

Daniel Chapter 2: Part 1 – The King of Heaven & the King of Babylon

THE BOOK OF **DANIEL** CHAPTER 2

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM



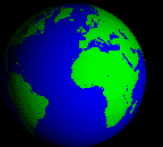
Past > Present > Future



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Prepare for the Future**



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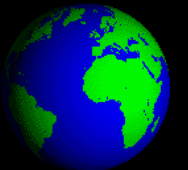


Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and
Satan is primarily over

“WORSHIP”

Who will you Choose?



Get into the Ark

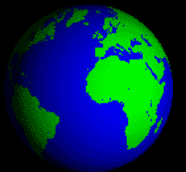
Sanctuary



**And let them
make me a
sanctuary;
that I may dwell
among them.**

– Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Hydrotherapy

Hydrotherapy is the external or internal use of water in any of its forms (water, ice, steam) for health promotion or treatment of various diseases with various temperatures, pressure, duration, and site. The use of water for various treatments is probably as old as mankind. It is one of the naturopathic treatment modality used widely in ancient cultures including India, Egypt, China, etc. Hydrotherapy is one of the basic methods of treatment widely used in the system of natural medicine, which is also called as water therapy, aquatic therapy, pool therapy, and balneotherapy.

- **Use of water in various forms and in various temperatures can produce different effects on different system of the body.**

Wondered if you should ice that sprain or heat pack instead?

Knowing when to apply heat and ice to injuries can be tricky—but what about using both together?

This technique is known as contrast therapy, or alternating hot and cold therapy, and involves alternating applications of heat and ice to relieve the pain associated with injury or overexertion.

As a general rule of thumb:

1. Use ice for acute injuries or pain, inflammation and swelling.
2. Use heat for muscle pain or stiffness.

- **Check with your Doctor if any doubts about anything.**

COLD

Pack



Freeze it

- Store in freezer for 1.5 hours before use



Wrap it

- Wrap or cover pack with protective material



Apply it

- Apply to injured area



Time it

- Alternating application 15 minutes on, 15 minutes off



HOT



Boil it

- Bring 3 quarts water to boil and remove from heat
- Place pack in water for not more than 5 minutes
- Knead pack to distribute heat

or



Microwave it

- Microwave Pack on high (100% Power) for 20 seconds
- Knead pack to distribute heat
- Microwave Pack for additional 20 seconds
- Allow pack to stand for 20 seconds before removing from oven
- Knead pack to distribute heat



