

## **Nebuchadnezzar's Disturbing Dream**

Daniel 2:1-23

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**God has the power and wisdom to deliver us from peril should He choose to.**

### **I. Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a disturbing dream and desired its interpretation. (v. 1-3)**

“I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the LORD. “Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

“Therefore,” declares the LORD, “I am against the prophets who steal from one another words supposedly from me. Yes,” declares the LORD, “I am against the prophets who wag their own tongues and yet declare, ‘The LORD declares.’ Indeed, I am against those who prophesy false dreams,” declares the LORD. “They tell them and lead my people astray with their reckless lies, yet I did not send or appoint them. They do not benefit these people in the least,” declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:25-32)

### **II. The “wise men” of Babylon repeatedly requested to be told the content of the dream. (v. 4, 7)**

### **III. The king placed a humanly impossible challenge before the “wise men.” (v. 5-9)**

### **IV. The “wise men” confessed their inability and complained that the request was unreasonable. (v. 10-11)**

“Keep on, then, with your magic spells  
and with your many sorceries,  
which you have labored at since childhood.

Perhaps you will succeed,  
perhaps you will cause terror.

All the counsel you have received has only worn you out!

Let your astrologers come forward,  
those stargazers who make predictions month by month,  
let them save you from what is coming upon you. (Isaiah 47:12-13)

**V. Nebuchadnezzar became enraged at their inability and ordered the execution of them all. (v. 12-13)**

**VI. Daniel responded to the threat with faith and prudence. (v. 14-16)**

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. (Daniel 1:17)

In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom. (Daniel 1:20)

**VII. Daniel enlisted the prayer support of his three friends. (v. 17-18)**

Hear my voice when I call, LORD;  
be merciful to me and answer me.  
My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"  
Your face, LORD, I will seek.  
Do not hide your face from me,  
do not turn your servant away in anger;  
you have been my helper.  
Do not reject me or forsake me,  
God my Savior. (Psalm 27:7-9)

"When they sin against you—for there is no one who does not sin—and you become angry with them and give them over to their enemies, who take them captive to their own lands, far away or near; and if they have a change of heart in the land where they are held captive, and repent and plead with you in the land of their captors and say, 'We have sinned, we have done wrong, we have acted wickedly'; and if they turn back to you with all their heart and soul in the land of their enemies who took them captive, and pray to you toward the land you gave their ancestors, toward the city you have chosen and the temple I have built for your Name; then from heaven, your dwelling place, hear their prayer and their plea, and uphold their cause. And forgive your people, who have sinned against you; forgive all the offenses they have committed against you, and cause their captors to show them mercy; for they are your people and your inheritance, whom you brought out of Egypt, out of that iron-smelting furnace.

"May your eyes be open to your servant's plea and to the plea of your people Israel, and may you listen to them whenever they cry out to you. For you singled them out from all the nations of the world to be your own inheritance, just as you declared through your servant Moses when you, Sovereign Lord, brought our ancestors out of Egypt." (1 Kings 8:46-53)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. (James 1:2-8)

### **VIII. Before doing anything else, Daniel worshiped God for the revelation given to them.**

**(v. 19-23)**

Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (1 Corinthians 1:20-25)

#### **Chiasm of Praise:**

A Praise for God who possesses wisdom and power. (20)

B God's power: He controls human thrones (21a)

B' God's wisdom: He has all understanding and reveals hidden knowledge to men. (21b-22)

A' Praise for God who dispenses His wisdom and power (23)

Praise him for his acts of power;  
praise him for his surpassing greatness. (Psalm 150:2)

Remember the former things, those of long ago;  
I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like me.  
I make known the end from the beginning,  
from ancient times, what is still to come.  
I say, 'My purpose will stand,  
and I will do all that I please.' (Isaiah 46:9-10)

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth,  
sing praise to the Lord,  
to Him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,  
who thunders with a mighty voice.  
Proclaim the power of God,  
whose majesty is over Israel,  
whose power is in the heavens.  
You, God, are awesome in Your sanctuary;  
the God of Israel gives power and strength to His people.  
Praise be to God! (Psalm 68:32-35)

Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” (Luke 17:11-17)

If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. (1 Peter 4:11)

### **Daniel’s Admirable Characteristics**

- a) He had the grace to guard his speech and refrain from making any unwise and inappropriate comments.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. (James 1:26)

- b) He demonstrated great faith and boldness: He sought an audience with the king and had the faith that God could and would do the “impossible.”
- c) He faced the crisis by seeking fellowship and prayer with other believers.
- d) Once God revealed the dream to him, he took time to thank and worship God rather than immediately head off to “take care of business.”