The Book Of Daniel BIBLE STUDY Chapter 2

CHAPTER 2:1-49
NKJV

Daniel 2:1
1 Now in the **second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign**, *
Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him.

* **Babylonian Dating:** did not count the kings accession year, but began the following year.
So the 2nd year (Babylonian Dating)
was the 3rd year in (Judean Dating System)
Accession year
(Meaning: The act of coming into the possession of a right, title or office)

(Daniel's "understanding in all visions and dreams (1:17) was soon to be put to a severe test.)
After Daniel and his three friends completed their three year training period the king demanded to know what he had dreamed on a certain night,

Had dreams: The king's sleep was disturbed by the phenomenon called having dreams.One of them in particular had troubled him. For God's use of dreams as a means of revelation see:
Genesis 20:3, 31:24 , 40:9-19 ,41:1-36

Daniel 2:2-3
2 Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. **3** And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream."'

Magicians - (Engraver) which refers to those who engraved Babylonian religious activities and astrological movements of the stars on clay tablets.
Astrologers - (Conjurers) those who use spells and incantations to communicate with the spirit world.
Sorcerers - Comes from the Akkadian word that can also designate (witchcraft.)
The Chaldeans - (General ethnic term) for the Babylonian people and as used here a term for priests who serve as Astrologers, **Soothsayers** (a person who professes to foretell events) and wise men in the Kings government.

Side Note (Chapters 4-28 were written in the Aramaic language)

Daniel 2:4-6
4 ’Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.” **5** The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. **6** However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation.”'

So now is where it starts getting real, and fast. The king was fast to anger and his anger was not to be questioned as he was at this time the most powerful man in the entire land.

He could give abundantly as seen in verse 6 (However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor.) or could also be so evil and vicious, as verse 5 reveals (you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap.)

Daniel 2:7-9
7 They answered again and said, “Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation.” **8** The king answered and said, “I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: **9** if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation.”'

It seems like the king may be starting to think that these men may not be a mystical as he once believed, as for the reason he may be asking for the dream and its interpretation, was this a test to see if they were all knowing?

Daniel 2:10-11
10 The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, “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.”'

Perhaps these men were starting to feel uncomfortable knowing that the king is so frustrated and angry with them, but still sticking to their answers.

I also find it ironic that they think no one could interpret the dream that the king has except the god's (Notice the little g (god's) this meaning their god began god's.

Daniel 2:12,13
12 'For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. **13** So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.'

Now the king knowing that his magicians, astrologers and sorcerers were not able to interpret the dream he sent out the decree to destroy them all, that decree would also include Daniel and his three friends too.

Daniel 2:14-16
14 'Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon; **15** he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel.
16 So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.

v14 - with counsel and wisdom, where did this come from? I think this is the LORD working in Daniel, giving him this counsel and wisdom to face the king knowing of the decree he put in place and making his plea to the king in this matter, trusting God would help him with the interpretation of the dream.

Daniel 2:17-19
17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, **18** that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.
19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.'

Matthew 18:19 (They asked the Father for his mercies all in agreeance) and the LORD reveled the secret (Dream) to Daniel. **Numbers 12:6**
Job 33:15
So then Daniel blessed the God in heaven.

Daniel 2:20-23
20 Daniel answered and said: “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. 21 And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise And knowledge to those who have understanding. 22 He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. 23 “I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might, And have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king’s demand.”'

v21 - Acts 1:7
'And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. '
v23 Notice Daniel did not forget to give all the praise to God.

Luke 17:18 'Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” '

Daniel 2:24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation.”'

v24 - We once again see that Daniel wasn’t only thinking of his own rescue, but of even those that believed and trusted the pagan gods too. He asked **“take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation.”'**

Being a man of God he couldn’t see any of the wisemen be destroyed, so he asked to save them all. That to me is showing love to those in time of need, seeing without his request they surly would have died.

Daniel 2:25-28
25 Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, “I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.” 26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?” 27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. 28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: '

v28 - Daniel assigned credit for divulging the dream solely to “a God in heaven who reveals mysteries.

v28 - Genesis 40:8 'And they said to him, “We each have had a dream, and there is no interpreter of it.” So Joseph said to them, “Do not interpretations belong to God? Tell them to me, please.”'

Genesis 41:16
'So Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, “ It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh an answer of peace.”'

***In the latter days.** They begin with the “hereafter” of Nebuchadnezzar’s time and include “what is to be”

Daniel 2:29-30
29 As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. **30** But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.'

v30 - Daniel 2:47 'The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.” '

Daniel 2:31-35
31 “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. **32** This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, **33** its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. **34** You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. **35** Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.'

v31 - A great image. The same Hebrew noun is used to denote likenesses representing idols. At tamest connotes something as transient and unreels “a shadow” or “phantoms”

Daniel 2:31-33
31 “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. '
32 This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, **33** its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

Reveiw Image:
Head was fine gold
Chest and arms silver
Belly and thighs bronze
Legs of iron
Feet partly iron and partly clay.

Daniel 2:34-35
34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. **35** Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.'

Daniel 2:36
'“This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

v36 - We will tell. Daniel may have wanted to give some credit to his three friends who joined him in prayer for divine enlightenment.
Its interpretation. What “God has made known to the king”

Daniel 2:37-40
37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; **38** and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all— you are this head of gold. **39** But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. **40** And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

Daniel 2:41-45
41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.
42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.
43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.
44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.
45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."'

Daniel 2:46-49
46 'Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.
Prostrate (Meaning to cast oneself face down on the ground in humility, submission, or adoration) or (laying flat or at full length)

47 The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."
(Notice how Nebuchadnessar did not accept Daniel's God as the exclusion of other gods. Still granting the existence of a variety of other divine beings, however, to recognize a manifestation of power unequaled by the deities in his pantheon.)
Pantheon - Meaning the place of idols of any group

V47 Daniel 3:28-29 28 Nebuchadnezzar spoke, saying, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, who sent His Angel and delivered His servants who trusted in Him, and they have frustrated the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they should not serve nor worship any god except their own God! **29** 'Therefore I make a decree that any people, nation, or language which speaks anything amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made an ash heap; because there is no other God who can deliver like this.

Daniel 2:48
'Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. '

(Once again God seen that Daniel was blessed for his faith)

Daniel 2:49
'Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.'

(And also once again Daniel didn’t forget to include his three friends as he petitioned the king, bringing them into the promotion too.)