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**Daniel 2:1-3** Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.

- How is this the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Nebuchadnezzar when Chapter 1 ended with Daniel having completed his 3 years of training?
- What is the significance of dreams for the Babylonians?
- What are the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans?

**Daniel 2:1-3**

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Daniel 2:4-6 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation." The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dung heap. However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation."

- Were Nebuchadnezzar's words figurative when he laid down the guidelines for interpreting the dream?
- Why did he want both dream and interpretation?
- Why say that he would turn their homes into a dung heap?

Daniel 2:4-6

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Daniel 2:7-9 They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation." The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, *there is only* one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation."

- What did the wise men hope to gain by asking for more time after hearing the dream?

Daniel 2:7-9

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Daniel 2:10-13 The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, "There is not a man on earth who can tell the king's matter; therefore no king, lord, or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. *It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.*" For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave a command to destroy all the wise *men* of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise *men*; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill *them*.

- What absolute truth was spoken by the Chaldeans?
- Why stress that no king had ever made such a demand?

Daniel 2:10-13

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**Daniel 2:14-18** Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise *men* of Babylon; he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, "Why is the decree from the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel. So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation. Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon.

- What is the significance of the Captain coming to Daniel?
- Was Daniel panicked when the Captain came to him?
- Why did Nebuchadnezzar not permit the wisemen time but gave Daniel the time he requested?
- What was Daniel's first act upon getting the news of this judgement?
- What should our first act be in both crisis and times of peace?

Daniel 2:14-18

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**Daniel 2:19-23** Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what *is* in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. I thank You and praise You, O God of my fathers; You have given me wisdom and might and have now made known to me what we asked of You, For You have made known to us the king's demand."

What was Daniel's first act upon having the dream revealed to him?

Daniel 2:19-23

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**Daniel 2:24-26**Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise *men* of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation." Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation." The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

- Why would Daniel request that the slaying of the wise men stop when it was to his advantage for them to be removed?
- What risk did Arioch take in announcing he had found an interpreter for the dream?

Daniel 2:24-26

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Daniel 2:27-30 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: As for you, O king, thoughts came to your *mind while* on your bed, *about* what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for *our* sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

- What did Daniel stress to Nebuchadnezzar?

Daniel 2:27-30

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Daniel 2:31-49

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WRAP UP/CLOSING PRAYER

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