### Daniel

## Chapter 2

1It was in the 2nd year of the reign of NebuChadnezzar that the king had a dream that so deeply disturbed his spirit that he couldn’t sleep. 2So he gave the order to call for [all his] officials, priests, sorcerers, and Chaldeans, to have them interpret the dream.  
  
Then when they came and stood before the king, 3he said to them:  
  
 ‘I had a dream that bothered me so deeply that I must know what it means!’  
  
4Well, the Chaldeans replied to the king in the Syrian language, saying:  
  
 ‘O king,  
  
 ‘May you live throughout the ages! Just tell your servants what you dreamed, and we’ll announce the interpretation to you!’  
  
5But the king told the Chaldeans:  
  
 ‘I’ve forgotten what it was about… And if you can’t tell me the dream and give me its interpretation, I’ll have you all destroyed and have your homes torn down!  
  
 6‘However, if you can tell me the dream and give me its interpretation, I’ll give you many gifts, do many favors for you free of charge, and I’ll honor you greatly… But first you must tell me the dream, and then you must explain what it means to me!’  
  
7Well, they answered him a second time, saying:  
  
 ‘May the king tell the dream to his servants, and then we’ll announce its interpretation!’  
  
8And at that, the king said to them:  
  
 ‘I know for a fact that you’re just buying time for yourselves, because I told you how every word of the dream has left me. So now, if you can’t tell me the dream, I’ll know that you’re corrupt and lying, and that you’ve agreed to keep speaking before me just to [buy more] time.  
  
 9‘First tell me my dream, and then I’ll know that I can believe the interpretation that you give to me!’  
  
10But the Chaldeans then said the king:  
  
 ‘There’s no man on dry land that can make known what the king is asking, for this is something that no great king or ruler has ever asked of an official, a priest, or a Chaldean. 11What the king is asking is so difficult that no one can tell him such a thing… Other than the gods who don’t live here in the flesh.’  
  
12And at that, the king flew into a rage!  
  
He was so angry that he ordered all the wise men of Babylon to be destroyed, 13and he sent out a edict for them all to be put to death!  
  
  
Well, when they went looking for DaniEl and his friends to do away with them, 14DaniEl asked this of AriOch, the king’s head-of-the-guards (who had come to execute all the wise men of Babylon). 15He said to him:  
  
 ‘O [servant] of the king!  
  
 ‘Why was such a presumptuous decree put before him?’  
  
Then AriOch told DaniEl about all the things that had been said.  
  
16Well at that, DaniEl went before the king and petitioned him to give him enough time to find the interpretation so that he could announce it to the king. 17Then DaniEl returned to his house and there he [met with] his friends HananiAh, MishaEl, and AzariAh, and he asked them to help him interpret [the dream]. 18And they then trusted in the compassions of the God of heaven [to help them unlock] this mystery, and to keep DaniEl and his friends from being destroyed along with the rest of Babylon’s wise men.  
  
  
19Then that night, DaniEl had a vision in which the mystery of the dream was revealed to him. So he praised the God of heaven, and said this:  
  
 20‘May the Name of The Great God be praised  
 Throughout the age and into the age of the ages.  
 To Him, understanding and wisdom belong…  
 21He’s the One who changes the seasons and times.  
  
 ‘He appoints kings and removes them…  
 To the wise, He’s the One who gives wisdom  
 As well as intelligence, so they’ll understand…  
 22He uncovers the things that are hidden and deep.  
  
 ‘He knows all that happens in the darkness,  
 For, He is the source of all light.  
 23So I acknowledge and praise You,  
 O Great God of the ages.  
  
 ‘For You’re the One who gave me the wisdom and power,  
 And revealed what I petitioned from You,  
 Regarding this matter of the king.  
 Yes, You’ve revealed it to me!’  
  
24Then DaniEl went to AriOch (the one whom the king had appointed to destroy all the wise men of Babylon) and said to him:  
  
 ‘Don’t destroy the wise men of Babylon! I want you to take me before the king so I can announce the interpretation of the dream to him.’  
  
25As a result, AriOch quickly took DaniEl before the king and told him:  
  
 ‘I’ve found a man among the captive sons of Judah who can announce to the king the interpretation of his dream!’  
  
