

# Daniel 2

## **EXAMINE**

*2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

*Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.*

The Lord wants to speak to you personally from His Scriptures!! Before you begin the remainder of the homework, read this chapter of Daniel slowly and carefully. Prayerfully ask the Lord to be your Teacher, and make a note of the things He shows you. You may want to ask Him to instruct you specifically in some of the following areas:

- Is there an example for me to follow?
- Is there a sin for me to avoid?
- Is there a command for me to obey?
- Is there a promise for me to claim?
- What do You want me to learn about You as God the Father, God the Son and/or God the Holy Spirit?
- Is there something for which to praise or thank You?
- Is there a verse to memorize?
- How do You want the lessons I have learned to affect my life today?

## **EXPLORE**

1. Please read verse 1. What was the result of King Nebuchadnezzar's dreams? Have you ever had dreams that caused you to be anxious? Look at Philippians 4:6-7. What is the Lord's solution for anxiety?
  
2. Consider verse 2. Where did the king look for wisdom and counsel? These men were steeped in occult or demonic practices. Can you list some modern day equivalents of demonic places where people look for wisdom?

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3. What does each of the following verses say about the source of true wisdom and wise counsel?
  - Exodus 31:1, 3
  - Exodus 36:2
  - Proverbs 9:10
  - Romans 11:33
  - Colossians 2:2b-3
  
4. Summarize verses 3-13.
  
5. Based on verses 3-13, list at least three adjectives that describe King Nebuchadnezzar.
  
6. Glance back at verses 3 and 12. Why do you think the king was so *anxious* to know the dream and so *angry and very furious* when the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and Chaldeans were not able to tell him?
  
7. What did Daniel ask of the king in verse 16?
  
8. It appears that Daniel found favor with both Arioch and King Nebuchadnezzar. Based on what you have already learned about Daniel's character and behavior, why do you think this was so?

9. What do verses 17-19 say that Daniel and his friends did? What was Daniel's response when the secret was revealed?
  
10. Carefully read Daniel's prayer in verses 20-23. Note everything you learn about the Lord from these verses. Which of these is the most important to you today? Why?
  
11. It had been three years since Daniel's arrival in Babylon so he was probably only nineteen to twenty years old at this time. Some commentators have speculated that he must have received excellent training in the Lord as a young boy to be able to remain steadfast in the midst of such a wicked environment. If you have children (or others younger than you in the Lord whom you disciple), how are you training them in the Lord and in the things of the Lord? Be specific.
  
12. In verse 25, it seems that Arioch tried to take credit for finding Daniel and thus, for finding the interpretation to the king's dream. This was not an accurate representation of what actually occurred. Dishonesty can involve outright lies or lies of omission. The latter involve telling partial truths or telling a story in such a way that the listener comes to incorrect conclusions. Ask the Lord to search your heart today. Are there any areas of your life where you are less than completely honest? If so, what will you do to correct this?
  
13. According to verse 28, only God in heaven was able to reveal the dream. When was the last time you realized that only God could do something in your life? Please share your story.
  
14. How is the image that King Nebuchadnezzar saw described in verse 31? Based on what you read in verses 32-34, draw a picture of the image (a stick figure is fine). What does verse 35 say happened?

15. Summarize the interpretation of the dream found in verses 36-45. Write out the last sentence of verse 45.

Note: Based on history and Bible study, many commentators believe the following concerning the image:

- The head of gold represents the Babylonian Empire with its absolute power and authority
- The chest and arms of silver represent the divided Medo-Persian Empire
- The belly and thighs of bronze represent the Grecian Empire of Alexander the Great
- The legs of iron represent the Roman Empire
- The feet, partly of iron and partly of clay, represent an empire which has not yet come to power; many speculate that it will be a ten nation confederacy of the European Union
- Jesus is the stone that will crush and put an end to the world governments, and His Kingdom (verse 44) shall stand forever

16. What was Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to the revelation and interpretation of the dream in verses 46-48?

17. What did Daniel do in verse 49? What does this tell you about Daniel's character?

18. The book of Daniel speaks of the sovereignty of God, the fact that God "rules and overrules" in everything. Briefly describe how this fact has been borne out in your own life. Finally, consider and comment on the following quote by Ray Steadman about the book of Daniel.

*God overrules in the affairs of men. Life is never determined by mere superficial pressures. The outcome that seems logically inevitable as you face a situation is not necessarily the outcome that will happen if you are trusting in the invisible God who rules the affairs of men. And that is the great lesson of this book all the way through.*

## **ENJOY**

Take time today to sit with the Lord and enjoy Him. Delight yourself in the God of your salvation!! Bask in His love, rest in His protection, and take pleasure in a time of intimate fellowship with Him.

What have you learned from Him and about Him this week? How has this knowledge drawn you closer to Him? Make a note below. Now praise Him for who He is and thank Him for all He has done for you.