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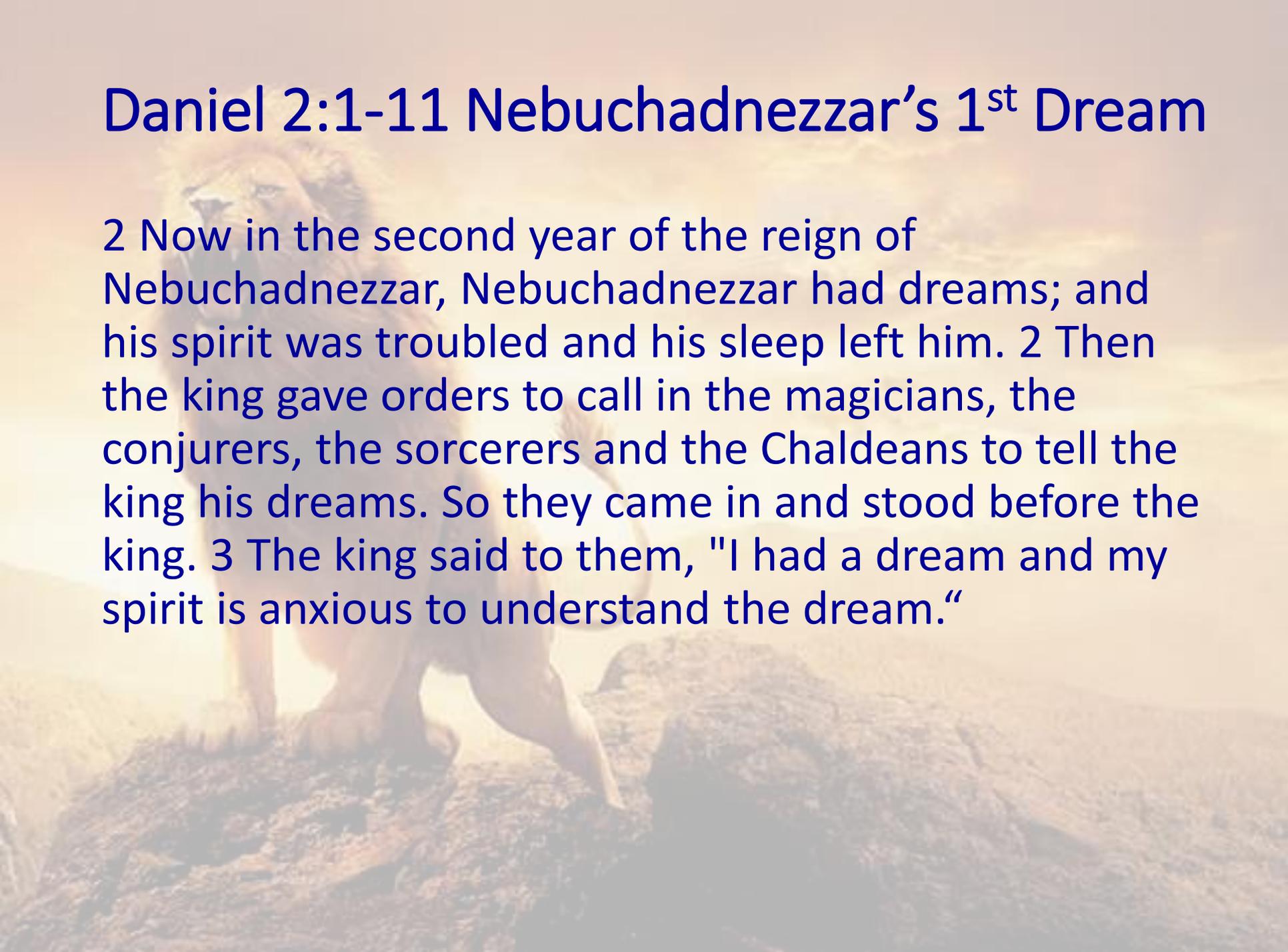
# Daniel

**Living Faithfully in a  
Fallen World**

# Daniel: Review

- What was Daniel's first big test in the College of the Captives?
- Why do you think the story of Daniel and his friends begins with the difficult circumstances of their youth?
  - The heroism shown by these men in their times of greatest crisis doesn't just appear from nowhere; it was the result of consistent live of consistent integrity.
  - "Such heroism does not develop overnight, nor is it created in a vacuum. ... Present heroism cannot be explained apart from past faithfulness." - Sinclair Ferguson

# Daniel 2:1-11 Nebuchadnezzar's 1<sup>st</sup> Dream



2 Now in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king gave orders to call in the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 The king said to them, "I had a dream and my spirit is anxious to understand the dream."

# Daniel 2:1-11 The King's Insecurity

4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic: "O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation." 5 The king replied to the Chaldeans, "The command from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you will be torn limb from limb and your houses will be made a rubbish heap. 6 "But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you will receive from me gifts and a reward and great honor; therefore declare to me the dream and its interpretation." 7 They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation." 8 The king replied, "I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, inasmuch as you have seen that the command from me is firm, 9 that if you do not make the dream known to me, there is only one decree for you. For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation." 10 The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king, inasmuch as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean. 11 "Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods, whose dwelling place is not with mortal flesh."

# Daniel 2:1-11 The King's Insecurity

- Nebuchadnezzar received his first prophetic dream in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of his reign. Since Daniel studied for three years this presents a question.
  - Note that the Jewish way of counting was inclusive.
  - Also, Nebuchadnezzar's father was still king when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem.
- What was Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to his dream?
  - "His spirit was troubled and his sleep left him"
  - "The anxieties of daylight can become the monsters of the darkness."
- Why would the most powerful man in the world be so troubled by a dream?

