

## **DANIEL 2 – WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY – OCTOBER 8, 2025**

**The main book used for this study of Daniel: Warren Wiersbe, *Daniel, Determining to Go God's Direction* (Colorado Springs, CO.: David C. Cook, 2009)**

As you turn from chapter 1 to chapter 2, the atmosphere in the king's palace changes radically. Chapter 1 closes with recognition and security, but chapter 2 introduces rejection and danger. Because they possessed almost unlimited power and authority, Oriental despots were notoriously temperamental and unpredictable, and here Nebuchadnezzar reveals this side of his character. However, the hero and major actor in chapter 2 is not King Nebuchadnezzar but the Lord God who "reveals deep and secret things" (2:22).

**1. Why is there such a sudden shift in tone from chapter 1 to chapter 2? What does this say about the path Daniel's life is about to take? How does the inconsistency of the king help to underline the consistency of God's role in Daniel's life?**

The counselors were greatly humiliated because they couldn't tell Nebuchadnezzar the dream. This was a great opportunity for them to receive wealth, prestige, and promotion, and the fact that they stalled for time indicated that they were unable to meet the challenge. This in itself set the stage for Daniel to exalt the true and living God of Israel who alone can predict the future (Isa. 41:21–23).

**2. How did the astrologers try to "buy time" in this story? Dan. 2:4–9.)**

**3. Why do you think the king didn't want to give away the contents of the dream?**

**4. How does God use the king's impossible request to set the stage for Daniel's triumph and God's own glorification?**

There are lots of places in the Bible where God exposes the foolishness of the world and the deceptiveness of Satan. There are multiple examples to compare with the way God exposes the counselors of Babylon: Moses and Aaron defeat the magicians of Pharaoh (Ex. 7–12); Elijah exposes the deception of Baal worship (1 Kings 18); Jeremiah confronts the false prophet Hananiah (Jer. 28); Paul exposes the deception of Bar-Jesus the sorcerer (Acts 13:1–12). When Arioch came to get Daniel and his friends, they were shocked to hear about the king's edict. As new "graduates" among the royal counselors, they hadn't been invited to the special session about the dream. Daniel spoke to Arioch "with wisdom and tact" just as he had spoken to Ashpenaz and Melzar (1:9–14), and the chief executioner explained how serious the matter was. By doing this and delaying his obedience, Arioch was risking his own life, but the officers in the palace had learned that the four Jewish men were trustworthy. Their gracious actions and words during their three years of training were now helping to save their lives. Arioch allowed Daniel time to speak to Nebuchadnezzar, and the king must have been surprised to see him. (Daniel 2:17–23). When Daniel returned to his friends, he urged them to plead for mercy about the mystery of the king's dream.

**5. What does this tell you about Daniel's faith? About the way he approaches challenges?**

**6. What does it say to us today about how we ought to respond to difficult circumstances?**

From the History Books King Nebuchadnezzar was known not only for his military prowess but also for his leadership in building up the city of Babylon (and other surrounding areas, including a wall between the Tigris and the Euphrates meant to protect the country from invasions from the north). He is famous for sparing no expense in the capital city reconstruction, and for commissioning the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, one of the original Seven Wonders of the World. His influence was so great in the region that there aren't many places near Babylon that don't record something about him. Many of Nebuchadnezzar's exploits were military, but some were more about beauty or art (as in the gardens). History supports the notion that Nebuchadnezzar was well known and wielded great influence in the region.

**7. Does Nebuchadnezzar's story add support to the idea that power corrupts?**

**8. How did Daniel and his friends claim this promise?**

**9. How is this truth significant in today's culture?**

**10. What are the evidences in chapter 2 of Daniel's faith?**

The King James Version of the Bible uses the word "secret" ("mystery" in NIV) eight times in this chapter.

**11. Why do you think this word is used so frequently?**

**12. What is this "hidden truth" that the author is referencing?**

We see the wisdom and tact of Daniel as he went immediately to Arioch and told him not to destroy the "wise men" because God had revealed to him both the dream and its interpretation. Daniel never heard the Sermon on the Mount, but he knew how to treat his enemies and was willing to rescue

the pagan advisers. Since Arioch was in charge of executions, he could stop the process and save the lives of all the king's counselors in the city of Babylon. Daniel gave Arioch the privilege of taking him into the presence of the king and sharing some of the credit. The statement, "I have found a man" (v. 25) isn't exactly the truth, because it was Daniel who found Arioch; but Daniel wasn't the kind of person who worried about who got the credit so long as God got the glory. Daniel could have taken all the "glory" for himself with the wisdom he had about the king's dream.

**13. What makes it possible for him to give God the glory in this life-and-death situation?**

First Daniel told the king what he had seen in his dream, and then he explained its meaning. He saw a large statue of a man, "an enormous dazzling statue, awesome in appearance" (v. 31), composed of five different materials: gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay. Suddenly a stone appeared and smashed the feet of the statue so that the image was completely shattered and became like chaff that was blown away. Then the stone became a huge mountain that filled the earth. On hearing this accurate description, the king knew that Daniel was telling the truth and that what he said could be trusted. Only the God of heaven who sent the dream could have helped His servant know and interpret the dream.

**14. What does this dream reveal about God's role in history? About humankind? About the coming age? About Jesus?**

