

Forgotten Dream

Daniel 2; Prophets and Kings, pp. 491-499

Have you ever awakened in the morning knowing that you had a dream, but were unable to remember it? Or maybe you could remember it, but it seemed very silly. King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that he could not remember. It happened like this . . .

God blessed Daniel and his friends. He gave them wisdom to understand the hardest assignments. The king himself tested them at the end of their three years of training. He was pleased! They were 10 times better in everything than all the wise men in the kingdom!

King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians worshiped idols. They made idols of wood and

stone. And they believed that their dreams were messages from their idols.

One night King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. When he awoke the next morning, he was very disturbed. He knew he had dreamed about something important. But he was even more upset because he could not remember the dream.

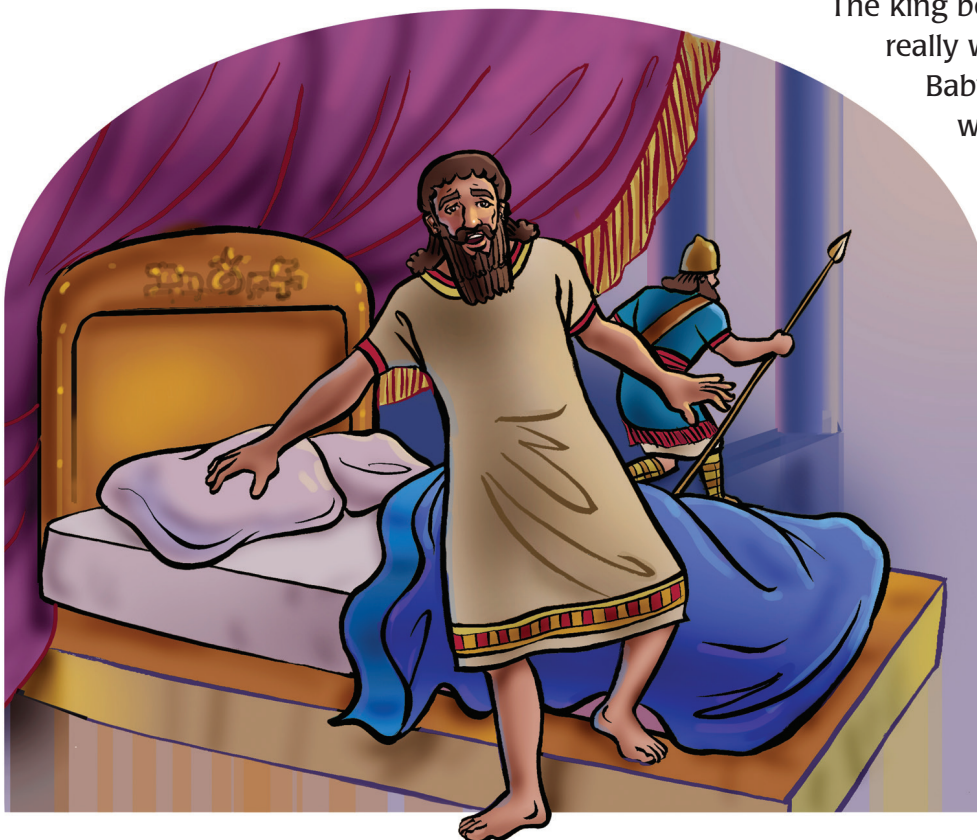
The king called his wisest advisors and interpreters before him. "I had an important dream last night," he said. "Tell me what it means."

"But we don't know what you dreamed," they replied. "Tell us your dream. Then we can tell you what it means. Otherwise, how can we interpret it?"

The king became very angry. "If you really were the wisest men in Babylon, you would know what I dreamed," he said.

Twice the wise men asked about the dream. But the king could not remember. He became so angry that he ordered that all the wise men in the empire were to be killed!

Daniel and his friends were not among the men who had been called before the king. But they were among those who would be killed. When they heard about it,



The Message

I serve God when I help people in need.

Memory Verse

“God . . . : You have given me wisdom and power”

(Daniel 2:23, NIV).



with clay. A rock fell from heaven and crushed the feet. The whole statue fell over and was destroyed.

