

Daniel: *Living Lessons in the Walk of Faith* (Part 2)
May 11, 2008—Jerry Cisar

TEXT: Daniel 2

I. Nebuchadnezzar's Insomnia

A. He cannot sleep:

- James 1:10-11

B. He cannot figure out why:

If the mightiest man in the known world cannot control his own destiny, cannot even figure out that this is what is troubling him, then no one can... and the only cure is to throw ourselves upon the mercy of God like Daniel.

II. Everyone's Inability to Control Life

A. *"I had a dream; it troubles me; please tell me what it means."*

i. *"Oh king, **live forever.**"*

ii. *"Tell us the dream and we will interpret it."*

B. Vs. 5-6 Nebuchadnezzar's test...

C. vs. 7-9 Trying to gain time...

D. Nebuchadnezzar losing control:

Everyone in this scene is struggling to control life and extend time; yet none are able, except God.

III. Daniel's Faith (2:13-18)

A. Daniel's Dilemma

B. How does Daniel demonstrate faith in the midst of crisis?

i. Daniel speaks with Arioch with “wisdom and tact.”

ii. *“Daniel went to the king and asked for time.”*

Scripture doesn't seem to worry about the mysterious nature of how man can choose to do something while yet God is sovereignly in control. It just assumes it.

iii. 2:17-18 Daniel threw Himself on God's mercy.

IV. Daniel's prayer reveals Who is really in control. (2:19-23)

God is the only One in control of times, lives and kingdoms!

God is the only One able to see clearly where all human beings perceive nothing but darkness.

V. Mystery Revealed (2:24-45)

A. Here are the main points:

- i. Nebuchadnezzar is the gold head: you were given you glory and grandeur by God.
- ii. 3 kingdoms following yours with diminishing glory
- iii. The whole statue is standing on clay feet.
- iv. God is going to set up His kingdom...

➤ Luke 20:18

VI. Nebuchadnezzar's Acknowledgment (2:46-49)

Drawing Lines

*Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel
and how we think and live.*

- Nebuchadnezzar was at the zenith of his military success when he was having trouble sleeping because of an apparent uneasiness about his own future. Why do you think that is?
- Can you think of ways in which you have been tempted to strive to sustain your own kingdom, and have felt vulnerable to the rock that will crush all rival kingdoms?
- How does Nebuchadnezzar, as a *seeker*, reveal that *seekers* cannot find what they are seeking on their own, that they are utterly dependent upon God's mercy, and that they are not able to reason through their dilemma and find right answers?
- Compare God's power as described in 2:20-22 with everyone else's abilities or lack thereof in the rest of the chapter.
- What does the prayer of Daniel in 2:20-23 indicate this chapter is really about?
- Why is it important to understand the dream and its interpretation from Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar's perspective?
- How does the Gospel reveal the same mystery as Daniel did to the King, but with much more clarity and disclosure?