

# Daniel



## Lesson 4-Facing Crisis with Faith, Prayer, and Trust in God *Focus: Daniel 2:1-30*

### ❖ *The King of Babylon has a dream that troubles him (v.1-4)*

- "...in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar..." (v.1) the king had a startling dream that he knew was of great significance! This would have been around the year **603 BC**.
- (v.2-4) The king called all of his worldly wise men to his aid (this was perhaps at a very early hour, since he could no longer sleep!!) *The king knew his dream was important, but he had forgotten the events of his dream. This ever happen to you?*
- The **magicians** would do their magic tricks, the **Astrologers** would claim to receive some hidden message from the stars, the **sorcerers** would claim to speak with spirits of the dead, and the **Chaldeans**—well, the Chaldeans were probably the most reliable for the king out of all these men—they were the scientists of their day. *Wouldn't it be easy for these men to make up some kind of answer if the king told them his dream?!! (v.4)*

### ❖ *The dialog goes back and forth between the king and his men—they are not getting anywhere good! (v.5-13)*

- (v.5,6) Is this the kind of boss you'd want to have? And yet the world still turns this way today—giving gifts or firing you!
- **Could these men give the king what he wanted? (v.10-13)** Was the king happy with them as a result? Notice what happened with **these worldly wise-men**. —*They depended on themselves for the answer (v.10) ; they had to admit they had no connection with God (v.11); they were very anxious and hopeless; they got themselves into a lot of trouble (v.13).* The Bible says, "The wicked are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest...there is no peace...to the wicked" (Isaiah 57:20,21). But Christ says, "Come unto me all you who labor...and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). Whatever the challenge, crisis, or stress may be [whether a Crisis at work, in the family, at home, etc.], Christ is there to help us as we seek Him!!

### ❖ *How did Daniel and his friends react in this Crisis situation? (v.14-20, 21-23)*

- They **depended on God; asked for "time" to pray; Found Peace; and God delivered them from the hour of trial—God answered their prayer.** THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER!!
- And **when we pray together with like-minded believers there is an additional blessing!** "...where two or three are gathered together in my name..." (**Matthew 18:20**).
- BOTH THE WORLDLY WISE MEN AND DANIEL AND HIS FRIENDS FACED **THE SAME CRISIS**—BUT THEIR REACTION AND OUTCOME WAS VERY DIFFERENT!!
- **Daniel had previously learned to trust God through having a daily connection with HIM.**—this had **PREPARED** him to meet this crisis in his life and to be victorious.

- **How could Daniel possibly have slept that night?** Daniel had the PEACE OF GOD!! God has promised peace for those who pray and trust in Him (See **Philippians 4:6,7; Isaiah 26:3**).
- **Did Daniel remember to give THANKS to God? (v.23) Should we do the same in our prayers? (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)**
- The words of Daniel's prayer express his "heart's amazement" at the goodness and glory of God (v.21-23). It also **expresses the true knowledge that Daniel had about God's character**. Truly, to have eternal life, **we must get to know who god is**, and to know him personally (ref. John 17:3).
- ❖ **Daniel goes in before the king (v.24-26, 27-28, 29-30)**
  - Daniel stands humbly and yet boldly before the king, proclaiming to him the perfect truth that **"There IS A GOD IN HEAVEN!!!..." (v.28)** and He is the One who reveals secrets; the One who we can put our trust in through any situation! (Nebuchadnezzar was only a pagan king at the time, but he heard the words of faith on that day!)
  - **This dream would reveal events that would happen right down to the "LATTER DAYS" of earth's history! (v.28)**. (we're going to see this in our next lesson) Briefly, what are some of the reasons God reveals the future to His people? (**Amos 3:7; Isaiah 46:9,10**)- we learn to trust God the more as we see His perfect words fulfilled! (we realize that He indeed is in ultimate control!)
  - (v.29,30) DANIEL **spoke humbly** and made sure that God got all the glory that was rightly HIS. (Let us never seek to take any glory for ourselves as a mere messenger or servant of God—Let us give praise where it is due!—to God who gives all things!)
  - **Why do you think God revealed this dream to a pagan king? Why didn't He just give it to Daniel in the first place?** (v.29,30) *It is evident that God cares about souls no matter who or where they are or what they've done. If God cared about this ruthless king, you may know, He certainly cares about you and me...even when we were lost out in sin (Romans 5:8; John 3:16).*
- ❖ **SUMMARY thought:** God cares about our lives and He wants us to be connected with Him always. If we put our trust in God He will give us the strength to face any trial that may come along our way. We need to have faith and trust in God. He will give us peace and victories in our lives. Get to know God through daily prayer and devotional time—reading in His word. Have God in your life every day and then you'll know who you can surely count on when the trials come. (If you want guidance on how to have a better prayer life, Jesus gives us an excellent example in **Matthew 6:9-13**)

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

**Would you like to have a daily relationship with God through a consistent and regular prayer life? \_\_\_\_**