Then Daniel explained the meaning to Nebuchadnezzar. His dream had predicted the future. King Nebuchadnezzar was a strong king, but someday his kingdom would fall from power. The king of another country would take over. Later, still another kingdom would take over. Each kingdom that came into power would be weaker. Finally God would set up His kingdom, a kingdom that

would never end.

None of the idol-worshiping advisors had been able to tell the king his dream. Only Daniel's God could do that. "Your God is the true God," Nebuchadnezzar told Daniel. Finally, the king made Daniel governor over Babylon. In this position Daniel could help others know about the God of heaven.

Of all the wise men of Babylon, only Daniel and his friends asked God for help. God heard them. And He told them everything they needed to know. God will hear you too, when you need answers to difficult questions. He is always ready to help you.

Daniel talked to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard. Daniel asked Arioch to explain what was wrong. Then Daniel went before the king. He asked Nebuchadnezzar for time to discover the dream and what it meant.

Daniel and his friends spent that night in prayer. As they prayed, God gave Daniel a vision. He showed Daniel the king's dream and told Daniel the meaning.

The next morning Daniel hurried to Nebuchadnezzar's palace. He told the king exactly what he had seen: a huge statue with a head of gold, a chest of silver, thighs of bronze, legs of iron, and feet of iron mixed



S A B B A T H

DO Use your gift of helpfulness by helping clean up after Sabbath lunch.

DO Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a huge statue. If possible, go for a walk with your family to see a monument or statue. Try to find out why it was built.

DO With your family, name other Bible characters who had important dreams.

PRAY Thank God for His Word, the Bible.

M O N D A Y

READ With your family, read Daniel 2. What color were the chest and arms? Color your stick man's chest and arms.

READ Now read Daniel 5:30, 31. Who invaded and took over Nebuchadnezzar's empire? This empire was known as the Medo-Persian Empire.

DO Use a dictionary to find some facts about silver.

PRAY Think of ways to use your arms to serve people in need. Thank God for your arms and the strength He gives you every day.

Daniel was a prophet. A prophet tells God's messages about his own time and the future.



S U N D A Y

DO Find a flat stone and write your memory verse on it, including the reference. Put it where you will see it often. Teach the verse to your family during worship.

MAKE Take three sheets of newspaper. Roll each one up and tape it. Fold one roll in half. Attach it to the bottom of one of the other rolls. Attach the remaining roll a third of the way along the straight roll. Now you have a stick man.

READ Look at Daniel 2. What color was the statue's head? Color your stick man's head that color. (Save it for use all week.) Whom did the head represent?

SING Sing "Dare to Be a Daniel," then ask God to show you ways to serve Him.

T U E S D A Y

READ For family worship, look in Daniel 2 to find out what color the image's belly and thighs were. Color your stick man's belly and thighs. This represented the Greek Empire under Alexander the Great. Use an encyclopedia to discover five facts about Alexander the Great.

DO How many metal things can you find in the room you are in?

PRAY Find Greece and Babylon on a Bible map. Compare it to a map of the world today. Pray for the people in that part of the world.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ With your family, read Daniel 2 again. What were the image's legs made of? Color your stick man's legs. (Do not color the feet.)

READ This empire ruled when Jesus lived on the earth. With your family, look up Luke 2:1 to find the name of the empire. Use an encyclopedia to find out more about it.

SING Sing "Dare to Be a Daniel" (Sing for Joy, no. 116) together. Then pray that you will always dare to stand up for Jesus and serve others.

THURSDAY

READ With your family, explore Daniel 2 to discover what the image's feet were made of. Color your stick man's feet.

DO Use an atlas or world map to count the countries in Europe.

DO Try to find a large stone to represent the kingdom of God.

DO Write a song, poem, or rap about the different empires you have learned about.

PRAY Thank God that He will set up His kingdom. Tell Him you want to be a part of it.

FRIDAY

DO With your family, act out the story of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Play the part of Daniel. Use your stick man to explain the statue. Say your memory verse together.

THINK What precious metal or color would you use to describe Sabbath? Ask your family how they would describe Sabbath.

SING Sing "Dare to Be a Daniel" (*Sing for Joy*, no 116).

PRAY Pray that God will help you all to be brave and be willing to serve Him.

Forgotten
Dream

PUZZLE

Directions: With God's help, Daniel found the solution to King Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Trace the most direct line to the solution.