Wrap it

- Wrap or cover pack with protective material



Apply it

- Apply to injured area

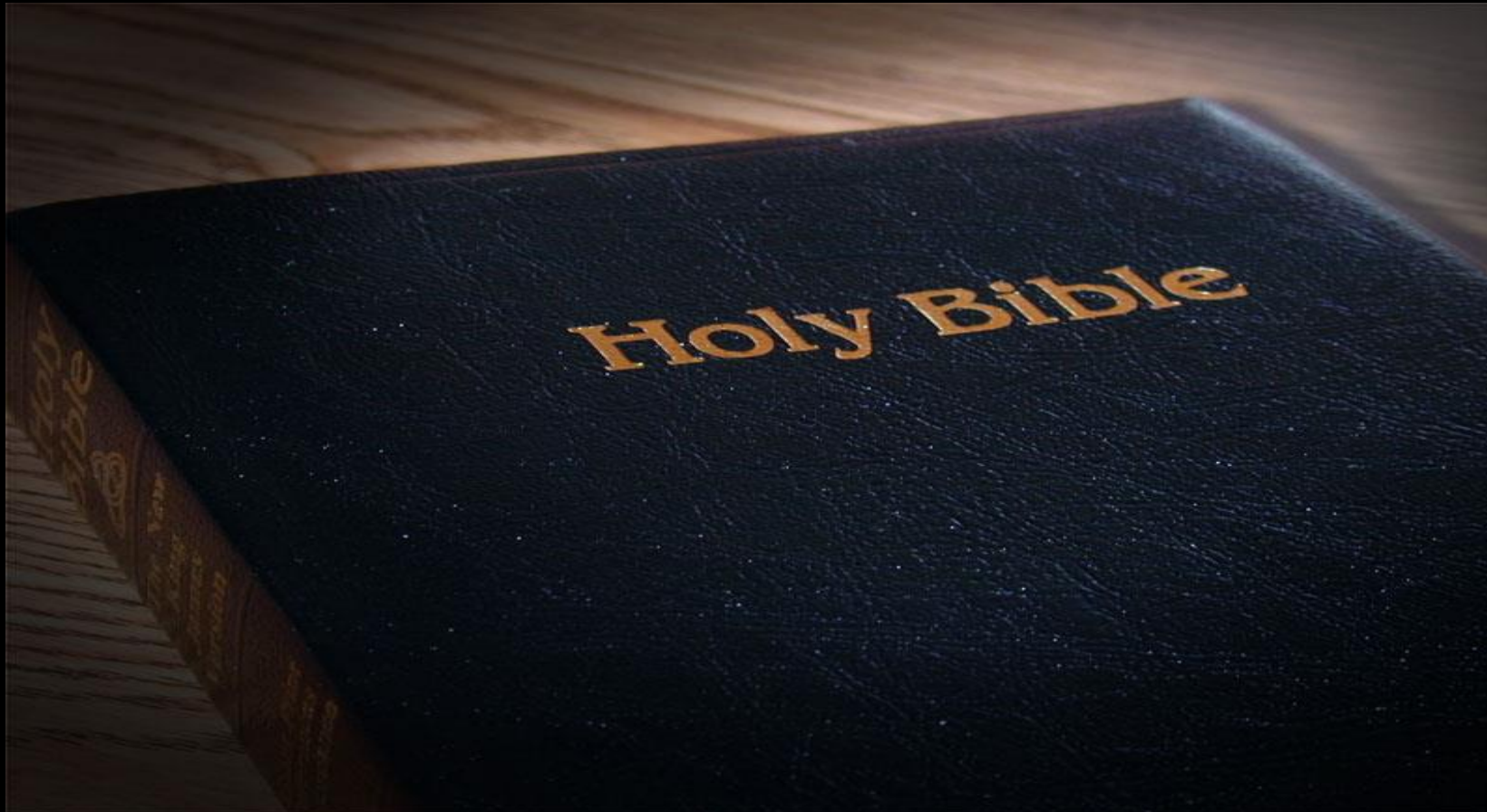


Time it

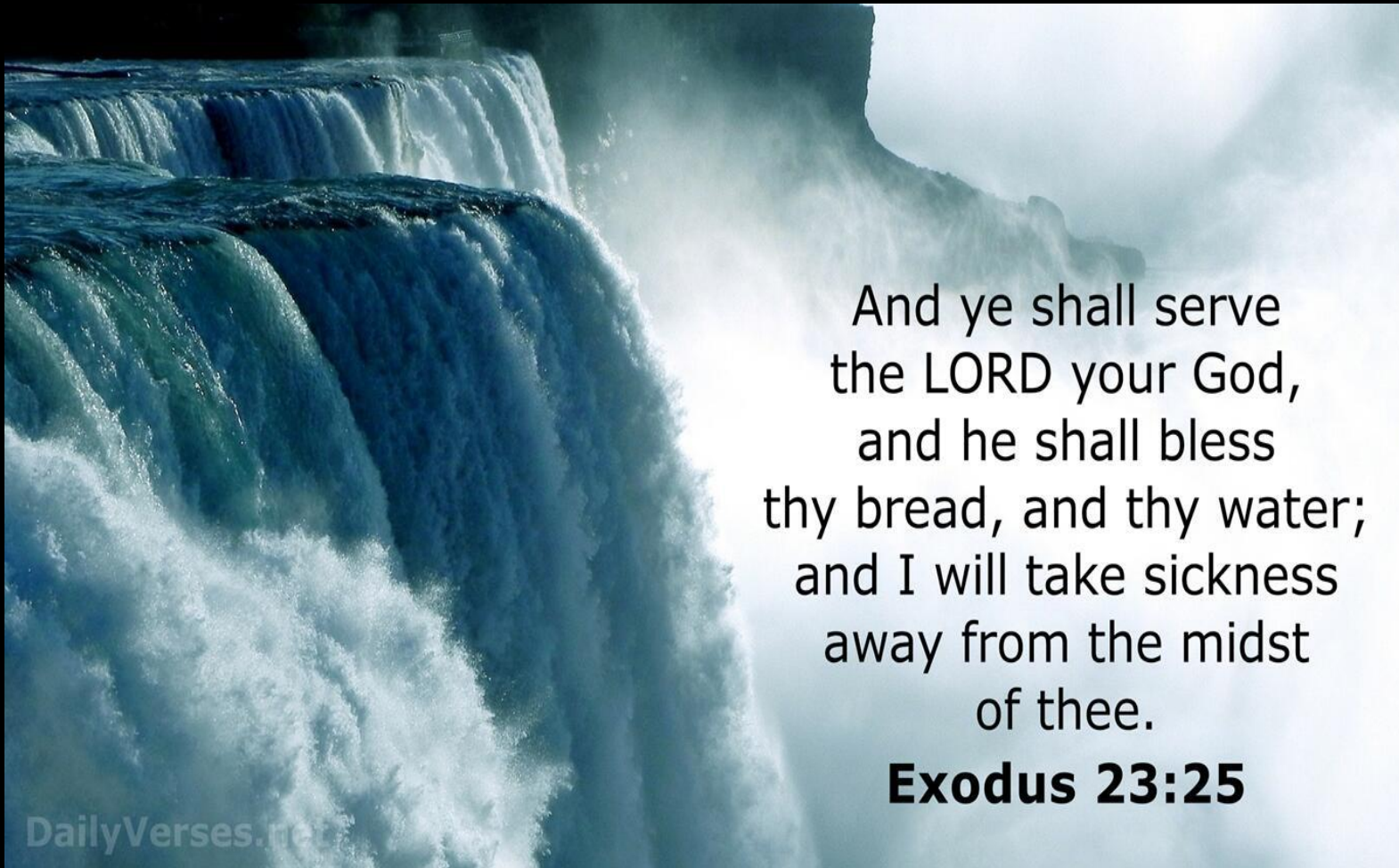
- Alternating application 15 minutes on, 15 minutes off



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



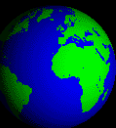
Yes we Can!



And ye shall serve
the LORD your God,
and he shall bless
thy bread, and thy water;
and I will take sickness
away from the midst
of thee.

Exodus 23:25

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Some Prophecy Update...



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By CNA Staff,
Vatican City,
Jan 10, 2022

Pope Francis laments ‘cancel culture’ in annual address to diplomats



Pope Francis lamented “cancel culture” in an address to diplomats representatives of the 183 states at the Vatican on Monday. Delivering his annual “state of the world” address the pope said that international organizations were increasingly pursuing “divisive” agendas at odds with the longstanding values of many countries. “Not infrequently, the centre of interest has shifted to matters that by their divisive nature do not strictly belong to the aims of the organization.” “As a result, agendas are increasingly dictated by a mind-set that rejects the natural foundations of humanity and the cultural roots that constitute the identity of many peoples.”



Some Prophecy Update...

To Pope Francis: A New Era in Evangelical and Roman Catholic Relations (FULL SPEECH)

By Geoff Tunnicliffe, CP Contributor



“On behalf of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) and the 600 million people we represent around the globe, I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are grateful for this meeting, for the time and freedom to discuss together issues that deeply concern us all.”

The European Evangelical Alliance is part of the World Evangelical Alliance. World Evangelical Alliance is a global ministry working with local churches around the world to join in common concern to live and proclaim the Good News of Jesus in their communities. WEA is a network of churches in 129 nations that have each formed an evangelical alliance and over 100 international organizations joining together to give a world-wide identity, voice, and platform to more than 600 million evangelical Christians.



Some Prophecy Update...

Week of Prayer in Europe invites to “live according to God’s rhythm”

Evangelical Focus
EUROPE

European evangelicals are called to pray and reflect on the Sabbath from January 9-16.



The European Evangelical Alliance (EEA) invites thousands of Evangelicals to start the year praying, in the Week of Prayer (WOP). This year edition, coordinated by members of the French-speaking and German-speaking Evangelical Alliance of Switzerland, **will take place from January 9-16, under the theme: Sabbath - Living According to God's Rhythm.**

By praying together, **we want to encourage each other to dance to the rhythm of heaven now.** This includes a lot more than spiritual wellness for our own soul, **but by praying we commit ourselves to building healthy communities and churches**", point out the organisers.



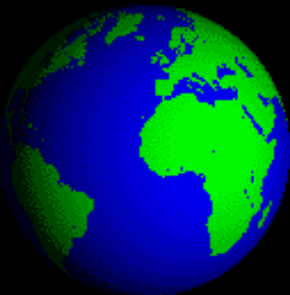
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THE BOOK OF **DANIEL** CHAPTER 2

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM



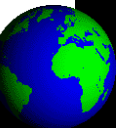
Past > Present > Future



Introduction

In the waters around Greenland are icebergs of many sizes. Sometimes the small ice floes move in one direction while their massive counterparts flow in another. What happens is that surface winds drive the little ones, whereas the huge masses of ice are carried along by deep ocean currents. When we consider the rise and fall of nations throughout history, it is similar to accounting for the surface winds and ocean currents. The winds represent everything changeable and unpredictable just like human will. But operating simultaneously with these gusts and gales is another force, even more powerful and very similar to the ocean currents. It is the sure movement of God's wise and sovereign purposes. As Ellen G. White said, "Like the stars in the vast circuit of their appointed path, God's purposes know no haste and no delay". - [*The Desire of Ages*, p. 32.](#)

Although the rise and fall of nations, ideologies, and political parties seem to happen at the discretion of human whim alone, Daniel 2 shows that it is the God of heaven who actually moves human history to its grand finale.



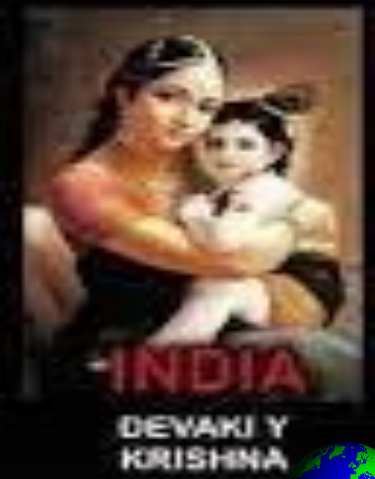
Setting the Stage...

Before we enter into this chapter it would do us well to quickly look at a few things. Babylon was the great counterfeit religion, founded by Nimrod not long after the flood. (Genesis 10:8-10)

Nimrod married his mother Semiramis, who was worshiped as Rhea the great “Mother” of the gods, and raised Babylon to a bad eminence among the nations as the grand seat at once of idolatry and consecrated prostitution. It is from here also that the worship of mother and child stems, with many other false forms of worship that we still see today throughout the churches. -

The Two Babylons by Rev. Alexander Hislop.

Their religion and state were so closely interwoven that they were one entity not two separate entities, which is common for pagan religions/states.



Setting the Stage...

