



## The Dream – Week Two

### DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Overview

In message two of the Daniel series entitled **Brave**, we examine the dream of the Babylonian King, Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel chapter two provides a biblical overview of future kingdoms and end-time events.

### Discussion Questions

As we study Daniel's life, we observe his commitment, conviction, and courage when he takes a stand against a world system and makes a stand for the Lord. We learn that this young Jewish man was taken from his country, home, and culture. Daniel could have easily become bitter, but he settled in his heart to trust God with his life and his future.

- Are you trusting God with your life and well-being amidst these unsettling times?

We typically have **three responses** when our culture shifts around us:

1. **We try to escape.**  
We want to run away and hide from what is taking place.
2. **We capitulate.**  
We accept what culture tells us instead of what God tells us.
3. **We engage.**  
We trust God, pray, and live with conviction. **Commitment + Convictions = Courage.**

### Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

**Daniel 2:1-2** says: *Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.*

Nebuchadnezzar ordered his wise men to tell him his dream and interpret it. This was beyond their ability and that of their false gods. In response, Nebuchadnezzar ordered all of the wise men—including Daniel and his friends—put to death. When Daniel hears of the death sentence, he asks the king for time to pray.

- Amidst pressure, Daniel took time to pray to God. What is usually your first response when you are under pressure? What can we learn from Daniel's example on how we should react to a personal crisis?

## A Dream Forgotten

**Daniel 2: 27-28** reveals two important truths: *the inability of human power and the failure of human wisdom*. This passage also demonstrates the unfailing power and wisdom of God.

- Why do you think we trust in our limited power and wisdom instead of relying on God? Share a time when you made a conscious decision to depend on God instead of self.

Daniel's spiritual maturity revealed his wisdom in response to a crisis, his prayer in response to a problem, and his praise in response to God's work in his life. As a result, the king promoted Daniel to chief administrator and ruler of the whole province of Babylon.

- How can Daniel's example help you grow in one of these areas?

## World Kingdoms

After hearing from God, Daniel explains the dream. The king had dreamt of an enormous statue made of four different metals: a head of **gold**, a chest of **silver**, belly and thighs of **bronze**, and legs of **iron** mixed with clay. The statue was symbolic of Gentile kingdoms.

World Kingdom	Dates	Material	Daniel 7 Animal
Babylon	605 – 539BC	Gold	Winged Lion
Medo-Persian	539 – 331BC	Silver	Bear
Greece	331 – 146BC	Bronze	Leopard
Rome	146BC – 400AD	Iron and Clay	Cruel Beast
Kingdom of God	Birth of Christ – Second Coming of Christ	Stone	

In the dream, there is a stone that strikes the feet and toes of iron mixed with clay. The meaning is **two-fold**: 1) The kingdom of God, represented by stone, is ushered in at **Christ's birth**. 2) The stone also points to Christ's return to earth to establish His **Millennial Kingdom**.

- Knowing that Jesus will return to establish His Millennial Kingdom on earth, how does that change your perspective toward your purpose on earth?

## Life Challenge

As Christ-followers, we are called to be disciples of Jesus, even amidst a culture that doesn't honor God. How should knowledge of God's wisdom, sovereignty, and power affect our view of the people and circumstances in our lives?

## Prayer

*Heavenly Father, we thank You that the book of Daniel has given us an example of how he honored God through a crisis. We bless Your name, for wisdom and might are Yours. I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers. Amen. Pray for the specific needs of the group.*