

Daniel Interprets the King's Dream

Daniel 2

Based on NLT (2004)

Daniel 2:1-13

One night ...Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. He called in his magicians... and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. ...

Then the astrologers answered the king“Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.”

But the king said to the astrologers, “I am serious about this. If you don't tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble!

They said again, “...No one on earth can tell the king his dream! And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing!”

The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed... *including* Daniel and his friends.

Daniel 2:14-16

When ... the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. He asked *him*, “Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?” So *the messenger* told him all that had happened. Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.

Daniel 2:17-23

Then Daniel went home and told his friends ... what had happened. He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. He said,

“Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power.

He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings.

He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.....”

Daniel 2:24-30

Then Daniel went in to see *the king to tell him what God had revealed*. “There are no wise men...or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream ...And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.

Daniel 2:31-45

Daniel told the king his dream about a huge statue and what that dream meant. The dream revealed the future of the kingdom.

Daniel 2:46-49

Then King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him. The king said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret.”

Then the king appointed Daniel to a high position and gave him many valuable gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men. At Daniel’s request, the king appointed *Daniel’s friends* to be in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained in the king’s court.

Story Crafting

The details of the dream are not given in this story. The emphasis is rather on God’s faithfulness to Daniel.

Teaching this Story

What did you like about this story?

Was there something in this story that you did not understand?

What did you learn about “man” (human characters in the story)?

What did you learn about God/Jesus in this story?

What do you need to apply to your life from this story?

To get discussion going, try asking some of the following questions:

1. Did the king value the meaning of dreams?
2. Who normally gave him counsel in this type of situation?
3. Was the king reasonable?
4. Will the people you meet always seem reasonable to you?
5. Why was Daniel going to be killed?
6. How did Daniel respond to the king’s edict?
7. What did the friends do in this difficult situation?
8. How did Daniel give praise to God?
9. How did Daniel give credit to God?
10. Did the king give credit to God in a way we would have hoped for?