Satan himself desired to be like God and to be worshiped as such. (Isaiah 14:12-14) We see in the city of Babylon imitations of the City of God. In Revelation 22:1-2 the river of life flows through the midst of the city for all the redeemed to partake of it. In the city of Babylon, Satan's bride, we see a river running through the midst to give life to the inhabitants. Babylon trusted in their educational system rather than the God of heaven (Isaiah 47:10) as Lucifer trusted in his own wisdom than in God. (Ezekiel 28:17) There are more likenesses but we do not have time to look at them. So it is easily seen that we are dealing with the great counterfeit religion. But we must remember that ultimately God is in control. (Jeremiah 27:6-7)



Description of heaven



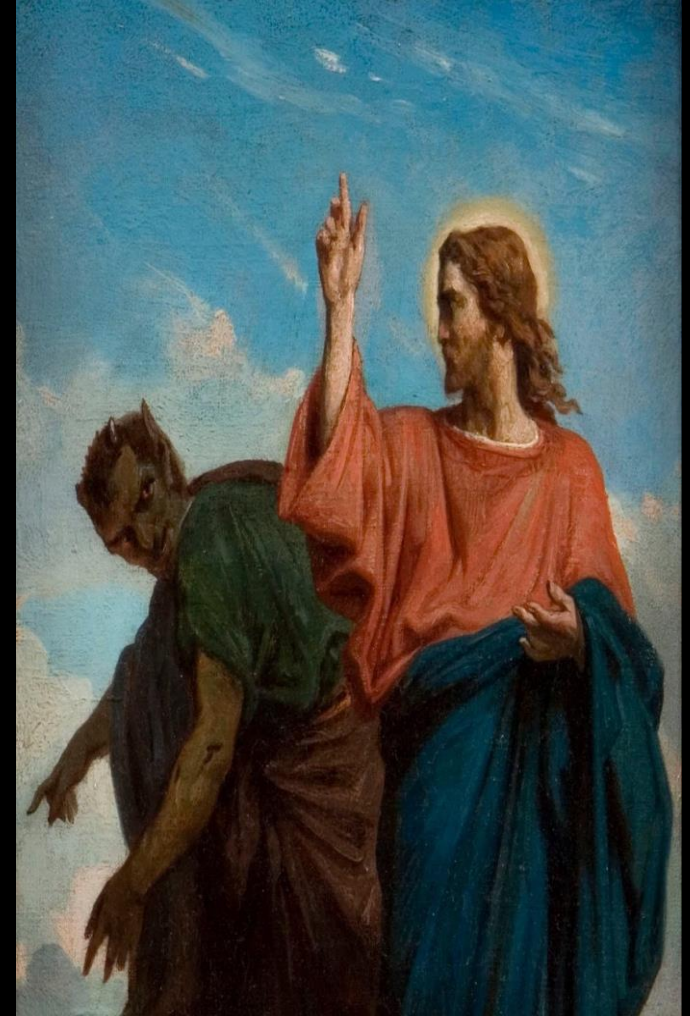
Painting of Ancient Babylon



Play and Counterplay

In [Daniel 2](#) we find a play and counterplay of events between God and Satan. I like to compare the movements of history with a game of chess. On one side of the table is seated God while on the other is seated Satan. God moves and then Satan countermoves and so the game goes on. The comforting news is that there is no chance that God will lose because he already knows all of Satan's moves before the game began. On the other hand, Satan must take calculated guesses about how God is going to move and when you have to guess you are bound to make mistakes.

“In the annals of human history the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as dependent on the will and prowess of man. The shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, or caprice. But in the word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, behind, above, and through all the play and counterplay of human interests and power and passions, the agencies of the all-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will.” [Education](#), p. 173



Daniel 2:1 - Special revelation from God

Daniel 2:1 - *And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.*

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream.

This dream troubled him to the point of where he could no longer sleep. God speaks to each of us as he was trying to speak to Nebuchadnezzar, but we do not always hear His voice for we push it away or crowd it out. **But when deep sleep comes upon a person it is at this time that the God of heaven can communicate to the stubborn of heart.** (**Job 33:13-17**)
This is the case with Nebuchadnezzar.

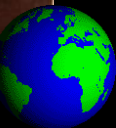


Importance of Dreams in days of Old

Dreams were taken very seriously in the ancient world. When a dream seemed foreboding, it often indicated an impending disaster. Thus, it is understandable why Nebuchadnezzar becomes so anxious about a dream that, to make things even more ominous, he can no longer remember.

Babylonian experts believed that the gods could reveal the interpretation of dreams, but in the case of this dream in Daniel, there is nothing that the experts can do because the king has forgotten the dream. If the content of the dream were conveyed to them, they would come up with an interpretation to please the king.

But in this unprecedented situation, when the dream experts are unable to tell the king what his dream is about, they are forced to admit that “there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh” ([Daniel 2:11](#)).



Daniel 2:2 – The Kings Desperation

Daniel 2:2 - Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.

The king now calls upon his trusted interpreters to show him his dream.

Let us have a look at what their claims are:

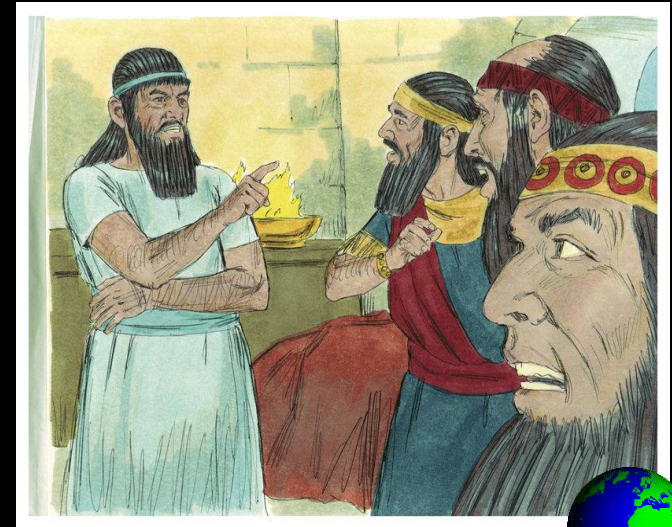
Magicians - They practiced superstitious rights and ceremonies of fortune tellers, casters of nativities.

Astrologers - Pretended to foretell the future events by the study of the stars.

Sorcerers - Pretended to hold communication with the dead.

Chaldeans - These were a sect of Philosophers, similar to the magicians and astrologers, who made physic (the art / skill of healing), divinations (discovering future events or unknown things as though by supernatural powers) etc...

They all claim to be in touch with the other side and the gods. For this reason the king called them, for he wished for them to use their powers in aiding him with his problem.



Daniel 2:3-4 - The wise men's Dilemma

Daniel 2:3 And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation.

Here we find why the king was so troubled. It was in the fact that he could not remember the dream. They now speak to the king in Syriack, which was a language used by the educated and cultured classes. The group here called in by the king are already well versed in drawing information out to obtain their objective, hence the statement *"tell thy servants the dream"*. For when the dream is told they can make up some sought of interpretation.

"The dream of the great image, opening before Nebuchadnezzar events reaching to the close of time, had been given that he might understand the part he was to act in the world's history, and the relation that his kingdom should sustain to the kingdom of heaven. . . ."

