

## **Bible Study**

### **Daniel 2:1-28**

#### **Opening Question:**

1. You've heard the expression, "It's good to be the King." Is that really true? Consider this quote from Shakespeare (Henry IV), "Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown." What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a person of great political power.

#### **Read Daniel 2:1-28**

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. Observation & reflection
  - (a) What style of writing is this ?
  - (b) What word or idea stands out to you, what did you struggle to understand?
  - (c) What is the theme of the passage?
2. What do you notice about Nebuchadnezzar? How would you describe him?
3. Dreams are important in the Bible. What are some examples of other dreams?
4. Was it unreasonable for Nebuchadnezzar to ask his advisors to interpret his dream without telling them what it was about?
  - (a) Have you ever had a dream (or nightmare) and woken up the next day remembering that you had a bad dream but unable to remember what it was about?
5. Was it unreasonable for Nebuchadnezzar to order his wise men be put to death because they could not tell him what his dream was?
  - (a) Why did he feel that this action was okay?
  - (b) What can we learn from how did Daniel dealt with Nebuchadnezzar's unreasonable demand?
6. Notice in Daniel's prayer of thanks to God his use of earlier scripture. What can we learn from that? (Psalm 113:2, Jeremiah 32:19, Job 12:22, Psalm 139:12, Isaiah 45:7)

7. After Daniel's prayer was answered, what did he do?
8. What aspects of spiritual maturity do we see in Daniel through this passage?
9. What do you learn about God in this passage?
10. It is common to feel like we are at the mercy of the people and circumstances around us. How should a knowledge of God's wisdom, sovereignty and power affect our view of the people and circumstances in our lives?
11. How does this story connect with our lives today?

### **Thought Points**

- We are often fascinated with people's ability to "tell the future." Sometimes they do seem to be correct, though even a broken clock is correct twice a day.
- Sometimes as believers we will encounter and have to work with or under people like Nebuchadnezzar. As Christians we need to be prepared for this kind of crisis.
- Daniel did not stay silent in the face of a crisis
- All wisdom and power belong to God
- God reveals mysteries
- God's kingdom will never end

### **Extra Reading**

Genesis 28:10-15, Genesis 37:5-11, Genesis 40:3-5, Matthew 1:20-24, Matthew 2:12-13, Matthew 27:19, Matthew 18:19-20, (Psalm 113:2, Jeremiah 32:19, Job 12:22, Psalm 139:12, Isaiah 45:7, Isaiah 41:20-24

### **Personal Reflection:**

- Are you facing anything that seems impossible to solve, where prayer could bring God's wisdom?
- Do you feel ready/prepared for this sort of crisis? (You never know when it will happen. The magicians weren't prepared.) How could you set patterns of faithfulness to God in your daily living/working?
- What is God's word to you from Daniel so far?