

Lesson 2 – Daniel 2:1-13 “The Dream is Received”

Concerning the second chapter of Daniel, Dr. Walvoord states: “Nowhere else in Scripture, except Daniel 7, is a more comprehensive picture given of world history as it stretched from the time of Daniel, 600 years before Christ, to the consummation at the second advent of Christ” (Walvoord, Daniel, 44).

1. v1: God’s revelation to Nebuchadnezzar:

a. *“And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar...”*

- 1) How could Daniel be in school for 3 years and this event not be mentioned in Chapter 1?
- 2) Daniel is employing Babylonian reckoning, which considered the first year of a king’s reign as the year of accession and called the next year the first year.
- 3) A king’s reign did not regard the unexpired portion of the last year of the deceased monarch as the first year of the new king.

b. *“...Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.”*

- 1) What was he dreaming about?
 - a) **Dan 2:29** – “As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.”
 - b) He was concerned with the _____.
- 2) Why was his spirit troubled?
 - a) “troubled” = indicates a deep disturbance inducing apprehension
 - b) Geoffrey R. King: “As is so often the case, the cares of the day became also the cares of the night. Now Nebuchadnezzar did a thing which no believer in God should ever dream of doing: Nebuchadnezzar took his problems to bed with him.”
 - 1- **Matt 6:34** – “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”

“thought” = 1) to be _____, 2) to be troubled with _____, 3) to seek to promote one's interests

2- **1 Peter 5:7** – “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

c) God answered his mental questioning of the future, and he realized that this was no ordinary dream: (This is not the 1st time that God used a dream to reveal His revelation to a Gentile ruler.)

1- The example of Abimelech: **Read Gen 20:1-3** and **Jer 25:12-13**.

2- The example of the Pharaoh: **Read Gen 41:1-8**.

3) The result of God's revelation:

a) He doesn't understand it, but he comprehends its _____.

b) He lies in his bed unable to sleep.

2. Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to God's Revelation:

a. He summons his wise men:

1) **v2:** “Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.”

a) The magicians = is translated from the Hebrew word meaning stylus or pen; therefore, this word may refer to _____ rather than someone who performs magic in the ordinary sense.

b) The astrologers:

1- Enchanters, referring to the power of conjuring or communicating with the _____.

2- Those who study the _____ to predict the _____.

c) The sorcerers = Those who practice _____ or sorcery or incantations.

d) The Chaldeans:

1- Usually interpreted as a reference to a group of _____.

2- People who lived in Southern Babylonia.

3- They conquered the Assyrians when Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar's father, was king.

2) **Read Lev 19:31.**

3) **Read Deu 18:10-12.**

b. He demands that they show him the dream as well as the interpretation:

1) **v3:** "And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream."

2) **v4:** The conditions proposed by the wise men:

a) Tell us the _____ and we'll tell you the _____ of it.

b) cf. **Matt 9:1-7.**

3) **v5-6:** The conditions established by the king:

a) NO: "The thing is gone from me" = "the thing is certain with me" or "fully determined"

b) Make known unto me both the _____ and _____, or you will be dismembered and your houses laid in ruin.

c) If you do make known the dream and its interpretation, then you will be greatly rewarded.

d) Why did the king make such a demand?

1- Maybe he witnessed the advice and counsel that they had given his _____.

2- Maybe he was looking for an opportunity to _____ of these and _____ them with his own younger wise men.

3- Maybe he realized the _____ of this dream and simply wouldn't take a chance on these people getting it _____.

4) **v7:** The plea of the wise men:

5) **v8-9:** The king's ultimatum restated and explained:

a) "I know of certainty that ye would gain the time ..."

- b) "...for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed..."
 - c) If you have the supernatural ability to _____ a dream, then you should also have the power to _____ its content.
 - d) The king is looking for a _____ in the correctness of the interpretation.
 - e) The king does not _____ them and he is very suspicious of their _____ and _____.
- 6) **v10-11:** The wise men state their own _____:
- 7) **v12-13:** The king orders the wise men to be executed:
- a) Notice that Daniel and his three companions have not been present.
 - b) ***Read Gen 41:1-8.***
 - c) Nebuchadnezzar is about to learn the same lesson that the Pharaoh learned 1,300 years previous. ***If you want to understand a _____ from God, you must call upon a _____ of God.***