— Prophets and Kings, pages 503



Daniel 2:5-9 – The King see's the Ploy

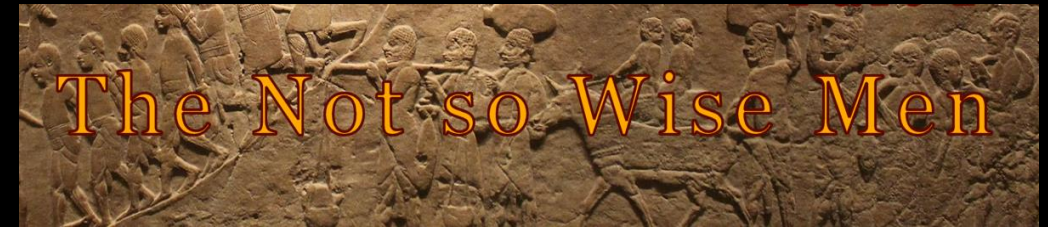
Daniel 2:5 *The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.*

6 *But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.*

7 *They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.*

8 *The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.*

9 *But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof.*



Can do nothing so Buying Time

We see a struggle going on between the king and the wise men. The king states that the thing has departed from me and the other grasping to extract information out to give some sought of explanation. The king gives them an ultimatum of, if you tell me the dream and the interpretation you will be rewarded and have great honour, but if you cannot you will be cut in pieces and so forth. We can see that the king is desperate for the understanding.

The wise men still try to buy some time from the king and the king knows it, for look at his reply in verses 8-9. He states to them that they are trying to gain the time, and he knows that if they can tell him the dream he will get a true interpretation. But because they can't, he sees that they are just making up the interpretation and preparing lying and corrupt words to speak before him.

Till the time be changed - Till he either remembers, calms down, or the event slips away to something unimportant.



Look at the Impossible Scenario

The king:

- He does not tell them the dream.
- He is distrustful and afraid of a false interpretation.
- On one hand he pressures them; on the other he offers honor and gifts.
- His distrust increases. He succumbs to wrath and issues a death decree.

The wise men:

- They demand to know the dream.
- They exhibit only human wisdom and a seemingly arbitrary interpretation.
- They make a second demand to be told the dream, exposing their insecurity and trickery.
- They refuse to meet the king's request on the grounds that it is humanly impossible to fulfill.



Satan Cannot Read the Mind

Daniel 2:1: God gave him a dream to answer his concerns about the future.

Daniel 2:3: God then veiled the dream from the king's memory.
Why did God do this?

Daniel 2:10: God knew that the king would call the experts who were immersed in the occult. God wanted to unmask the false religion of Babylon and clearly reveal that occultic methods don't work.

This story clearly shows that Satan cannot read the mind. I am sure that he was dying to tell the astrologers the dream and its meaning so that all would believe that the religion of Babylon was true.

"Satan cannot read our thoughts, but he can see our actions, hear our words; and from his long knowledge of the human family, he can shape his temptations to take advantage of our weak points of character." *Review and Herald, February 27, 1913*

Deuteronomy 18:9-12: God had forbidden occultic practices.

All of these methods mentioned in Deuteronomy are based on wrong understanding of the state of the dead.

CAN SATAN READ OUR MIND OR OUR HEART?



NO HE CAN'T, BUT HE DOESN'T NEED TO. ALL HE HAS TO DO IS OBSERVE US NOW AND THEN SO AS TO FIND OUT OUR WEAKNESSES. AFTER ALL, IT IS OUR WEAKNESSES HE TARGETS SO AS TO GET US TO DO THINGS THAT DISPLEASE GOD.

(1 PETER 5:8)

Satan's Target:

Your mind

Satan's Weapon:

Lies

Satan's Purpose:

To make you ignorant of God's will

Your Defense:

"The inspired Word of God"



Daniel 2:10-11 - God Communicates

Daniel 2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.

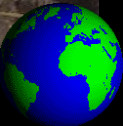
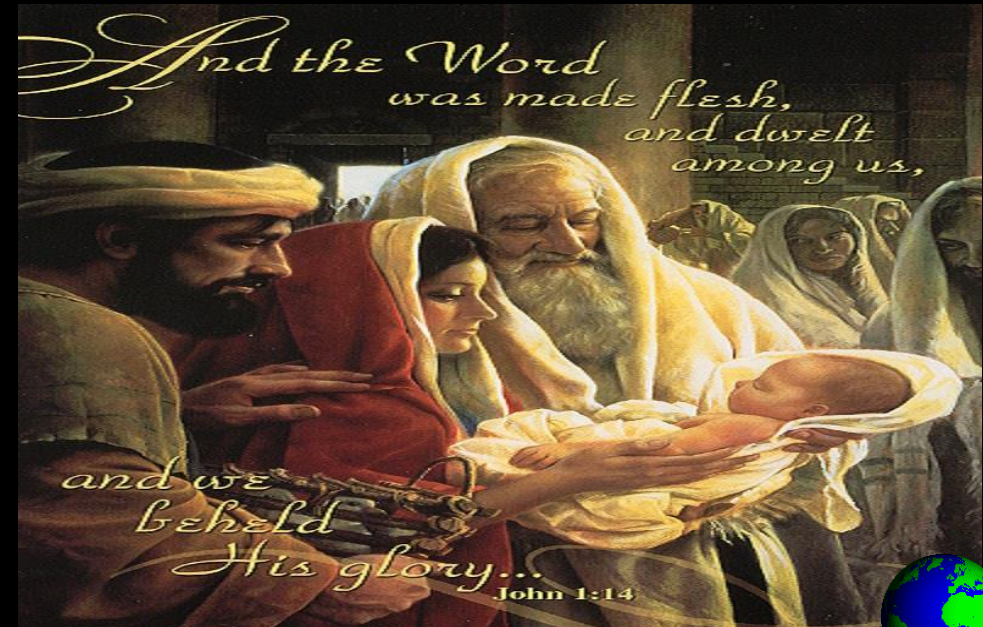
11 And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

The wise men complained that only their gods could reveal the dream to the king but they did not dwell with flesh. The gods of the pagans conceal their plans.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

In contrast to the gods of the pagans, the God of the Bible becomes flesh and communicates His will to human beings through Jesus.



The Wise Men can't Hide Anymore

They now openly admit that they have no connection with or, communication with the gods or other side as they claim to have. **They exclaim that it is unreasonable of the king to ask such a thing of any man. The only person, they say, that can is the gods whose dwelling is not with flesh.** This plainly indicates their admittance to the fact that they have no connection with this god for they could not give the king the answer. All their claims of being in touch with the gods are proven false.

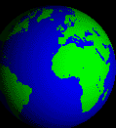
Why is it that they have no answer?

1 Corinthians 2:11-14 shows to us that, only a person connected to the true God can discern the things of God, for spiritual things are spiritually discerned. It was the true God that gave the king this dream and it is only the true God that can give the correct interpretation. **It is obvious that these men were not connected to the true God, for they could not discern this matter.**

This also shows that Satan cannot read the thoughts of any person. **Besides the fact that Satan does not have the ability to create life, he is also unable to read your mind.**



1. God Distresses a King (v.1)
2. God Disgraces the 'Wise Men' (v.2-13)
3. God Discloses the Secret (v.14-23)



Daniel 2:12-13 – Satan's plan to destroy God's faithful Ones

Daniel 2:12 *For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.*

13 *And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.*

Overwhelmed with frustration, the king commands that all the wise men of Babylon be killed. Such an atrocity was not unknown in the ancient world.

Historical sources attest that, because of a conspiracy, Darius I had all the magi executed, **and Xerxes put to death the engineers who had built a bridge that collapsed.** When Nebuchadnezzar issues his decree, **Daniel and his companions have just finished their training and been admitted into the circle of the king's experts.** For this reason, the death decree issued by the king applies to them as well. **In fact, the killing starts immediately, and Daniel and his friends will be executed next.**



God is in Ultimate Control

Although they are not present, Daniel and his friends are affected by the king's decree.

God gave the king amnesia. The purpose of the amnesia was to unmask the wise men and reveal before the world that the religion of Babylon was bankrupt and that the religion of Daniel was superior.

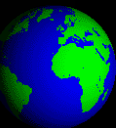
Daniel did not use the forbidden methods of the wise men. His only method was prayer to God. He did not practice what he was taught in the school of Babylon.

