

Intro: Was there ever a time in your life when you knew you should do the right thing for God, but it was going to put you in a bad situation?

Today we will again see the miraculous hand of God in the life of Daniel and his friends because of their complete trust in God. However, even more importantly we will see that God is always working for His glory through His faithful servants.

READ DANIEL 2:1-13

- 1. The king is troubled by the dreams he kept having. What does the king do?** (*Summoned magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, all the men consider the wise, the elite minds of the day. They were likely brilliant men who were of Chaldean ancestry who could trace used ancestry back to those who originally conquered Babylon. A magician was someone who used sorcery. The enchanters practiced necromancy, talking to the dead. The sorcerer used witchcraft for worship of idols. The astrologers used the planets and the stars that were believed to control the events of mankind. He wanted to know what this dream was that kept troubling him.*)
- 2. What pressure does he place on his wise men?** (*Interpret my dream or I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. But if you can tell me I will give you great gifts, reward and honor. Notice that the king realizes there is a chance with magic that it is a fraud. If they are these great wizards and magicians there is no reason they cannot interpret his dreams. Therefore the king lets them know that he would realize they have been using him. That will not turn out good!*)

Q – What are some ways people misuse wisdom to deceive other people today? (*Psychics; People intentionally feeding misinformation which becomes people's truth without them realizing they have been duped; People who interpret the ethics and morals of the majority as true wisdom*)

- 3. What was the reply of the wise men of Babylon when the king demands they tell him what his dream was about?** (*No man on earth can do what you ask. Only the gods could do that! These all powerful sorcerers suddenly could not produce the power they claimed to have! So, they king orders his wise counsel to all be executed! Isn't it interesting that they say only the gods could see what is unknown? Notice that because Daniel and his friends were of the wisest of men, they too were going to be put to death with the king's wisdom council.*)

READ DANIEL 2:14-23

- 4. What does Daniel do knowing that they will soon be put to death?** (*He goes directly to the king and asks that he be given a time to interpret his dream. Then he goes to his friends to explain the situation to them. He isn't afraid. His trust is in the miraculous hand of God. He simply asks his friends to pray and plead for God's mercy to reveal this dream to him they might live.*)

- 5. What is the essence of the prayer of praise Daniel lifts up to God after God reveals to him in a vision the dream of Nebuchadnezzar?** *(He begins to declare the sovereign power of God over all the universe and all wisdom and all kings. God alone is in control!)*

List praises on the board after making this statement: God has revealed even more to us than He did to Daniel. He revealed Himself to us in the person of Jesus. Let's list on the board some of the glories due our God for what He has revealed to us, things the angels longed to look into!

Brian Chappel tells about the experience with their first child. There was a history of birth defects in his family. He said friends often asked if they wanted a boy or girl. He said we would wince at that question because all they really wanted was a healthy baby. However, whatever or however their child was born was okay. They would love their gift from God no matter what. The day arrived when she went into labor. Everything looked great but then the monitors began to show the baby was in distress. When he was born he was blue from oxygen deprivation. For some reason the last stages of delivery the baby did not get the oxygen he needed. The doctor tried to get him to breathe, but he wouldn't. They did not even get a chance to hold their son. The nurses immediately took him back to special equipment to clear his lungs. This was our first baby so we did not fully understand what was happening. Then Brian saw one of the nurses look at the clock and begin timing their baby not breathing. As I looked between the clock and my wife's fading smile, I realized what was happening. I cried out, "Oh, Heavenly Father, I thought I had prepared myself for anything, but I have not prepared for my child to die!"

What do you do when your baby starts to die? You suddenly realize how helpless you are. You cannot do anything to control what is dearest to you. You see that all your abilities, your preparations, and your plans really mean nothing. You are not in control! So what do you do? What can you do but pray? I prayed, "God, help us. I'm not sure what we will do, or what we will be, if we lose him. God, please save him." God did save our child. Then I realized, but He could not save His own. How blessed are we!

Do we realize that in everything we are to turn to God? Do we realize that in every final outcome we are to give Him thanks, even if it isn't what we had hoped for? The more we trust in God, the more powerful God will miraculously work through us to the world that we inhabit, the people, the family, the friends, our children. Every aspect of how we live out our faith, who we turn to, how we respond is all a statement of the depth of our faith and trust in God.

What are some things you would like to thank God for that are good or bad, yet will work for His witness through you?

READ DANIEL 2:24-45

- 6. Why did Daniel want to save the wise men that were practicing things God forbid?** *(They were practicing the occult arts out of ignorance. There were not Jews who followed the ways of Yahweh. If they were saved, they would see the true God's glory and maybe find their true Creator. Daniel was following the wisdom of God, that worldly people will act worldly until someone sets them free from the chains of ignorance.)*
- 7. How does Daniel give God the glory instead of himself?** *(Daniel takes no credit for his wisdom. He points out that it is not from the occult or from any god but from the one true God of Heaven who has revealed this*

mystery of the king's dream to him. Notice that Daniel chooses to use the word, "diviner" along with magician and enchanter. Divine was an Aramaic word, "gēzar" that was the equivalent of the Hebrew word, "gāzar". It meant to divine or to cut out. It was used in reference to a stone that was cut out of a mountain. It denotes astrologers in this instance who cut ideas out of the celestial bodies.)

READ DANIEL 2:46-49

- 8. What is the king's reaction toward Daniel's interpretation of his dream?** *(Fell prostrate before Daniel and the king, who did not do these things, paid honor to Daniel and orders that an offering and incense be presented to him. The Hebrew word usually meant a grain offering. He declares that Daniel's God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings and the revealer of mysteries to you. The king was giving God the glory and honor.)*
 - 9. Why wasn't the king angry with Daniel's interpretation of the fall of his empire?** *(The wisest men in the world couldn't do what Daniel has done by the power of His God! The king sees the miraculous nature of Daniel's God and cannot deny the reality of what has taken place. God has made no threat, just a vision of the future rise and fall of the kingdoms without details about time lines.)*
 - 10. In what positions does the king place his four wise men?** *(Put him over the entire province of Babylon and over all the wise men. Remember, Daniel has saved the lives of the enchanters, magicians, sorcerers and astrologers. He is now their boss! Daniel asks the king to put his friends in positions. Shadrach, Meshach and Abendigo become administrators over the province of Babylon which allowed Daniel to stay in the royal court. A miraculous accomplishment for captive Jews thanks to the miracle of God.)*
- Q – What are some of the lessons you and I can learn from this chapter?**