

## Bibles???

### The Word of God is the Absolute Truth and the Final Authority

Let's pray...

[Dan 2:1-49 NKJV] 1 Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was [so] troubled that his sleep left him.

We all have dreams.

Each and every one of us.

We may not remember every dream – but I believe that **sometimes** our dreams can tell us a lot about the kinds of things we think about when we are awake.

I emphasized the word sometimes because sometimes our dreams are no more than a reflection of what we ate the night before.

If we eat too much pizza – we will tend to have bad dreams.

There are multiple instances in scripture where God gave a person direction through a dream.

We saw this when we studied the book of Genesis –

Jacob had a dream – the one with the ladder and the angels going up and down.

Joseph had a dream about his future – one where his brothers would be bowing before him.

Pharaoh had a dream – about a coming famine. And God used Joseph to interpret Pharaoh's dream and prepare the people to survive the coming famine.

Nebuchadnezzar, like Pharaoh, is during this time - the leader of the strongest empire in the world.

There is no kingdom bigger than his, there is no army stronger than his.

Yet, with all his power – he was powerless to control the message that God was giving him through these dreams.

And because of it – he couldn't even sleep at night.

There was something disturbing about these dreams and because they were so disturbing, Nebuchadnezzar knew that it must have been important.

So the question that is always asked is – can God speak to us still through dreams – and the answer is of course He can.

However, we must be very careful about the importance that we put on a dream.

Turn with me to the book of Jeremiah,

**[Jer 23:28 NKJV] 28 "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. **What [is] the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD.****

During Jeremiah's days, there were many prophets that were corrupt and were giving messages that they said were received in a dream.

However, they were counter to the Word of God.

So, Jeremiah is telling the people that the Word of God, the wheat – is more important, more filling than the message that is being proclaimed through the dreams, the chaff – the chaff is the worthless part of the wheat.

**2 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. 3 And the king said to them, "I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream."**

Nebuchadnezzar isn't just asking for an interpretation of the dream, he wants these wise men to tell him what the dream itself was.

It's not that he can't remember his own dream – he is probably simply testing their ability by asking them to reveal his own dream to him.

**4 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 book of Daniel is unique in that it was written in two related but different languages, Hebrew and Aramaic.

Hebrew was the language of the Jews and is the language that most of the Old Testament is written in.

Aramaic was the general language of the Gentile world in that day.

The phrase "O king, live forever!" is the start of the Aramaic portion.

From this verse until the end of chapter 7, it's all in Aramaic.

Why is the book of Daniel written in two separate languages???

Because from chapter 2-7, the prophecies that are contained in the book of Daniel will affect the entire gentile world.

And the prophecies that are written in the rest of the book affect the nation of Israel.

**5 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 an ash heap. 6 "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." 7 They answered again and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation." 8 The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would**

**gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: 9 "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."**

The king had made up his mind in forcing these so called wise men to tell him his dream and interpret his dream.

He even gave told them the benefits if they could just tell him his dream and interpretation – and he also told them the consequence if they didn't

The consequences of course would be dismemberment and the loss of their possessions.

However, these wise guys – there is no way that they were going to be able to do it and they ask the king to meet them half way but – King Nebuchadnezzar accused them of simply stalling.

**10 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. 11 "[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."**

The Chaldeans are trying to ask Nebuchadnezzar to be reasonable.

He's asking something that's just impossible.

Only the "gods" know what he dreamed, and they aren't telling. **Or so they think.**

**Despite all their wisdom – real and imagined – these wise men had no answer for Nebuchadnezzar, because only God could bring an answer to the king.**

**12 For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise [men] of Babylon. 13 So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise [men]; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill [them].**

Nebuchadnezzar starts to clean house – these wise men are useless since they can't give him answers and he proceeds to kill them.

And then he starts going after all wise men and that included Daniel and his friends.

**14. 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; 15 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. 16 So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation.**

In chapter one, we saw that Daniel found favor with the chief of the eunuchs.

Very similar to Joseph finding favor with the Potiphar and the heard jailor in Genesis.

This Arioch fellow here did not have to listen to Daniel, he had orders to kill all the wise men.

But God softened his heart and Daniel was able to calmly deal with the crisis and he is given access to the king.

He could have screamed and yelled that they were innocent – but he did everything with council and wisdom.

And he proceeds to ask the king for a little time.

This wasn't just a stalling tactic. Daniel knew that it takes time to listen to the Lord and to wait upon Him, and Daniel was willing to take the time if the king would grant it.

**17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 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.**

Daniel acted on faith.

Once he understood the problem, he knew the solution.

What was impossible for the wise men of Babylon was possible for the God of heaven, the God of Israel.

God knew the future.

More than this, God planned the future, in eternity past.

Daniel had every confidence that the king's dream not only came from God but would be revealed and interpreted to the king by God, if he and his friends petitioned Him to do so.

