

The Book of Daniel

chapter 2

God's message: The secret mysteries of dreams



Introduction

The exile was the worst time in Jewish history because God was punishing them by destroying their capital city, Jerusalem. In Daniel 1, Daniel and his friends were taken into exile in Babylon. They were chosen to serve in the king's court. This had certain privileges and they were given good food and wine. But because they were Jews, God had given his people specific instructions to eat only certain things which made them different from the other peoples. So, Daniel and his friends remained faithful to God by refusing to eat the royal food and kept to their own diet. God blessed them and made them important in the king's court. This is God's story told through the life of Daniel and his friends.

Opening discussion

Do you think God speaks to people in dreams? How can you know if a dream comes from God? What other ways do you expect God to speak?

Read the passage: *Daniel 2*.

This study will be broken into 2 parts:

- a. Observations about how the dream was interpreted.
- b. The meaning of the dream.

How to interpret a dream?

1. To find out the meaning of the dream, how did the king protect himself from being deceived by his advisors?
2. Why was this such a clever way to protect himself?
3. In your own opinion, do you think the king's request was reasonable? (v5–6)
4. How did Daniel praise God when he was given the interpretation to the dream? (v19–23)

The meaning of the dream

5. What was the dream? As a group, draw a picture of the dream.
6. What were the five kingdoms? Show them on your picture.

7. What was God trying to tell the King?
 - a. That God is powerful and He is the one who makes kings.
 - b. God just likes to confuse people by showing dreams.
 - c. All kingdoms are temporary and will disappear.
 - d. Some kingdoms are greater than others.
 - e. God's kingdom will last forever and destroy all other kingdoms.
 - f. God doesn't like the king because he is proud.
 - g. The king's kingdom is great and will be very strong.
 - h. God wants to show the king that He is the one who is in control of everything.
 - i. God is just showing off his power.

Meaning and Relevance

8. How is this passage relevant to us today? Choose one or more of the following and give your reasons.
 - a. God can and will speak to people in dreams.
 - b. Only people who can tell us the dream can interpret it as well.
 - c. Don't trust anyone's interpretation who cannot tell you the dream as well.
 - d. Always pray for God to give you the interpretation for your dreams.
 - e. Many kingdoms will come and go but God's Kingdom will last forever.
9. Read Hebrews 1:1–3. How did God speak to people in the past, and how does He speak to people now?
10. How does this change the way we listen to God and find guidance from Him?
11. How does knowing God's control and rule over earthly kingdoms give believers comfort and hope?