



## Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

FAMILIES IN TRUTH

Daniel 2



After Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were placed in the service of King Nebuchadnezzar, the King had a disturbing dream. The King searched far and wide for a man who could explain the meaning of this strange dream. Through this dream, the Lord taught King Nebuchadnezzar about the Kingdom of God.

## Day #1: The King's Dream

Dreams are funny things. Dreams are the images, thoughts, and feelings we have in our mind while we sleep. For years and years, scientists have tried to figure out why people dream. Did you know that a person who studies dreams is called an oneirologist? In the time of Daniel, and especially in the part of the world where he was living, dreams were very important.

One night, King Nebuchadnezzar had a very unusual dream. He didn't understand what it meant, but he knew that it was important. The King called together all of his magicians and astrologers to ask them about his dream.

Nebuchadnezzar would not tell the men what he dreamed. He demanded that someone first tell him what his dream was, and then tell him the meaning. If someone could do this, the King could be sure the explanation was true. If the men could not tell his dream and its meaning, the King swore he would have them all killed!

Sadly, none of the magicians and astrologers followed the one true God, so no one could answer the King. Proverbs 2:6 explains:

† *For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.*

This dream had come from God, and King Nebuchadnezzar should have asked someone who knew the Lord to explain it to him.

\* Don't make the same mistake as King Nebuchadnezzar! Do not ask for advice from just anyone! Don't follow the ways of the ungodly (this includes most television shows, movies, and popular song lyrics). Always look for God's wisdom. Look in the Bible, and get advice from people who follow God. Make a list of people that you can go to when you need godly advice.

## Day #2: Wait a Minute!

None of King Nebuchadnezzar's magicians and astrologers could tell him his dream, so the King gave an order. He said to gather **all** of the wise men in Babylon and have them killed. This order included Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

When Daniel heard about the order, he went to the King. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that he would explain the dream if he could have a little time. The King agreed to this.

Daniel went home and explained everything to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

† *He asked them to pray that the God of heaven would give him mercy. He wanted God to help him understand the mystery of the king's dream. Then he and his friends wouldn't be killed along with the other wise men in Babylon. - Daniel 2:18*

Daniel did the right thing. He asked his friends to pray for him as he asked God for wisdom. God ALWAYS hears the prayers of His people! Psalm 34:17 says, "The Lord hears His people when they call to Him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles."

Sure enough, that night God gave Daniel a vision. God showed Daniel the King's dream, and what it meant. Daniel bowed low and praised God for answering their prayers.

\* Do you pray for your friends, like Daniel's friends prayed for him? Take time right now to pray for your friends. Prayer is a wonderful way to show God's love to a friend who is not a believer. When your friend is having a problem, simply tell him or her, "I'll pray for you." Then remember to pray! It is a blessing to hear how God has answered a prayer that you have been praying.

## Day #3: The Dream

Get four lightweight items, such as rolls of toilet paper or plastic jars of spices. This will be a symbol of Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

Daniel appeared before the powerful King. Before Daniel explained the dream, he made it very clear that the explanation came from the one true God.

† *Daniel replied, "You have asked us to explain a mystery to you. But no wise man can do that. And those who try to figure things out by using magic can't do it either. But there is a God in heaven who can explain mysteries." - Daniel 2:27-28a*

Day #3 continued:

Daniel described the King's dream. He had seen a tall statue of a man. It was huge, and it frightened the King. Its head was made of pure gold, its chest and arms were made of silver, its stomach and thighs were bronze, and its legs were iron. The statue's feet were made of iron and clay. (Stack your items to make a four-part "statue.")

God had given King Nebuchadnezzar this dream, and God wanted him to understand what it meant. God made the meaning clear to Daniel so that he could explain it to the King.

Daniel explained that each of the four parts of the statue stood for a different human kingdom. The golden head stood for Nebuchadnezzar. The next three parts of the statue were symbols for the three kingdoms that would rule after Nebuchadnezzar was gone. All of these kingdoms were led by human kings.



Try to keep your "statue" together until we study the rest of the dream tomorrow. Thank God that He wants people to understand spiritual things. Thank God for giving you the Bible that teaches us all about Him and His Kingdom (2 Timothy 3:16).

## Day #4: Kingdom Meaning

Yesterday, you made your own four-part "statue," like the statue in King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Today, you'll need a can from your pantry.

In Nebuchadnezzar's dream, each part of the statue was made of a different metal. Each stood for a different human kingdom.

Suddenly, a special rock, not made of human hands, came toward the statue. The rock struck the statue's feet and smashed them. (Take your can, and carefully roll it to knock down your statue.) All of the parts of the statue were crushed and it all blew away. But the special rock grew and grew and filled the whole earth!

God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to understand what this meant. Daniel continued his explanation. During the fourth human kingdom, God would set up a different Kingdom. The new Kingdom would be MUCH greater than all of the other kingdoms, because God alone would rule this Kingdom. No earthly kingdom with a human king could even compare to the Kingdom of God. God's Kingdom will last forever.

Nebuchadnezzar was the earthly king of a very large kingdom. It was easy for him to be proud and to focus on himself instead of God. But God wanted him to see that Babylon, like every earthly kingdom, would one day crumble. God wanted Nebuchadnezzar to focus on God's Kingdom instead of his earthly kingdom.

*The King said to Daniel, "I'm sure your God is the*

Day #4 continued:



*greatest God of all. He is the Lord of kings. He explains mysteries. That's why you were able to explain the mystery of my dream." - Daniel 2:47*



Could it be that instead of a dream, God has sent this story into your life today as a reminder to focus on His Kingdom? Discuss what it means to focus on God's Kingdom instead of on earthly things.

(Parents: for more on the Rock, not made of human hands, see 1 Corinthians 10:4; John 1:1-2,14; Luke 1:35)

## Day #5: God's Kingdom

Draw a map of what a kingdom might look like. Would you draw a castle? Would your kingdom have a wall around it, or a border?

A Kingdom is wherever the will of the King is done. So, the Kingdom of God is wherever God's will is done. God's will is done in heaven (Matthew 6:10). For a short time, God's will was done on earth. When God created the earth, everything was good and Adam and Eve did the will of God. But soon, Adam and Eve chose to sin. Their sin separated them from God, their King. They were no longer able to do His will. God's Kingdom was no longer on earth. Every person after Adam and Eve has sinned (Romans 5:12). We have each chosen not to do God's perfect will.

But God longed to restore His Kingdom. Through the Old Testament prophets, God gave promises about the coming Kingdom (Jeremiah 31:33-34). He gave His people glimpses of what His Kingdom would be like (Hebrews 8:5). When John the Baptist came to announce that Jesus, the Messiah, had come, he said, "The time has come. The Kingdom of God is near." (Mark 1:15) Jesus prayed for the Kingdom to come, for God's will to be done on earth as it is already was heaven (Matthew 6:10).

The Kingdom of God was set up permanently on earth when Jesus laid down His life for our sin, and was raised to give us new life. Entering into God's Kingdom was possible for everyone who would place his or her faith in Jesus. When we put our trust in Jesus, our sin is taken away, we are given Jesus' righteousness, and we can once again do God's will. God's Kingdom is a spiritual kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:50), though one day we will be able to see it with our eyes (Revelation 21:1).



God has stored up incredible blessings and an amazing adventurous life for everyone who enters His Kingdom. This life begins the very moment that someone places his or her trust in Jesus.



*"No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him." - 1 Corinthians 2:9*