26And the king asked DaniEl (whom he referred to as BelTeShazzar):  
  
 ‘Are you really able to tell me the dream that I saw and then explain its meaning to me?’  
  
27And there in the presence of the king, DaniEl said this:  
  
 ‘The mystery that the king has asked the wise men, sorcerers, officials, and astrologers to announce to him isn’t theirs to explain. 28However, there’s a God in the heavens that can uncover mysteries, and He’s made known to King NebuChadnezzar what’s going to happen in the last days.  
  
 ‘The dream that you saw in your head while you were lying in your bed was this:  
  
 29‘You, O king, through the thoughts that you had in your bed, were elevated to see what will happen after this… For mysteries have been made known to you about things that will happen [in the future].  
  
 30‘Now, I’m no wiser than any other living man; but this mystery has been uncovered to me so that the king may understand what it means, and so that you may know the thoughts that are in your own heart.  
  
 31‘You looked, O king, and you saw a huge idol that was overwhelming in size… It stood right in front of your face and it frightened you!  
  
 32‘This idol had:  
  
 • A head of pure gold;  
 • Its breast, arms, and hands were of silver;  
 • Its belly and thighs were of brass;  
 • Its legs were of iron; and  
 • Its feet were part iron and part baked clay.  
  
 33‘Well, as you were staring at it, a rock was cut from a mountain without any hands, which thereafter flew and hit the image on its feet of iron and baked clay, which completely shattered them… 34And everything else was shattered at the same time (the baked clay, the iron, the brass, the silver, and the gold). Then it all became like a cloud of dust from a threshing floor during the harvest, 35and thereafter a wind came and blew it all away, leaving nothing at all.  
  
 ‘Then the stone that had struck the image [grew into] a huge mountain that covered the whole earth.  
  
 36‘So, that was your dream… And now I’ll tell the king what it means.  
  
 37‘You, O king, are the king of kings to whom the God of heaven has given a strong, fortified, and honorable kingdom. 38And in every place where the sons of men live, as well as in every place where the wild animals of the fields and flying creatures of the skies live, has been given into your hands by Him, for He’s made you the lord over it all. So you, O king, are the head of pure gold.  
  
 39‘But after you, another kingdom will arise that’s inferior to yours, and then a 3rd kingdom (the one of brass) will come to dominate the whole earth. [It will be followed by] a 4th kingdom that will become as strong as iron… 40For just as iron can crush and tame all things, it will crush and tame everything.  
  
 41‘Then the feet and the toes that you saw, which were partly of iron and partly of baked clay, will be a divided kingdom.  
  
 ‘However, because you saw the iron mixed with the baked clay; [this means that] some of the roots of the iron will be in it. 42And since the toes of the feet are partly of iron and partly of baked clay, part of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be easily broken. 43For as you saw the iron mixed with the baked clay; [this kingdom] will be mixed with the offspring of mankind… And they won’t stick to each other, just as iron won’t stick to baked clay.  
  
 44‘Then in the time of those kings, the God of heaven will establish a Kingdom that won’t be corrupted throughout the ages, and His Kingdom won’t be passed on to anyone else.  
  
 ‘[First] it’ll crush and sift all the other kingdoms, and it will stand throughout the ages thereafter.  
  
 45‘So, now that you’ve seen the stone cut from a mountain without hands, and how it crushed the baked clay, iron, brass, silver, and gold; the great God has revealed to the king what’s going to happen after this.  
  
 ‘This dream is true, and you can trust its interpretation.’  
  
46Well at that, King NebuChadnezzar fell to his face and bowed before DaniEl. Then he offered him some very nice cologne as a gift, and he [told his servants] to bring him something to drink.  
  
47Then the king said this to DaniEl:  
  
 ‘It’s a fact that your God is the God of gods, Lord of lords, and King of kings. For He alone can uncover mysteries… As you were able to uncover this mystery!’  
  
48After that, the king honored DaniEl by giving him many great gifts, and he appointed him over all the [districts] of Babylon as the ruler over all the governors and wise men of Babylon. 49And because he then requested this of the king, ShadRach, MeShach, and AbedNego were appointed over the construction projects throughout all the regions of Babylon, and DaniEl [thereafter served] within the courtyard of the king.