

Daniel 2:1-23**2-10-00*****“I Had a Dream!”*****1. Intro:**

- 1.1. Ever have a dream that seemed so real, it was frightening?
- 1.2. Interesting, one king has a dream & insomnia...1000's benefit from it.
- 1.3. Historical Background:
 - 1.3.1. Read Babylon Background, Merrill Unger (pg.18)
 - 1.3.2. In all of Neb.'s pride God chooses to speak to him, not dramatically with thunder & lightning, but in the dark in a dream!
 - 1.3.3. **“A sleeping King meets the King who doesn't sleep!”¹**
- 1.4. Tonight we are going to look at Scene 1 & 2.
 - 1.4.1. **Scene I = Neb enters – The Secret Dream.**
 - 1.4.2. **Scene II = Daniel enters – The Secret Revealed.**

2. Scene I, Neb Enters - THE SECRET DREAM! (1-13)

- 2.1. **The Distressing Dream!** (1,3)
 - 2.1.1. **Q:** Why was it so important that Neb understand this dream?
 - 2.1.1.1. The archives of Babylon contained **many books** on dream interpretation.
 - 2.1.1.2. It was popularly believed that dreams were an **avenue** through which the gods spoke to human beings.
- 2.2. **Dream(s)** – Singular in (1), & plural in (3).
 - 2.2.1. Apparently the king was dreaming the same dream.
 - 2.2.2. It was more like a “nightmare” (31) {awesome = terrible}
 - 2.2.2.1. **“Great Image”** - This figure was gigantic.
 - 2.2.2.1.1. **“A huge statue in human form”**. Keil & Delitzsch
- 2.3. **The Desperate Search!** (2,4)
 - 2.3.1. **(2)** A desperate search went out for the meaning!
 - 2.3.1.1. I'm sure many were wanting to use this opportunity to promote themselves before the king!

¹ Swindoll

- 2.3.2. **4 classes mentioned:**
- 2.3.3. **Magicians** – Sacred scribes, highly educated, & very elite.
- 2.3.3.1. They taught that they knew things no one else knew.
- 2.3.3.2. They were trained in the sacred writings & in literature.
- 2.3.4. **Astrologers** – “Whisper’s of secret incantations or mysteries”.
- 2.3.4.1. Whisper’s, because they practiced their incantations by movements of the breath.
- 2.3.4.2. Not stargazers as we might think.
- 2.3.4.3. They later became writers for the “Enquirerer”! ☺ – Which their predictions have a 2% success rate, for your info. Yet, “Enquiring minds still want to know” & they pay for it each week by the millions.
- 2.3.5. **Sorcerers** – Witch Doctors.
- 2.3.6. **Chaldeans** – Priests who ran things.
- 2.3.6.1. There is one more class mentioned in vs.27...the “soothsayers” (gezar)
- 2.3.6.2. “They determined the fate of men from the position & the movement of the **stars at the time of their birth.**”²
- 2.3.7. (4a) From 2:4b-7:28 is in **Aramaic**.
- 2.3.8. (4b) Feeling pretty confident in numbers, they felt they’d figure this one out...”just give us the dream, & we can definitely make up an interpretation!”
- 2.4. **The Deadly Decision!** (5,6)
- 2.4.1. No tricky deals!
- 2.4.2. It’s very easy, “the Dream – It’s Interpretation – Or else!”
- 2.5. **The Demand For Delay!** (7-9)
- 2.5.1. When all else fails...stall!
- 2.5.2. The king wasn’t fooled! – He must have been suspicious of these guys.
- 2.6. **Their Dearth of Deficiency!** (10,11)
- 2.6.1. Backs against the wall → They admit their inadequacy.
- 2.6.2. **Astrologers today, psychic hotlines, & fortunetellers, can try to replace God, appear to possess the power of God, pretend to read the future, but they cannot do what only God can do!**
- 2.6.3. **“Sovereignty & Sorcery are as far apart as heaven & Hell!”** (Swindoll)

² Keil & Delitzsch

2.7. **The Decree to Destroy!** (12,13)

- 2.7.1. Angered by their ignorance & deceptions, Neb sentences them all to death! - All the “**wise men**” of Babylon!

