

Chapter Two is very powerful. This vision and interpretation are striking and evidence of God's omniscience and sovereignty. So, this week's notes have more questions and more discussion than usual.

### **FEAR OR FAITH?**

When in your life did you have good reason to fear, but God taught you faith? What and who helped you learn faith?

At this point in our time in the Bible, I plan to read through the entire chapter and spend more time than usual on observations. In addition, I hope that we will do two things:

- Learn more about our amazing God
- Consider how we should respond to crisis
- See that God has a master plan for the future that includes the victory of Jesus

### **LEARN FROM THE BIBLE**

To the reader: This chapter is rich with examples from Daniel's life and is one of the more amazing prophecies in the Bible. As such, it will require more reading and understanding. Ask God to help you learn about trusting God, the character and ability of God, and his role in history and our future.

What do we learn about God? Where and how do we see the hand of God?

God was actively working throughout this story.

- He gave the king the vision
- He gave the four captives grace by giving them favor with the executioner.
- He gave Daniel answers when needed
- He helped the king see the truth of His power and sovereignty.

God is omniscient, sovereign, and cares about every person. Notice that Daniel goes out of his way to protect ALL the wise men, including those that are caught up in idolatry. Also, God even cares about the king.

God allowed this situation to come to the place of threat to the lives of His people. He then answered with power and insight AFTER they prayed together. God was teaching His people to live by faith.

What is the main message of the dream and its interpretation?

God knows the future and is sovereign over the future kingdoms and kings. Although it looks like each kingdom is growing darker and without hope, God will at the right time intervene and rule forever.

How did Daniel respond to adversity? (What do we learn about prayer?)

His actions included:

- To trust God for time to know and interpret the dream
- To protect all the wise men (all categories)
- To rally the men to prayer
- To respond to God with praise, thanksgiving, and faith
- To patiently and humbly report to the king and reveal what God revealed to him
- To include his friends in the honor that the king offered

What do we learn about God from Daniel's prayer?

God wants us to turn to Him in prayer together, is all knowing, has a master plan, answers those who trust in Him.

In his time before the king, what do we see in the character of Daniel?

Courageous, humble, glorifying God / taking no credit for himself, unselfish and thoughtful of others, etc.

**The dream:** The dream was a panorama of four Gentile empires. (It was interpreted by God through Daniel which is why he said "we" in verse 36.)

What was king Nebuchadnezzar's role? How was his position represented in the dream?

He was the king of kings – the golden head. He was God's provision for the animals and people, protection for citizens, and allowed to lead under God's sovereign plan.

The statue represents four kingdoms on earth. Many understand these to be Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. What do we learn about the final kingdom, symbolized by the great rock? (vs 44-45)

The Rock will crush / put an end to all other kingdoms. Each kingdom seems to be growing darker (morality? more violent? larger in scope?)

What is your response to news of this final kingdom?

[Personal response here](#)

Since Daniel was a young Jewish captive, what do you make of the king's response? (46-47)

The king witnessed a miracle and was overwhelmed to the point of falling on his face before this young captive.

### **DISCUSS TOGETHER**

What can we learn from Daniel's response to the king's edict (i.e., to execute)? How is this a model for those who follow Jesus?

Good point of discussion. Is this our first response – to turn to God in prayer together?

While we are unlikely to be threatened as such, we are facing challenges every week. Is my normal response to ask friends to join in prayer, to ask God, and to believe that God will answer?

Behind the details of a dream and its interpretation, what do we learn about God? How might we, as disciples of Jesus, respond to the circumstances of life?

Daniel was so confident that God would answer prayer, that God has control even over super kings, and that how we respond matters to God and His mission to help people know Him.

This is a very significant chapter in the Bible, revealing much about God and humankind. The king's response to this miracle was to "fall on his face." How does this story impact you?

[Personal response](#)

Knowing that there is a time when Jesus, the Rock, will break the power of evil kingdoms and rule forever, how should His disciples live this week?

This is the application of a significant chapter in the Word of God. While it is an amazing story, please include this discussion. What we learn about God, about trusting God in courage, faith, and prayer SHOULD CHANGE HOW WE LIVE.

**APPLY IT THIS WEEK**

Knowing that God has a masterplan should change how we respond to news of earthly kingdoms. This week, watch for your own thoughts, feelings, and words. Ask God to help you remember that He has control and that we need not complain or fret, but trust in Him together.

**PLEASE PRAY**

- For the Ohana team in Thailand and for your global partners
- For the many people and churches in southern California impacted by fires
- For our Middle and High School teams serving our students

May the God who answers our call for help send you His grace and peace.

Steve