



A JOURNEY THROUGH THE BOOK OF DANIEL

YES, NO & MAYBE

1. If the person sitting next to me claimed they had a vision, I would be tempted to tell them to go see a “shrink.”
2. With the growing Christian influence, the world should be getting better and better.
3. God makes non-believers so frustrated that they want to kill believers.
4. God wants us to join together to fight worldly politicians and their bad policies.
5. It is God who orchestrates times of persecution, not the devil.

DIG DEEPER

➤ **READ Daniel 2:1-13** (NLT)

One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. 2 He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. As they stood before the king, 3 he said, "I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means."

4 Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, "Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means."

5 But the king said to the astrologers, "I am serious about this. If you don't tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble! 6 But if you tell me what I dreamed and what the dream means, I will give you many wonderful gifts and honors. Just tell me the dream and what it means!"

7 They said again, "Please, Your Majesty. Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means."

8 The king replied, "I know what you are doing! You're stalling for time because you know I am serious when I say, 9 'If you don't tell me the dream, you are doomed.' So you have conspired to tell me lies, hoping I will change my mind. But tell me the dream, and then I'll know that you can tell me what it means."

10 The astrologers replied to the king, "No one on earth can tell the king his dream! And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or astrologer! 11 The king's demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people."

12 The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed. 13 And because of the king's decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends.

» **Nebuchadnezzar's first dream** - [Literally: *His spirit troubled him and his sleep left him*]

« God gave a vision to a non-believer, and it frustrated him to the level of destructive rage. Is this a typical practice of God, or not? And what does this say about God that He would put his believers in this precarious situation?

➤ **READ Daniel 2:14-23** (NLT)

14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. 15 He asked Arioch, "Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?" So Arioch told him all that had happened. 16 Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.



DIG DEEPER...CONTINUED

17 Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. 18 He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. 19 That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. 20 He said, "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. 21 He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. 22 He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. 23 I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."

» **Vs. 16: Daniel's belief** - Although a captive and given a name by his captors that means "the pagan god, Bel, will protect his life" (Belteshazzar), Daniel shows his belief that Yahweh can do the impossible and protect him and his friends.

« Does God still create situations like this today with our earthly leadership?

« Is God "testing" our faith today with how we respond to political leadership? Or is He simply giving us an "opportunity" to demonstrate God's sovereignty? Or could it be that God wants His followers to rally our numbers and fight against ungodly leaders?

« What does our response to worldly politicians say about the character of God?

› **READ Daniel 2:24-30 (NLT)**

24 Then Daniel went in to see Arioch, whom the king had ordered to execute the wise men of Babylon. Daniel said to him, "Don't kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream."

25 Arioch quickly took Daniel to the king and said, "I have found one of the captives from Judah who will tell the king the meaning of his dream!"

26 The king said to Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar), "Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?"

27 Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. 28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed. 29 "While Your Majesty was sleeping, you dreamed about coming events. *He who reveals secrets has shown you what is going to happen. 30 And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.*

• **He who reveals secrets** - What does it say about God's character that He would find it important enough to share the secrets of the future with an oppressive pagan? Does He only share secrets with His followers today?

› **READ Daniel 2:48-49**

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him. 47 The king said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is the greatest of gods, the Lord over kings, a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this secret." 48 Then the king appointed Daniel to a high position and gave him many valuable gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men. 49 At Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained in the king's court.

« Once again, God shows how He can orchestrate blessings for His believers in the midst of crises. Do you think He is still generating opportunities like this for us today, or was that simply a practice He had to utilize before the cross at Calvary?

MY PRAYER...

1. What earthly crises are causing me to live in fear today?
2. How might God help me to reflect his Almighty character amidst the current world conditions?
3. What new aspect of God's character does He want me to know?

