



Shining in Babylon
Study Guide
Daniel 2

1. Read Daniel 2:1-13. Why do you think Nebuchadnezzar was troubled and angry, and the king's servants felt powerless? Describe a fearful situation in which you felt powerless.

2. Read Daniel 2:14-18. Daniel was a man of prayer (Daniel 6:10). Prayer led him to reply with discretion to Arioch, make an appointment with the king before receiving the revelation of the dream, and ask his friends to join him in prayer. How does prayer help you in situations when you feel powerless? How have you seen praying with other friends be helpful? Discuss.

3. Read Daniel 2:19-28. In answer to prayer, God revealed the vision to Daniel! He begins to worship God for His "*wisdom and might*", and that "*there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries*"? Why are these important? What does it mean in your life?

4. Reference Daniel 2:29-45. In your own words describe the dream that he had. How significant is it to you that God revealed in advance the coming kingdoms? How does it make you live differently knowing that God is sovereign over who reigns, and that in the end Christ will establish his Kingdom (the rock)? How does that help you live in this current kingdom?

5. Read Daniel 2:46-49. Discuss the concept that Daniel was not afraid to take a risk in faith, which led to the King falling on his face to acknowledge that God is the Most High God. What risk in faith might God be calling you to, in order to "Shine in Babylon"? Discuss.

Daniel 2

Shining in Babylon

Jeremiah 29:4-7

⁴ "Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Daniel 12:3

"And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever."

Consecration- Revelation- Elevation

A. Troubled (Daniel 2:1-3)

In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. ² Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. ³ And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream."

B. Powerless (v. 4-11)

⁴ Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." ⁵ The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. ⁶ But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation."

C. Angry (v. 12-13)

¹² Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. ¹³ So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

D. Prayer in Faith (v. 14-18)

¹⁴ Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁵ He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. ¹⁶ And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

D. Prayer in Faith (v. 14-18) *cont.*

¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸ and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

1 Cor. 2:14-16

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, ... ¹⁵ The spiritual person discerns all things, ¹⁶... we have the mind of Christ.

E. Worship (v. 19-28)

¹⁹ Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. ²⁰ Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.

²¹ He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; ²² he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

E. Worship (v. 19-28) *cont.*

²⁵ Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: "I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation." ²⁶ The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?" ²⁷ Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.

F. The Vision (v. 36-45)

³⁶ "This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. ³⁷ You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, ³⁸ and into whose hand he has given, wherever they dwell, the children of man, the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all—you are the head of gold. ³⁹ Another kingdom inferior to you shall arise after you, and yet a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. ⁴⁰ And there shall be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron, because iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things. And like iron that crushes, it shall break and crush all these. ⁴¹ And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay. ⁴² And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay.

Isaiah 28:16

"Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste."

Matt. 21:42

"Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes.'"

1 Corinthians 10:4

"[they] did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

Matthew 21:44

And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."

G. Surrender (v. 46-49)

⁴⁶Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him.⁴⁷ The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery."⁴⁸ Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.⁴⁹ Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.