

Spiritual Visions

Long Beach Alliance Church • June 28, 2015 • Pastor Chris Lankford

No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.

~Daniel 2:27-28 (ESV)

1) Preparing For Pivotal Moments

- A) Like our own lives, most of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah's lives were very normal. Like you and me, they balanced a regular routine of faithful lives against a world coming out in increasing hostility toward God.**
- B) In the midst of ordinary lives, the book of Daniel records "pivotal moments" which launch Daniel and his three close friends into some of the greatest moments in history. And while Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah amaze us, it is really God at work through them which takes these young boys and makes them into powerful "super-heroes."**
- C) The first "pivotal moment" in Daniel is tension between eating the "king's food" and remaining pure for service to God (Daniel 1:8-21). Because of their faithfulness, Daniel and his three friends are made "super-heroes" by God!**
- D) But the challenges have only begun for Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah! It wasn't long before another "pivotal moment" crashed into their lives; and this time, it might result in saving the lives of many (including their own)!**
- E) It's worth noting that Daniel composed his prophetic book in two different languages. About 45% of Daniel is written in Hebrew (the language of the Jews). The other 55% of Daniel is written in Aramaic (the language of the day). The change made Daniel's prophecies more globally accessible.**

2) Nebuchadnezzar's Disturbing Nightmare

- A) In the ancient world it was common for rulers to employ people claiming insight into gods and the spirit world. With various titles and skillsets (see Daniel 1:20, 2:2), these advisers used occultic and demonic sources to provide help to their royal family (but, Leviticus 19:26).**
- B) Perhaps suspicious of the advice he was receiving, King Nebuchadnezzar demands that his spiritual advisers gather to interpret a disturbing nightmare which has "struck" the king, leaving him quite rattled (Daniel 2:1).**
- C) Following the protocols for interpretation, the Chaldeans (expert dreamologists), ask for the details of the dream. King Neb then drops the bomb. He requests that his advisers tell him BOTH the dream AND the interpretation, with no help from the king (Daniel 2:1-9)!**
- D) The tension level in the throne room steadily rises as the king challenges his advisers, threatening them with gruesome and violent deaths. Melting from the heated exchange, the Chaldeans tell the king he is being unreasonable and that no man on earth could possibly provide BOTH the dream and its interpretation (2:10-11)!**
- E) The response of the advisers sends King Nebby into a rage, leading to a royal command to KILL ALL WISE MEN in Babylon, including Daniel and his three friends (2:12-14).**

3) Daniel's Active Faith in God Saves Many

- A) Without knowing any details, Daniel promised to give King Nezzar the specifics of the dream and its interpretation (2:14-16). He then got together with Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah and prayed for God's mercy (2:17-18).**
- B) God gives Daniel a spiritual "vision of the night," bringing Daniel to bless God (2:19-23). Daniel rushes to the king to tell him two things. First, what no man could provide you, the true God will provide. Second, God has revealed the mystery of your dream and its interpretation (2:24-30).**
- C) Daniel describes King Nebu's terrifying dream, climaxing in the victory of "the God of Heaven" "striking" the colossal statue of earthly kingdoms and replacing it with an eternal Kingdom (2:31-45). The faithfulness of Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah results in the saving of many influential people, grateful praise given to God, and provision for our four super-heroes in Babylon (2:46-49)!**

Nebuchadnezzar's Statue

Daniel 2

Rock
Jesus Christ



Gold
Babylonian Empire

Silver
Medo-Persian Empire

Bronze
Greek Empire

Iron
Roman Empire

Iron and Clay
Modern powers