And that is exactly what they do.

**19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven.**

Now, this night vision could have been a dream itself or it could have been a vision that happened during the night.

But the revelation of the dream and its meaning were given to Daniel and he proceeds to praise God.

His prayer of praise reveals Daniel's gratitude for receiving the answer to their prayers.

But, it also reveals how well Daniel knew God.

**20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, For wisdom and might are His. 21 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. 22 He reveals deep and secret things; He**



knows what [is] in the darkness, And light dwells with Him. 23 "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."

Daniel praised God for His power and might.

He praises God for His omniscience – meaning He knows all.

He acknowledges that God is in control over everything – at all times.

It doesn't matter who is king or president or dictator.

God can bring them down in the same way that He puts them into power.

This by the way, is going to be one of Nebuchadnezzar's problem.

Because in chapter 4 – instead of giving credit to God and thanking God, he starts thinking that everything was because of him and God judges him for it.

God will allow him to go crazy for a while, allowing him to humiliate himself by acting like a cow, just to make him realize that he is nothing without God.

Turn with me to Psalm 92

**[Psa 92:1 NKJV] 1 A Psalm. A Song for the Sabbath day. [It is] good to give thanks to the LORD, And to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;**

That is what Daniel is doing here as God has revealed to him the king's dream.

**24 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." 25 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." 26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name [was] Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?" 27 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. 28 "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:**

Arioch tried to glorify himself and Daniel for the answer to the king's dream. But Daniel refused to take credit, recognizing that the credit went to God, who revealed this dream to Daniel.

**29 "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. 30 "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.**

Once again – Daniel is showing his humility.

He not only knows that what he's about to share came from God, he's even willing to be open about it before Nebuchadnezzar.

So here is the dream...

**31 "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor [was] excellent, stood before you; and its form [was] awesome. 32 "This image's head [was] of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 "its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34 "You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 "Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

So in the dream, Nebuchadnezzar had a dream of an image and the image had distinct parts and those parts were distinct because of the material that they were made from.

We saw gold, silver, bronze, iron and iron mixed with clay.

As you go down from the head, the sections decrease in value.

It starts with gold and it ends with iron mixed with clay.

Now, it was not the statue which distressed the king so much as what happened to it as his dream continued.

A stone was mysteriously cut out, fashioned without human hands. Striking the statue on its feet, the entire image fell, disintegrating into dust. The winds blew every trace of the statue away as though it never existed.

The stone, on the other hand, became a great mountain which filled the whole earth.

This is what bothered the king.

What does it all mean??

**36 "This [is] the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. 37**

**"You, O king, [are] a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; 38 "and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given [them] into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all--you [are] this head of gold. 39 "But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. 40 "And**

**the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, [that kingdom] will break in pieces and crush all the others. 41 "Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. 42 "And [as] the toes of the feet [were] partly of iron and partly of clay, [so] the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. 43 "As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.**

So Daniel tells us in verse 37 and 38 that Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon are the head of gold.

The chest and arms of silver is the kingdom that will come in and conquer the Babylonians – that turns out to be the Medo-Persian Empire.

The belly and thighs made of bronze is a symbol for the Greek Empire, which would conquer the Persian Empire in 330 BC under Alexander the Great.

And I asked you to make note that it shall rule over all the earth – the Greek empire was the largest empire by size.

The legs of iron is in reference to the Romans that came in and conquered the Greeks.

Even though iron is cheaper than the other metals – it is much stronger than gold, silver and bronze and this allowed the Roman empire to rule much longer than the other empires that were depicted on the image.

The feet and toes are referring to an empire that has not yet happened – because there is iron mixed with clay, many theologians believe that this will be a revived Roman Empire of some sorts that will exist around the last days before the return of Christ.

**44 "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 "Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold--the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."**

The stone that will strike each and everyone of these empires is none other than Jesus Christ.

And Jesus makes reference to this in the gospel of Matthew.

**[Mat 21:42-44 NKJV] 42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief**

cornerstone. This was the LORD's doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes' ? 43  
"Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to  
a nation bearing the fruits of it. 44 "And whoever falls on this stone will be  
broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."

We either choose to be broken by falling on Jesus, or we will be destroyed.

When Jesus comes back, He will destroy the kingdoms of this world. (Rev. 19:11-16,  
19-20)

**46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and  
commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. 47 The  
king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God [is] the God of gods, the Lord of  
kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret." 48 Then the  
king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over  
the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise [men] of  
Babylon. 49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and  
Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel [sat] in the  
gate of the king.**

Church, Daniel was honored and promoted because he was faithful to God.

He didn't seek to become famous and be placed ruler of the province of Babylon, but  
God put him there.

Don't seek things. Let God give them to you as you obey His will.

Amen.

**Let's pray...**