# Daniel 2:1-11 The King's Anger

- Who did Nebuchadnezzar call when he wanted his dream explained?
  - “the magicians, the conjurers, the sorcerers and the Chaldeans”
- “4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic ...”
  - Note: 2:4b – 7:28 was written in Aramaic
  - This section discloses God's plan for the great world empires, written to all peoples in the international language of the day
  - Ch 1 & 8-12 deal with God's plan for His covenant people
- Nebuchadnezzar demanded that his advisors tell him the dream in order to confirm their ability to give him the correct interpretation.

# Daniel 2:1-11 The King's Anger

- What is the Chaldeans' answer regarding the king's demand?
  - Unreasonable: "There is not a man on earth who could declare the matter for the king"
  - Unprecedented: "inasmuch as no great king or ruler has ever asked anything like this of any magician, conjurer or Chaldean."
  - Unknown: "Moreover, the thing which the king demands is difficult, and there is no one else who could declare it to the king except gods"
- What does Nebuchadnezzar's reaction reveal about his character?
  - He's Insecure
  - He's Hostile and Ruthless

# Daniel 2:12-18 Knocking on Heaven's Door

12 Because of this the king became indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13 So the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they looked for Daniel and his friends to kill them.

14 Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon; 15 he said to Arioch, the king's commander, "For what reason is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch informed Daniel about the matter. 16 So Daniel went in and requested of the king that he would give him time, in order that he might declare the interpretation to the king.

17 Then Daniel went to his house and informed his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, about the matter, 18 so that they might request compassion from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his friends would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

# Daniel 2:12-18 Knocking on Heaven's Door

- The king became indignant and very furious and gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.
- When Arioch comes to execute Daniel and his friends, “Then Daniel replied with discretion and discernment.”
  - Imagine answering your door to find the SS Chief, Heinrich Himmler, standing there with orders to kill you!
- Being only a freshman wise man at this point, Daniel apparently was still unaware of the king's dream and of his demand
- Daniel's request for time shows both wisdom & faith in God

# Daniel 2:12-18 Knocking on Heaven's Door

- Who were some others in Scripture who stood with courage before rulers?
  - Joseph, Moses, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Paul & the Apostles, and Jesus Christ
- What does Daniel do next?
  - He prays
    - This is a recurring theme in Daniel's life: he is a man of prayer.
- In his prayer Daniel asks God for mercy
  - For himself and his friends
  - For the other wise men

# Daniel 2:19-23 Daniel's First Song

19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven; 20 Daniel said,

"Let the name of God be blessed forever and ever,  
For wisdom and power belong to Him.

21 "It is He who changes the times and the epochs;  
He removes kings and establishes kings;  
He gives wisdom to wise men  
And knowledge to men of understanding.

22 "It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things;  
He knows what is in the darkness,  
And the light dwells with Him.

23 "To You, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise,  
For You have given me wisdom and power;  
Even now You have made known to me what we requested of You,  
For You have made known to us the king's matter."

# Daniel 2:19-23 Daniel's First Song

- Daniel worships God:
  - “For wisdom and power belong to Him.”
  - "It is He who changes the times and the epochs”
  - “It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things”

By sending this dream God is:

- Humbling this pagan despot
- Revealing His plans for the future
- Building the faith of Daniel and His friends for greater crises to come

# Daniel 2:24-30 God Raises up Daniel

24 Therefore, Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and spoke to him as follows: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon! Take me into the king's presence, and I will declare the interpretation to the king."

25 Then Arioch hurriedly brought Daniel into the king's presence and spoke to him as follows: "I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can make the interpretation known to the king!" 26 The king said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?" 27 Daniel answered before the king and said, "As for the mystery about which the king has inquired, neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king. 28 "However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days. This was your dream and the visions in your mind while on your bed. 29 "As for you, O king, while on your bed your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future; and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will take place. 30 "But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me for any wisdom residing in me more than in any other living man, but for the purpose of making the interpretation known to the king, and that you may understand the thoughts of your mind.

# Daniel 2:24-30 God Raises up Daniel

- The king asks Daniel, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen and its interpretation?"
- How does Daniel begin his response?
  - "neither wise men, conjurers, magicians nor diviners are able to declare it to the king.
  - "However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days.
- Daniel gives glory to God and witnesses to his unsaved king.

# Daniel 2 Some Applications

None of us has ever had to work for a boss as demanding and as ruthless as Daniel's. How can we explain his courage?

- The Holy Spirit filled Daniel, and bore fruit in great courage, great wisdom, and great grace towards ungodly authorities.
- The same Holy Spirit empowered Joseph, Moses, Elijah, the Apostles and Christ Himself during His time on the earth.

# Daniel 2 Some Applications

The Holy Spirit continues to fill God's people.

And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
Isaiah 11:2-3

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined  
to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order  
that he might be the firstborn among many  
brothers. Romans 8:29

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# Review: The Structure of Daniel

## The Chiastic Structure of Prophecies:

- Chapter 1: Introduction and the testing of God's people
    - Chapter 2: Four World Empires
      - Chapter 3: God's Mighty Deliverance
        - Chapter 4: God's Judgment on World Rulers
        - Chapter 5: God's Judgment on World Rulers
      - Chapter 6: God's Mighty Deliverance
    - Chapter 7: Four World Empires
  - Chapters 8-12: God's Purposes for His People in the times to come
- This structure emphasizes God's control of human history