The king now sees the falsehood of their claims and became very furious. He ordered the wise men of Babylon to be destroyed, Daniel and his friends included. This shows that sometimes we are placed at a disadvantage because of other people's decisions and actions, when it is no fault of our own.

But always remember that: *"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* - Romans 8:28.



in his **Hands** *He's Got the Whole World*



Satan Tries to kill but God Overrides

Three points to consider:

1. Satan Plans to kill God's followers but instead they are brought to prominence in the kingdom.

2. Satan took advantage of the situation and influenced the mind of the king to kill all of the wise men of Babylon.

3. Satan had seen the faithfulness of Daniel and his friends to God in Daniel 1. He knew that these young men would be a potential problem for him and so he decided to wipe them out.

Instead of being successful in wiping them out, Daniel and his friends were brought to prominence in the kingdom and given cabinet positions.



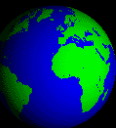
Daniel 2:14-16 – Daniel Jumps into Action

Daniel 2:14 Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon:

15 He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.

16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Arioch, chief of the executioners, came to Daniel to take him to be slain with the rest of the wise men. Notice how the Bible describes the way Daniel answers him; with wisdom and counsel. Daniel went on to ask why the decree is so hasty and is then told of Arioch what the situation is. Daniel then makes his way to the king and desires of him more time, not so he could escape or run away, but so he could show the king the interpretation. This shows the confidence he had in God of giving him the interpretation. What faith! Remember that Daniel has already proven the faithfulness of God, in chapter 1, to those that are faithful to Him.



Daniel finds favour with the King

Interestingly, although the king has accused the magicians of trying to buy “time”, he promptly grants the “time” Daniel requests. Daniel certainly agrees with the magicians that no human being can solve such a mystery, but the prophet also knows of a God who can reveal both the content and the interpretation of the dream.

Theologians talk about the “immanence” of God, that though distinct from the creation, God can still be so close to it. What does the fact that He gives King Nebuchadnezzar a dream teach us about just how immanent God can be to us? (See also [Acts 17:28](#)).

How does the word, “immanence,” apply to the Christian concept of God? What do you think was the source of the multiple dreams that experts in Daniel’s day took seriously as warnings of approaching disaster? Imagine you are a “wise man” of Babylon. How would you feel when your fellow interpreters can’t explain this prophecy of unknown content, knowing that you are headed for the gallows because of your failure? How did Daniel feel about this and what did he do to turn things around? Do you think he knew that he and the other men would be rescued?



Come let us reason together...

The question arises, why was not Daniel and his friends consulted first? **For the king had found them 10 times wiser than all the other wise men in Babylon.**

Listed below are three appropriate reasons:

1. **Because they were not called first, it resulted in the complete exposure of the false system the magicians and other pagan teachers held to. They were unable to do what they claimed they could.**
2. **If they were called first, the other group would not have been brought to a test. God gave the heathen system a chance first, so when they failed they would confess their utter incompetency, even under penalty of death. This would better prepare them to acknowledge God's hand in this matter, as revealed through Daniel to God's glory and honour.**
3. **With Daniel's and his friend's lives at stake, they would be led to seek the Lord more earnestly with their whole heart for deliverance.**

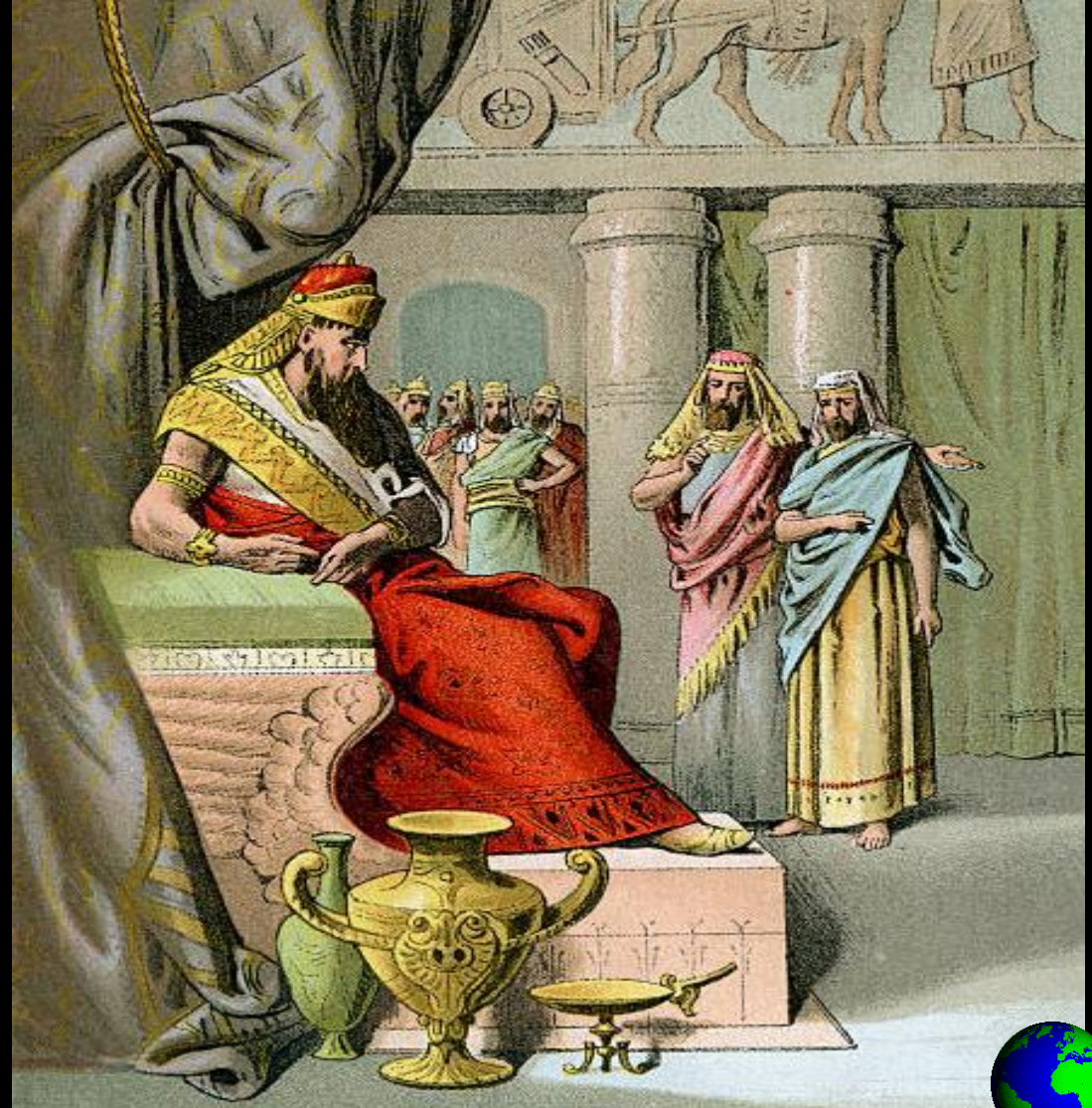


See the Hand of God here...

Why does the king grant Daniel's request for additional time when he had denied the wise men's request in [verse 8](#)?

Some points to consider:

1. The king is still disturbed by the dream and may be glad for the possibility of the interpretation of the dream.
 2. Daniel was not with the other wise men when the king first asked for an interpretation. Possibly, the king considered it fair to allow Daniel to try as he has been found to be 10 times wiser.
 3. The wise men demanded to know the details of the dream. But, Daniel requests only time and not the details.
- God is involved behind the scenes.



