

DANIEL  
CHAPTER

2

# DAY | ONE

1. As is our custom, please read the chapter (at least) twice. Then answer the study guide. Listening to Daniel 1 and 2 together will help you build your knowledge and memory of the events.  
Don't forget that we have all the chapters and the Biblical Reference pages at the end of this study guide.  
Often we hear people say they feel they are trapped. The daily struggle of navigating at work, in our family relationships, with your neighbors or (perhaps) simply within our own heart. Daniel 2, with clear intent, guides between "the rock and the hard place."
2. A good night's sleep is crucial to a good day, the next day. Scripture tells us Nebuchadnezzar was so upset he could not go back to sleep.  
Have you ever woken from an ominous dream and felt this way?  
Were you able to go back to sleep?  
Did you feel your dream was a warning or too much pizza too late at night?
3. King Nebuchadnezzar did what any king would have done, he called in his wise men. The NIV calls them \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. These men often used similar methods to bring about something supernatural. They called upon evil spirits to conjure up some effect. They were not above using a bit of sleight-of-hand or nature itself to assist them in pulling off a deed.
4. What was the King's request in verse 3?  
This sounds like a reasonable request, don't you think?  
Isn't this what he pays these guys to do?
5. The men hear the King's request and are very willing to help. "May the king live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it." But wait, there's a problem!  
What was the King's unusual request in verses 5 and 6 concerning the interpretation of his dream?
6. What promises did he make the wise men?  
If you do not tell me the dream and interpret it  

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If you do tell me the dream and interpret it  

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# DAY | TWO

7. What was the response of the wise men standing before king Nebuchadnezzar that day?
8. Each time I read this I feel compelled to side with these men. What is going on with this king?  
How did you get so angry, so quick?  
Have you ever known someone who could go from agitated to enraged like this?  
It can be a very scary thing for those who live under someone so volatile. What tends to be the response of those living with this type of person?
9. Do you think there may have been some built up distrust for his advisors?  
Perhaps there have been times when the king felt they were less than honest with him but had no way to prove it. How do you handle those under your leadership when you feel they are being deceptive?

10. Wicked kings, like Nebuchadnezzar, place little value on human life. If the King wasn't happy with you, he had the authority and power to simply replace you with someone who would please him.
- I have heard it said, the business world of today is often very cut-throat. It can be characterized by frequent backstabbing, unethical behavior, and high stress. This type of culture can be torturous to those in it – whittling away at their confidence, health and sanity...slowly, but surely.
- If you are a leader at work or in your home, what are some signs you could look for to see if others are experiencing a strain being under your leadership?
- Do the people under you have a sense of teamwork?
- Do you come across with a “what have you done for me lately” attitude?
- Do those who have good work ethics leave as quickly as possible for other opportunities?
- Do those you lead feel free to give feedback and do you listen with an open mind to the possibility of improving?
- How about in your home, do conversations flow smoothly?
- When planning vacations or other changes, do you seek feedback?
- Do those living in your home find it a place of refuge from the world?
- Do you periodically consider how you might better set the mood of peace in your home?
- If any of these places, work, or home, need improvement, why not look for ways to sow seeds of unity and kindness. Ask God to help you see opportunities.  
(Creativity is one of God's most beautiful attributes. Ask Him to help you discover ways to improve.)
11. Even though these men knew their King was not a man to be questioned, they made a request anyway. Why do you suppose they tried to reason with the king?
12. Have you ever missed an opportunity to make an appeal just because you didn't think it would make any difference?
13. King Nebuchadnezzar accused them of simply stalling for time. They most likely were stalling. In Daniel 2:11, what did the king's advisors tell him?
- Was what they told King Nebuchadnezzar the truth?
14. What was the response of King Nebuchadnezzar to their failure to comply?
15. A decree was quickly issued, calling for the execution of every wise advisor in the King's service. Arioch is assigned the task of hunting down and killing each of these men.
- Notice what Daniel did in verse 14. “Daniel spoke to him with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Daniel 2:14 is a good verse to look up in several translations. What are some of the other words used to describe Daniel's words to Arioch?

# DAY | THREE

17. The fact that Daniel had to ask Arioch what was going on, tells us the King had not exhausted his resources. He had not put this question to everyone. He had simply “flown off the handle in a fit of rage” when he faced the first few advisors.  
When we allow anger to go unchecked this can happen to us as well. Let’s take a few minutes to see what the book of Proverbs has to say about anger and fury. Read the verse and comment in the blank to the right.

| Proverbs   | Truth gleaned and how I will apply it to my relationships with others. |
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| Proverbs 15:1 (NIV) A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.                             |  |
| Proverbs 19:12 (NIV) A king’s rage is like the roar of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.             |  |
| Proverbs 20:2 (NIV) A king’s wrath strikes terror like the roar of a lion; those who anger him forfeit their lives |  |
| Proverbs 29:8 (NIV) Mockers stir up a city, but the wise turn away anger.  |  |
| Proverbs 29:11 (NIV) Fools give full vent to their rage, but the wise bring calm in the end.                       |  |

