

SERMON OUTLINE

In Daniel 2:1-23 we are shown God's wisdom and might through the character of 2 men as they respond to His sovereign acts.

- I. King Nebuchadnezzar's arrogance is revealed through his response to God's acts and men's fear.
 - A. The king has a troubling dream (v.1).
 - B. The king makes a troubling choice (v. 2).
 - C. The king and the Chaldeans have a troubling conversation (vs. 3-11).
 - D. The king issues a troubling decree (vs. 12-13).

- II. Daniel's humility is revealed through his response to God's acts & men's fear.
 - A. Daniel humbly inquires of foes (vs. 14-16).
 - B. Daniel humbly inquires of friends (v. 17).
 - C. Daniel humbly inquires of God (v. 18).
 - D. Daniel humbly receives wisdom (vs. 18-23).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, November 12, 2017

Passage: Daniel 2:1-23

Memory Passage: Daniel 2:20-22

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 2:1-49.** Though we will examine only half of this chapter this week, take a moment to read the entire chapter and circle (or record) every instance of the words “reveal,” “show,” and “make known.” How many times do you find these words, and what does it tell you about the primary focus of the chapter?

(b) Notice the words “stand before the king” (v. 2). Where have you seen these before, and why are they important in the development of this story?

(c) Some have argued that the king needed told the content of the dream because he did not remember it. What evidence do you find in the text that counters this claim? Why did he ask the wise men for both the dream’s content and interpretation?

(d) Why were the Chaldeans (another name used in Scripture to refer to the people of Babylonia, or also a reference to the wise men in the king’s court) trying to stall, and what was the king’s response?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 2:1-23.** There are times in Scripture where enemies of God utter concise and powerful theology (think Caiaphas in John 11:49-52). Explain how and why Daniel 2:10-11 fit into this category, as well as where it falls short of truth.

(b) Notice the king’s response in v. 12. What does this tell you about the king’s personality and leadership style?

(c) Why does the king’s decree include Daniel and his friends?

(d) How does Daniel’s response (vs. 14-16) reveal “prudence and discretion?”

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 2:1-23.** Put yourself in Daniel’s shoes: you have just found out that a decree has gone out for you (and others) to be put to death immediately. What would you do? Who would you talk to? What would you say?

(b) Why did Daniel’s request for a delay (v. 16) gain a different response from the king than the wise men’s request?

(c) Why do you think Daniel uses his friends’ Hebrew, rather than Babylonian, names in v. 17?

(d) Does Daniel’s request in v. 18 ask for deliverance *from* his situation or *through* it? Is there a difference, and if so, what is it? For what would you have asked your friends to pray? What do you learn about prayer in relation to God’s character and work that instructs and encourages your prayer life?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 2:1-23.** How did God answer their request and how did Daniel respond (v. 19—“then . . . then”)?

(b) Compare & contrast Daniel’s response to his crisis (vs. 14-18) with Nebuchadnezzar’s response to his own crisis (v. 12).

(c) Should we expect God to communicate to us in visions like he did with Daniel and the king? Why or why not?

(d) Notice how closely Daniel’s hymn of praise follows after God’s answer to their prayer. Is this normal for you? Are you a “forgetful prayer” who constantly asks God for things but does not look for the answers, especially answers you might not expect? Or are you a “selfish prayer” who regularly asks others to pray for you but neglects to inform them when God answers and delights in praising God with them when He answers? How might you increase the connection between God’s glory and your prayer life? How might you increase the joy (yours and those whom you enlist to pray) and faithfulness in prayer?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

(a) **Read Dan. 2:1-23.** Meditate on Daniel’s hymn of praise (vs. 20-23) before answering the following questions: (1) How do the actions of God in vs. 21-23 support Daniel’s claims about God in v. 20? (2) How does this hymn of praise remind you of/connect with what you have learned already in Daniel 1:1-2:23? (3) Apply each of the 7 truths about God listed in vs. 22-23 to one situation you face in your personal life and one situation you face in the world (locally, nationally, internationally). Be specific in writing about how this truth about God affects, and you will apply to, each situation.

DATE: November 12, 2017

PASSAGE: Daniel 2:1-23

The God Who Knows & Reveals