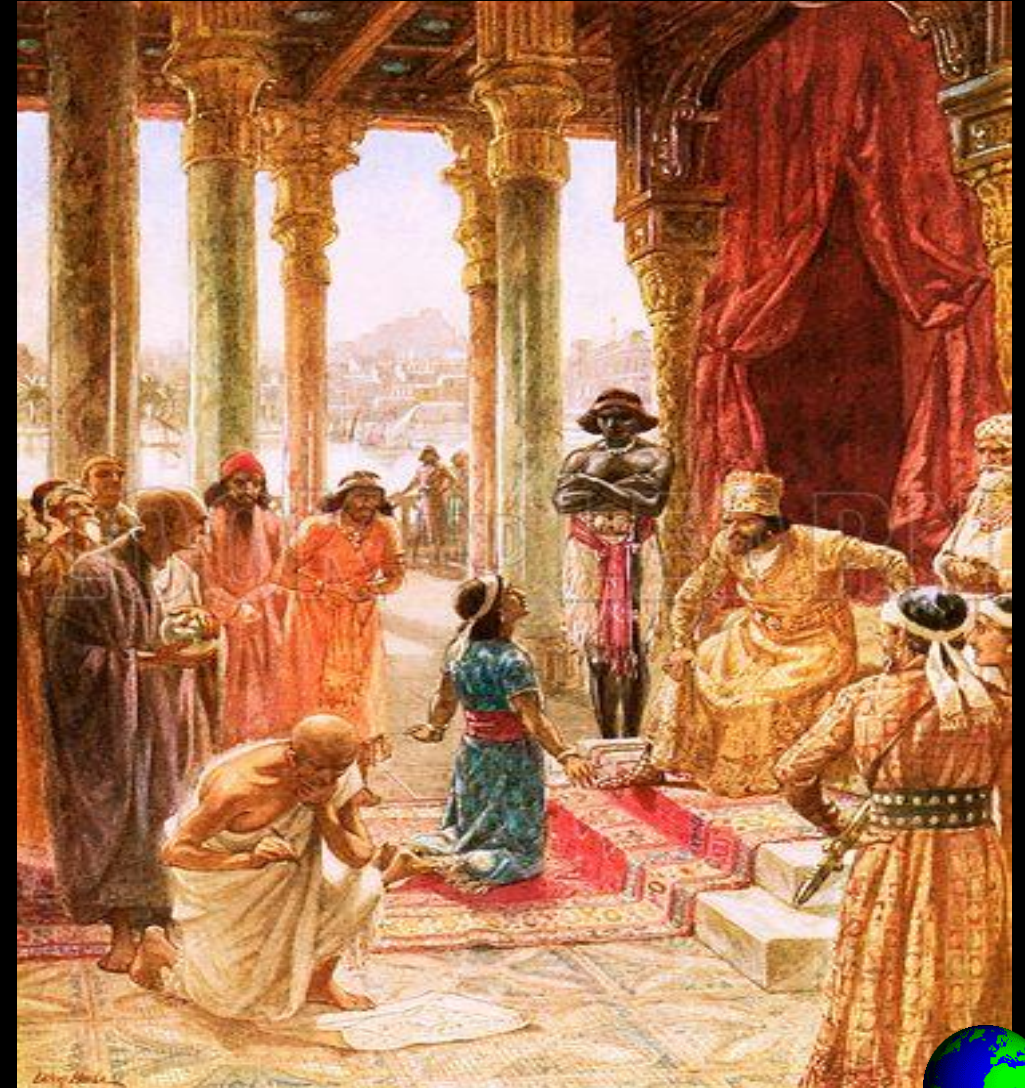
Daniel 2:17-18 – Daniel's Only Option

Daniel 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Immediately after consulting with the king, Daniel returns to his house where Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are present. Daniel reveals unto them the situation at hand so all could come before the throne of grace and partition God for mercy in their time of need, (Hebrews 4:16) also that they would not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Whenever we face a big problem, we also should recognize that our God is great enough to resolve even the most unsolvable challenges.



Two kinds of prayers – 1. Petition

The first is a petition prayer in which Daniel asks God to reveal the content of the dream and its interpretation ([Daniel 2:17-18](#)). The words of this prayer are not given, but we are told that Daniel and his friends “**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**” ([Daniel 2:18](#)). As they pray, God answers their petition and reveals the content and interpretation of the king’s dream. We can rest assured that whenever we seek “mercies from the God of heaven” our prayers will be heard as well, even if not in such a dramatic manner as we see here, because the God of Daniel is our God too.



Daniel 2:19 – 2. Prayer of Thanksgiving

Daniel 2:19 *Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.*

In response to God's answering their petition, Daniel and his friends now burst into a prayer of thanksgiving and praise. They praise God for being the source of wisdom and for being in control of nature and political history.

There is an important lesson we can learn here.

As we pray and plead with God for so many things, how often do we praise and thank Him for answering our prayers? The experience of Jesus with the ten lepers provides an apt illustration of human ingratitude. Out of ten who are healed, only one comes back "to give glory to God" ([Luke 17:18](#)). Daniel's response not only reminds us of the importance of thanksgiving and praise, but also reveals the character of the God we pray to. When we pray to Him, we can trust Him to do what is in our best interest, and thus we should always praise and thank Him.



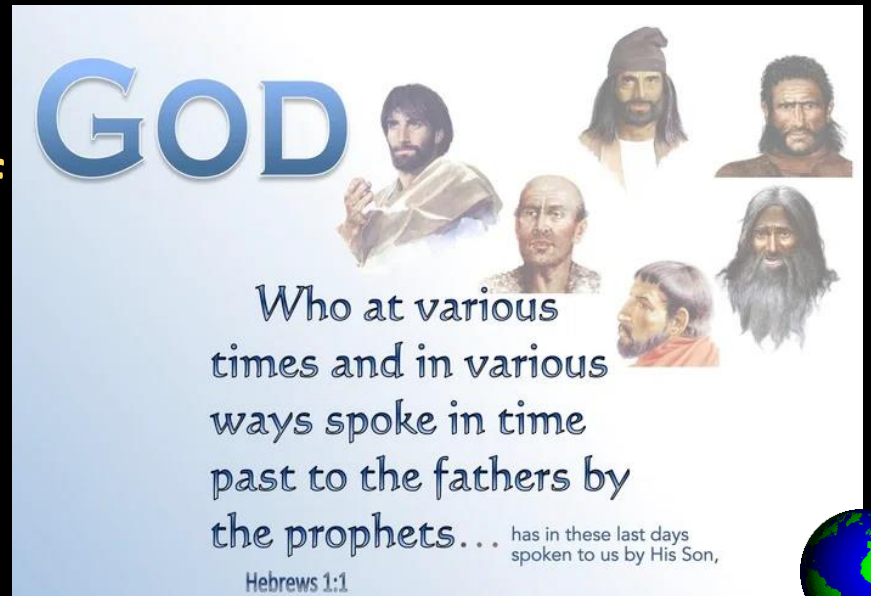
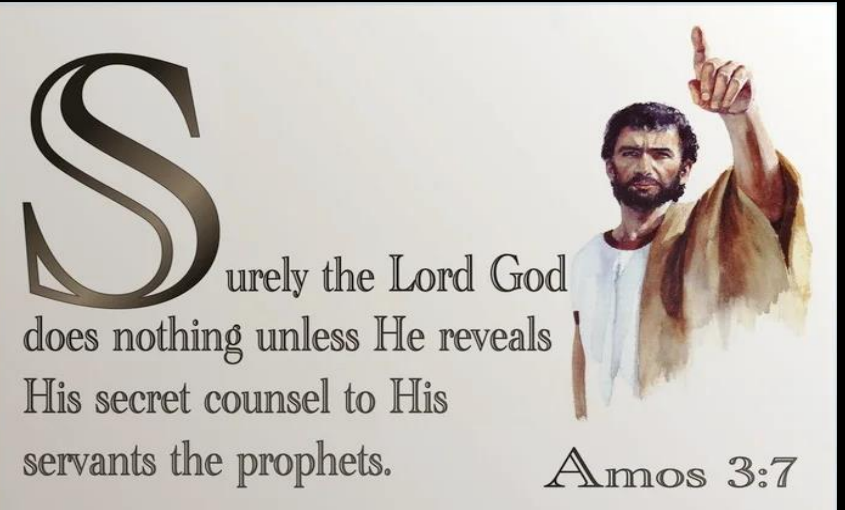
God's method of revealing the Future

Amos 3:7: God does nothing in human history without revealing His secrets to His servants the prophets. Here once again we are faced with the fact that the God of the Bible wishes to communicate His will to His creatures.