18. Daniel made an appeal to the King. Why do you believe King Nebuchadnezzar agreed to give Daniel more time when he would not even discuss the matter with his wise men?  
What did Daniel have that these men did not have (Dan 1:9)?
19. Have you ever experienced the favor of God on you as you are navigating something difficult?  
How did you know it was God’s favor?
20. Daniel went home to talk to God about this matter. When Daniel arrived home, he explained everything to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. Notice the wisdom displayed by these men. What did they do next?  
Do you have an inner circle of friends like these men?
21. During the night God revealed the dream to Daniel in a vision.  
When Daniel awoke what did he do?  
Be specific, what did Daniel say about his God?
22. Daniel requested an audience with the King. Arioch made the arrangement.  
In verses 24-26, Daniel is standing before the king. What did the King ask him?
23. This would have been the perfect opportunity to elevate himself, but he did not do that. Daniel answered the King with a humble heart and a desire to help him know the sovereign God of the universe and to help him understand this vision.  
Read Daniel 2:27-30  
What did Daniel say was the reason God revealed this mystery to him?

24. Finally, someone can tell the King's dream and interpret it. What did Daniel say the King had seen in his dream?
25. Daniel 2:34-35  
What amazing event happened (in his dream)?
26. As Daniel begins his explanation (vss 36-44), he first speaks of God's blessing and favor on King Nebuchadnezzar. Make a list of all Daniel said about Nebuchadnezzar's rule, in verses 37-38.
27. Take a minute to look at your own life.  
What has God placed under your control?

When we are given a leadership position by the sovereign God of the universe how should we carry out our divine assignment?

Do you see your leadership position as a divine assignment?

28. Label the drawing with any facts you see in the Daniel 2 description. Daniel 2:38-45.
29. We have seen that the statue represents the kingdoms of this world. What do you believe the stone that smashed the feet represents?



30. Look at verses 46-47  
What was King Nebuchadnezzar's response to Daniel's explanation of his dream?

Is this the normal response of one in such a position of authority?

Pay close attention to how King Nebuchadnezzar referred to God as "Daniel's God".  
Is Nebuchadnezzar saying God is the one true God or that he is the greatest of many gods?

31. How does the King reward Daniel? List everything you see of his reward in verse 48
32. Once again, in verse 49 we see Daniel acting with wisdom. It has been said, "Show me your friends and I'll show you your future." A person's inner circle of friends is of grave importance.  
Who does Daniel request to be administrators to serve along with him?  
  
How had these men proven themselves worthy?
33. It may feel like we only have a small part to play when someone asks us to join them praying about a matter.  
Is that true?



DAY | FIVE

34. Think of the last important issue someone asked you to pray with them about. Did you take it seriously?

Did you pray fervently about the matter?

35. Let's look at James 5:16 in a couple of translations. I don't often quote from the King James Version. However, I believe this verse can have a deeper meaning if we look carefully at the words. Define the words below:

Effectual

Fervent

Prayer

Righteous

Avaieth (avails)

36. Now, using the definitions above, write James 5:16b in your own words.

37. Would you say this describes your prayers?

38. We often look at verses like James 5:16 and wonder, *"How might I have a prayer life that moves the heart of God and produces the desired effect on the matter being prayed about?"*

I believe the key is found in the part of the verse which describes our heart.

What does James 5:16 say is of utmost importance in our prayer life?

39. Confession requires a careful and honest look inward. It is not merely the act of sharing our sins with others that brings about a righteous life. It is the inward and honest look at our heart, then acknowledging the sin that we see, and seeking God's forgiveness.

Our transparency then inspires others to take this same look inward.

Read Proverbs 27:17

What does this verse tell us about the importance of this type of transparency?

40. Transparency provides accountability. When those we trust know the areas of our struggle, they can help us avoid these areas of temptation.

Romans 3 reminds us that on our own, no one is perfect, no one is without sin. We must continually, willingly, humbly look at our own heart.

Read I John 1:6-9

What moves the heart of God to forgive our sins?

41. List your four or five closest friends. (First names are sufficient) What are two or three of their character qualities that contribute to your stronger walk of faith, simply because you are friends?

a.


b.

c.

d.

e.

42. What do you believe was the key lesson to be gleaned from Daniel 2?

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43. What did you learn about our great God?
44. What are some key truths you have learned so far from your study of Daniel?
45. After all we have seen in Daniel 2, why not take a minute and talk to our heavenly Father. You might want to use the acronym A.C.T.S. It stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. It is always best to start our conversation by acknowledging God for who He is. Next, ask the Holy Spirit to help you see any areas of unconfessed sin, so you can have a clear conscience before God. Then, thank Him for every good gift he has given you. Finally talk to God about anything you need His help with.

NOTES