

# A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF DANIEL

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## MAN OF PRAYER

Daniel 2: 1-23

“Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven”

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# MAN OF PRAYER

“THEN DANIEL BLESSED THE GOD OF HEAVEN”

Daniel 2:19

Chapter one of the book of Daniel introduces the reader to the historical Daniel. It tells how he came to be in the court at Babylon. It gives the reader a glimpse into his character. The king's assessment of Daniel was that *“In all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.”* (Dan. 1:20) “Historians tell us that the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar would be about four years after Daniel had been taken captive and placed in his court” (Criswell. Vol. 2. P. 46) The context of the first half of chapter two involves Nebuchadnezzar's dream. It disturbed him, but when he woke up he could not remember the dream and demanded that his wise men tell him the dream and its meaning. The wise men were very worried because they could not do what the king was asking them of them. *“The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, there is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore, there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at*

*any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean.”* (Vs.10) By this time Daniel and his three associates, though young, were also included in this group of Chaldeans who were to decipher the dream. When the king heard the excuses of the Chaldeans, or wise men, he became angry and commanded that they all be killed.

Even though Daniel and his friends were new to this group they were in danger as well. This dream became an occasion of great personal distress for the Hebrew children. Because Daniel was a young man of great spiritual character he responded to this emergency in a wise way. His first reaction to this situation was to get all the facts. In verses 14 and 15 Daniel asked his master, Arioch, to give him all the information he could. He then formed a plan. He went to the king to request time to gain the answer and then he gathered his group together to pray. “Daniel asked for time that he might get on his knees and make it a matter of prayer. Ah, what a world of change and difference if men would confess, ‘We do not have an answer,’ then would shut themselves with God and make it a matter of supplication and intercession.” (Criswell. Vol.2. P. 50-51) The three Hebrews prayed for Daniel specifically. *“That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that*

*Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.” (Vs. 18)* God then revealed the meaning of the dream to Daniel.

It was God’s plan to use this dream to demonstrate His ability to direct the affairs of men both on a personal level and on a national level. After God answered Daniel’s prayer, Daniel gave a seven-fold description of his praise to God.

1. He thanked God for His wisdom and might.
2. He recognized that God controls the seasons of men’s lives.
3. He acknowledges that God both sets kings in power and removes them from power in His own wisdom.
4. He points out that God is the source of all wisdom.
5. God is the source of the deep, secret things of life.
6. God knows what is in the darkness.
7. God is Light.

In this situation “Daniel’s wisdom and piety are thrown into prominence. The same strength of character demonstrated in chapter 1 is raised a step higher. The value of concerted, importunate prayer in the face of

imminent personal danger is both approved and exemplified. Daniel's prayer of thanksgiving (2:20-23) is a timeless model, one of a pair of model prayers in the book (see also 9:3-19; cf. 6:9-11; 10:2-12)" prayer. (Wycliffe. P. 779) "This man Daniel lived one of the sublimest lives in recorded history and the secret of his power is to be found in his life of prayer." (Criswell. Vol. 2. P. 51)

One of the prominent figures in this part of God's word is the king Nebuchadnezzar. "This king by far is the most mentioned of all the pagan kings in the Bible." (Creswell. Vol. 2. P. 46) God chose this man to be His instrument to discipline His sinning children. He is now going to reveal to this man the outline of history for the next 600 years. He does this to help everyone to understand that He is the true God of Heaven. The second half of chapter two is remarkable in many ways. Daniel has the opportunity to testify of this God to a pagan ruler who sees himself as a god. In the next chapters God brings several instances into Nebuchadnezzar's life to bring him to the point where he confesses that God is the Lord. However, in the remainder of chapter two the dream is revealed and the interpretation of it is given. "There is no other chapter in the Bible that has the tremendous, historical outreach as

this second chapter in the Book of Daniel.” (Creswell. Vol. 2. P. 46) “The interpretation of the dream provides the reader with a sketch of the succession of world kingdoms from Nebuchadnezzar’s time down to the final outward establishment of Christ’s kingdom at his second coming.” (Wycliffe. P. 777) The dream will be the subject of the next study.

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<sup>1</sup> Expository Sermons on the book of Daniel , Vol. II.  
W.A. Criswell; Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Michigan

<sup>1</sup> The Wycliffe Bible Commentary , Charles F. Pfeiffer, ed.,  
Moody Press, Chicago, Ill.,

## NOTES:

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