Daniel 2:17-19: God showed that He was in control by revealing the dream and its meaning to Daniel. God did not instruct Daniel to consult the crystal ball, the signs of the zodiac, the psychics, the channelers or the necromancers. God revealed the secret when Daniel and his friends prayed!!

Starting in **Daniel 2:17** what kind of a meeting do Daniel and his four friends immediately call? **Imagine if you can what they might have said in their first prayer, a prayer of petition. Besides answering this prayer of petition, what else does God reveal?** Should we always take time to thank God for answering our prayers? Even if He doesn't fill our requests? **Why? Or why not?**

Read **Psalm 138:1-8**. What can you take away from this prayer of thanksgiving that can help you learn to be thankful to God, regardless of your circumstances?



Daniel 2:20-23 – Praising continues...

Daniel 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

21 And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.

23 I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.



What do we learn about Daniel's devotional life?

Read about his prayer life also in Daniel 6 and 9.

- Daniel approaches God for help. He trusts God. Therefore, there is no need for him to lament and complain.
- He has a season of prayer with his friends.
- He does not forget to express his gratitude. He praises God.
- Daniel is intensely, and on a daily basis, involved in prayer.
- He even risks his life for his desire to seek God regularly in prayer.

What does Daniel know about God?

- God is omnipotent and omniscient.
 - God is the Lord of history.
 - God is associated with light (e.g., John 8:12)
- Daniel considers himself to be a servant and steward. He remains humble.



Some points for us to consider...

When they entreated the Lord, He honoured them with revealing the secret unto Daniel. But God only honours those who honour Him and follow Him. (1 Samuel 2:30, John 12:26) This we see Daniel and his friends already do in chapter 1. Praise God that He is willing to honour His people.

Daniel in turn praises God for revealing the matter to him. He then continues on to tell us that wisdom and might belong to God. (Psalms 147:5) That it is God that removes kings and sets them up, for He it is that is ultimately in control. (Jeremiah 27:5-6) Also that God controls the times and seasons and it is God that gives wisdom to the wise. He reveals the deep and secret things, and light dwells with God, for God is light. (1 John 1:5)

Daniel did not take the honour to himself as we see in verse 23 he states, we desired, and known unto us. The matter was revealed to Daniel, but he acknowledges that all were responsible for the answer given. Friends the secret of the Lord is revealed to those that fear/reverence/obey Him.



Daniel didn't know what the dream was or what it meant, but he knew Somebody who knows everything. That Somebody is God. So, Daniel and his friends prayed.



Daniel 2:24-25 – Daniel tries to save All

Daniel 2:24 *Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.*

25 *Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.*

Daniel does not care only about himself. He attempts to help the wise men and his friends too.

He supports the statement of the wise men in verses 10 and 11.

He points to the true God and is a witness of God while being involved with the ruler of the Babylonian world empire (see also v. 37).

- **This takes faith and courage.**

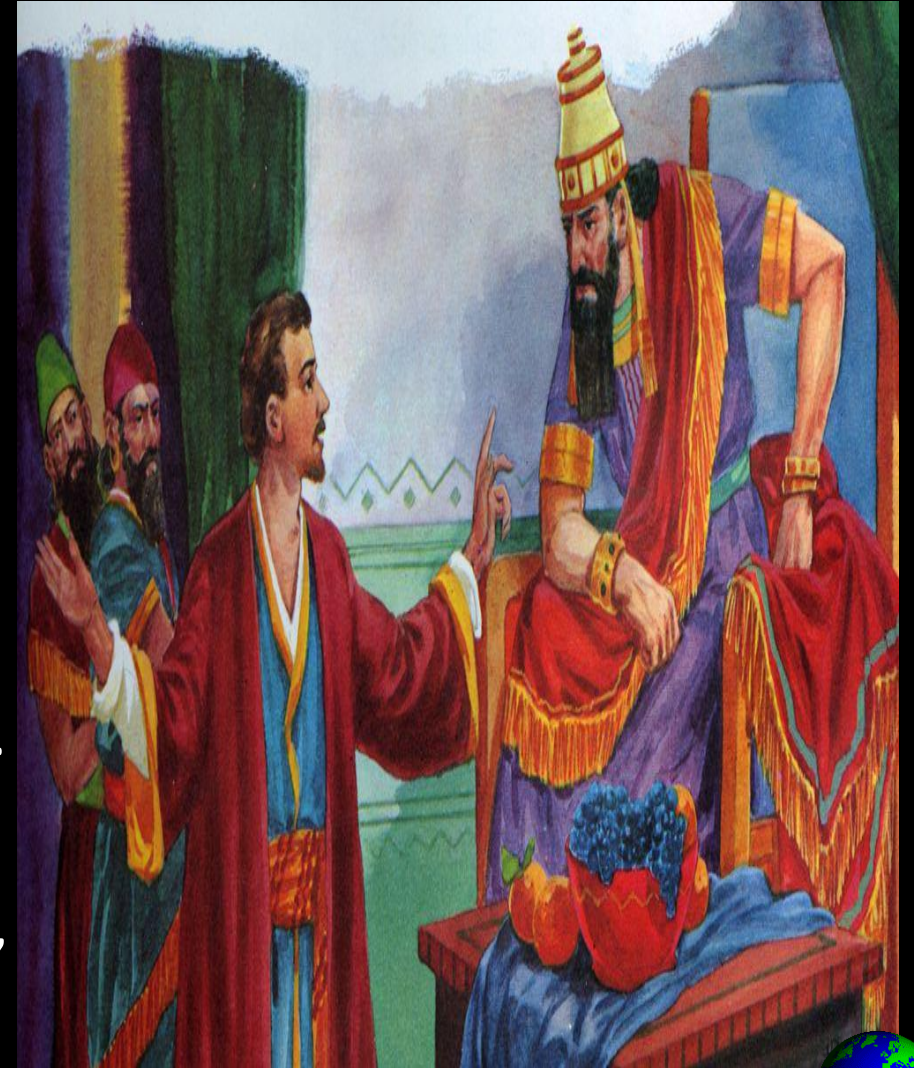


Daniel does not take Pride

Daniel is taken to Nebuchadnezzar to interpret the dream. **Contrast Arioch's statement "I have found" with Daniel's statement "God has revealed."** Notice Arioch takes the credit while Daniel gives the credit to God.

Because the matter was revealed to Daniel he went unto Arioch, chief of the executioners, and told him not to destroy the wise men, but to bring him in before the king so he could give him the interpretation. **So the wise men were saved because of the man of God.** The only reason why the wicked gain any blessings is because of the presence of the righteous, [Genesis 18:26-33](#), [Acts 16:25-26](#); [27:22-24](#).

Arioch approaches the king with pride, for he states that he has found a man to give the king the interpretation. Daniel had already seen the king [v16](#), but Arioch is striving for honour from the king to gain promotion, totally opposite from the character of Daniel.



Daniel 2:26-30 – Daniel before the King

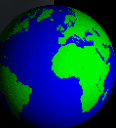
Daniel 2:26 *The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?*

27 *Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;*

28 *But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;*

29 *As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.*

30 *But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.*



God rewards the diligence of Daniel

In response to prayer, God reveals the content of the dream and its interpretation. And Daniel does not hesitate to tell the king that the solution for the mystery comes from the “God in heaven”. Also, prior to reporting the content of the dream and its interpretation.

