ***you will live anchored.***

**KEY THOUGHT #2** Sovereignty Is the Antidote to Anxiety

**What you believe about God determines how you endure pressure.**

**DANIEL 2:26–28** <sup>26</sup>The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?” <sup>27</sup>Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, <sup>28</sup>but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.

Daniel reveals the statue: Gold — Babylon / Silver — Medo-Persia / Bronze — Greece / Iron — Rome / Iron and clay — divided kingdoms / **A stone cut without hands (kingdom of God)** strikes the statue at its feet, shattering the entire image.

**Only God’s kingdom is eternal.**

**DANIEL 2:46–49** <sup>46</sup>Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. <sup>47</sup>The king said to Daniel, “Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.”...

- Nebuchadnezzar bows before Daniel.
- The most powerful man in the world on his face.
- He acknowledges God — ***yet he does not surrender.***

**KEY THOUGHT #3** God Positions the Faithful for Influence

Daniel didn’t seek a platform. He sought faithfulness. God can raise you when He’s ready. *Your job is obedience.*

**LIFE POINT: When you trust that God rules history, you can rest in His control over your story.**