3. Scene II, Dan Enters-THE SECRET REVEALED!(14-23)

3.1. **PROBLEM!** (14-16)

3.2. Watch how to react in a personal crisis!

- 3.2.1. The king's captain (Arioch) arrives to execute Daniel.
- 3.2.2. Wow, what would you do here? – {Run, panic, make something up?}
- 3.2.3. “Some Christians think the only sensible response to unjust secular authority is brash rebellion!”³
- 3.2.3.1. **Not Daniel** – He had the **Courage** to probe & the **Confidence** in God!
- 3.2.4. Here Neb's head “hit-man” comes before the king w/one of the guys on “the hit list”?
- 3.2.4.1. More amazing Neb **listens!** – And then Neb gives Daniel **time!**
- 3.2.4.1.1. *Is this proof of God being in control or what?*
- 3.2.4.2. Here Daniel isn't “**stalling**” as they tried, but “**waiting on the Lord**” to see what God might do.
- 3.2.4.3. *A hopeless situation?...*No, the perfect opportunity for God to work on behalf of these who trust in HIM!
- 3.2.4.4. When you don't know, or haven't the answer, and the situation seems hopeless...Find only Him as **sufficient!**
- 3.2.4.5. **Ps.27:14** “Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!”
- 3.2.5. **Let your Problems move to Prayer!**
- 3.2.5.1. Often we are moved to **whine**, moved to **anxiety**, moved to **complain** to others, or moved to **depression**.
- 3.2.5.2. **Ps. 16:8** “I have set the LORD always before me; Because He is at my right hand **I shall not be moved.**”
- 3.2.5.3. If we are going to be moved in a direction we should be **moved to Pray!**

³ Swindoll

3.3. **PRAYER!** (17,18)

3.3.1. **Partnership!** (17,18)

3.3.2. He enlisted others to pray with him for God's help.

3.3.3. **Prayer!** (18a)

3.3.4. It is proper for **Problems** to bring about **Prayer**, as long as that's not the "**only**" time we pray!

3.3.4.1. "And Satan trembles when he sees The weakest saint upon his knees."⁴

3.3.5. Daniel didn't say, "Here's the answer"...then wait & hope God would speak to him.

3.3.5.1. He went home to pray. They didn't expect a miracle each time there was a crisis! (see 3:18)

3.3.5.2. They would be faithful to their death.

3.3.6. **Plea!** (18b)

3.3.7. Not only to **not** die with them, but later (24) he pleads for them also.

3.3.8. **Let Answered Prayer move you to Praise!**

3.3.8.1. Instead of rushing to the king, or boasting of his new wisdom, Daniel paused to praise the Lord. (**paused to praise**)

3.4. **PRAISE!** (19-23)

3.5. This is sometimes called "Daniel's Psalm". - Listen for Gods character that is emphasized here.

3.5.1. **The Secret Revealed!** (19a)

3.5.2. God gave him the interpretation.

3.5.3. "**the God of heaven**" – as opposed to all their gods of the earth.

3.5.3.1. He sits on His throne, in heaven, ruling the affairs of men, on earth.

3.5.4. **His Omnipotence!** (20)

3.5.5. Wisdom & Might belong to Him!

3.5.6. **His Providence!** (21)

3.5.7. The message...God is in control.

3.5.8. God wasn't worried about their Captivity, nor Neb's threats, nor the circumstances that surrounded them. God wasn't worried!

3.5.9. It never "throws God" if we say **no** to something. He already knew we would, & has planned for it!

⁴ William Cowper

3.5.10. **His Omniscience!** (22)

3.5.11. There is nothing hidden from God!

3.5.12. **Heb.4:13** “And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

3.5.13. **His Revelation!** (23)

3.5.14. He started with “**wisdom is Yours**”(20) – ended w/”& **You make it known to me**”(23).

3.5.15. Notice how your knowledge of God’s character changes your **perspective** on Daniel’s situation?

3.5.15.1. **Q:** How does it change your perspective on **your** “problems”?

3.6. **Daniel’s Problem moved him to Prayer, Answered Prayer moved him to Praise, & Praise lead him to Proceed!**

3.6.1. **Next week** – Daniel Proceeds to tell the Dreams Interpretation!

3.7. This was undoubtedly the secret of his personal piety and his public achievements.

3.7.1. **All Problems to Prayer, which lead to Praise, before He Proceeds!**