Daniel does not boast but regards himself a tool in God’s hand. Daniel became a “man of God” because of his prayer life and his determination not to compromise but remain faithful to God’s will. This commitment allowed him to have great experiences with God.

Daniel mentions the unexpressed thoughts and concerns of the king as the latter lay sleepless in bed. This circumstantial information further emphasizes the credibility of the message, because such information known only to the king must have come to Daniel through a supernatural power. But as Daniel proceeds to report the content of the dream, he risks triggering another crisis, because the dream is not necessarily good news for Nebuchadnezzar.



False Religious System Exposed

The king enquires of Daniel if he can give him the interpretation of the dream. Notice what Daniel does with his reply in the presence of the king. Firstly he points out the false religion of the wise men, astrologers, magicians, and soothsayers that could not show the king anything, reaffirming in the king's mind that he cannot put his trust in their system of religion. Then he witnesses to the king about the true God in heaven that can reveal the secrets of the king's heart and make known unto him the matter, for the king was thinking of future events v29. God was revealing unto the king what was going to be in the *latter days* and what was going to come to pass *hereafter* [from this point forward]. So God was revealing to Nebuchadnezzar the future just as he was thinking about this subject.

Daniel again humbly states that it was not because of any wisdom that he has, but for the sake of the righteous ones that were going to give the interpretation to the king and that the king may know the thoughts of his heart.



Identifying the True God in Heaven

Two key points:

1. **God revealed the dream to “Show what shall be in the latter days.”** This vision is for the end of time.
2. **God is represented by Daniel as a personal God, who cares about what happens on this earth. He knows the mysteries and troubles of our lives. He is interested in giving us peace of mind.** Contrast this to the attitude expressed in verse 11 of the distant and uncaring gods of the wise men.

Isaiah 46:9 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

- **The true God is distinguished from all false gods by the fact that He knows the end from the beginning.**

Daniel 2:27-28: Daniel did not claim the credit. It was God who revealed the secret and it was God who got the credit.



Summary

In response to God's answering their petition, Daniel and his friends burst into a prayer of thanksgiving and praise. **They praise God for being the source of wisdom and for being in control of nature and political history.**

And Daniel does not hesitate to tell the king that the solution for the mystery comes from the "God in heaven". Also, prior to reporting the content of the dream and its interpretation.

Daniel mentions the unexpressed thoughts and concerns of the king as the latter lay sleepless in bed. This circumstantial information further emphasizes the credibility of the message, because such information known only to the king must have come to Daniel through a supernatural power. But as Daniel proceeds to report the content of the dream, he risks triggering another crisis, because the dream is not necessarily good news for Nebuchadnezzar.



Conclusion

There is an important lesson we can learn:

As we pray and plead with God for so many things, how often do we praise and thank Him for answering our prayers?

What does this dream tell us about how close God is to humanity?

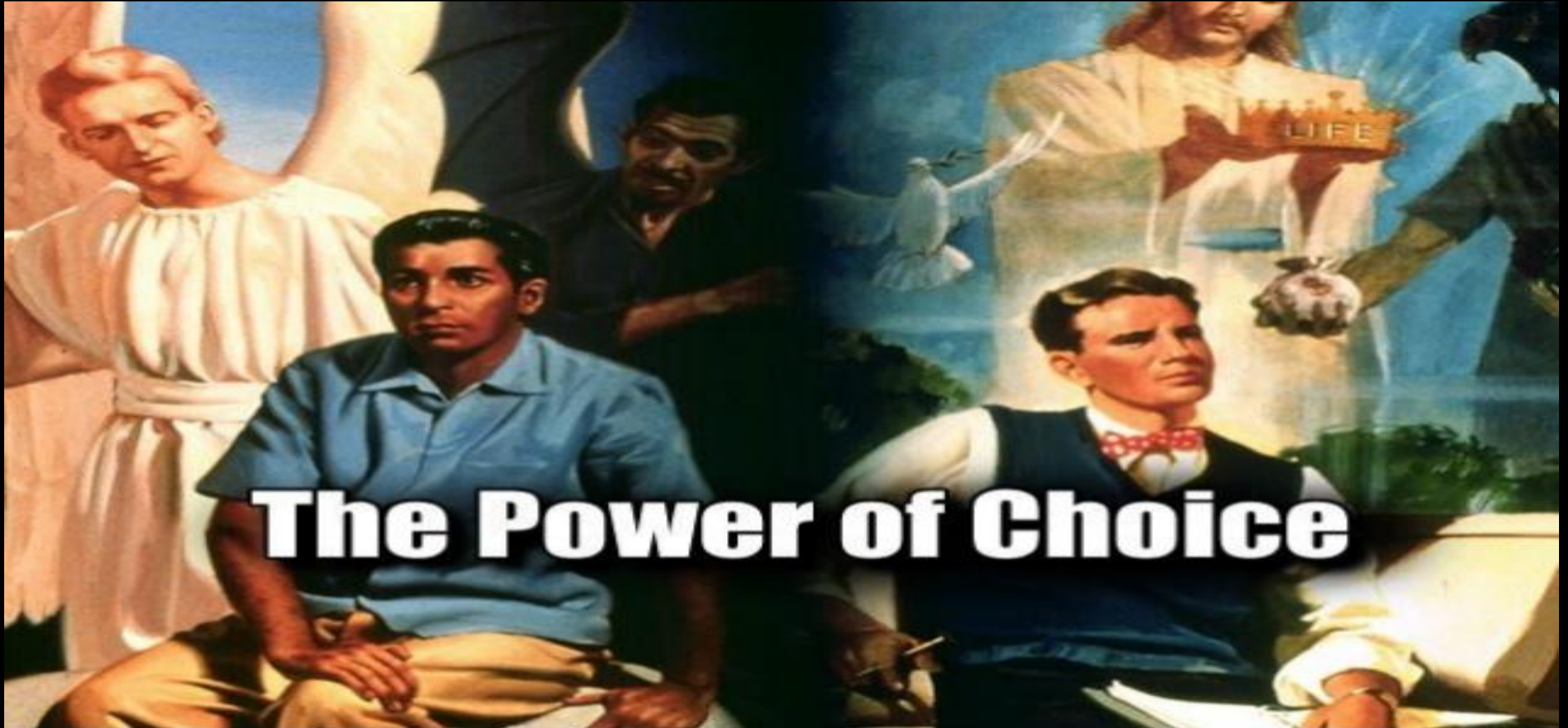
How close do you think God is to you?

The experience of Jesus with the ten lepers provides an apt illustration of human ingratitude. **Out of ten who are healed, only one comes back “to give glory to God”** ([Luke 17:18](#)).

Daniel’s response not only reminds us of the importance of thanksgiving and praise, but also reveals the character of the God we pray to. When we pray to Him, we can trust Him to do what is in our best interest, and thus we should always praise and thank Him.



God has given all:



An angel with a halo is shown writing in a book with a quill pen. Next to the angel is a large, ornate hourglass. In the background, a red devil's face with horns is visible. The scene is set in a dark, dramatic environment.

Revelation 12:12

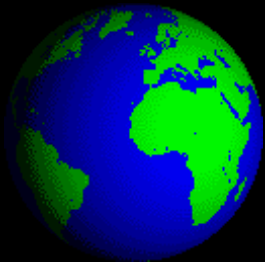
“..... for the **devil** is come down unto you,
having great **wrath**, because he knoweth that
he hath but a short time.”



Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, *and* one shepherd.

– John 10:16



The Ark of the Covenant



Psalms 77:13

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. –
Revelation 3:20





THE END



ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?