

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 1.21.2024

THE STATUE AND THE STONE— DANIEL 2:24-49

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week's message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel tells us, "In the first half of Daniel 2, king Nebuchadnezzar finds himself being awakened in the middle of the night by a troubling dream. The following morning, he gathered his wise men and demanded that they reveal to him both the contents of his dream and its interpretation, which they were unable to do. In his fury, the king issued an edict to have all the wise men of his kingdom executed. When the soldier showed up to carry out the decree on Daniel, he asked for and received extra time, and in exchange, he promised to reveal the king's dream to him. Daniel used that time to host a prayer meeting with his friends. We don't know how long they prayed for, but what we do know is that at some point, God revealed the king's dream to Daniel. After receiving the revelation, Daniel responded by giving praise and thanks to God. Our story today picks up where we left off last week. Having given thanks to the Lord, Daniel is now preparing to go before the king to reveal his dream and its meaning." Let's get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from the Pastor Daniel's sermon?
2. What thoughts or concerns keep you from sleeping at night? How do you resolve the restlessness and anxiety?

## Digging Deeper in God's Word: Life Lessons

### HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 2:24-30

1. Compare vs 24-25 with 27-28. How do you compare the way that Arioch responded to the king with the way that Daniel responded to the King? Who was seeking the credit?
2. Read 1 Peter 5:6 and explain what God does for those who humble themselves?
3. Why do you think Daniel was so confident that the Lord would reveal the dream to him?
4. How did Daniel describe God to king Nebuchadnezzar? What do you learn about the faith and trust that Daniel had in the Lord in this passage?

Notice the difference in the way Arioch approaches the king and the way Daniel does. When Arioch comes into the king's chambers, he immediately tries to take credit for being the one to find someone who could interpret the king's dream by saying, 'I found a man...' He emphasizes what he did. He's saying, 'Look what I accomplished! Aren't I great!' Never mind the fact that what he said was actually a lie. He hadn't found Daniel. It was Daniel who found him, but that didn't stop him from trying to take credit. When Daniel comes before the king, he takes a much different approach. If you think about it, this would have been the perfect time for him to try to advance his own career. He could have told the king, 'The other wise men couldn't help you, but I have the interpretation and I will make it known to you' but that's not what he said. Instead of capitalizing on this moment and leveraging it for personal gain, Daniel used it to point Nebuchadnezzar to the Lord by saying, "Your other guys couldn't deliver for you, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries."

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 2:31-45**

After Daniel had given the king the details of his dream, he then interpreted it for him. Daniel had already told the king that his dream was given to him by God as a revelation of what would happen in the future (v. 29). This dream revealed that there would be a succession of empires in the future, beginning with Nebuchadnezzar's.

1. In your opinion, why did God give this dream to King Nebuchadnezzar?
2. Ask a volunteer to explain the meaning of the dream with each successive empire.
3. What do you notice about each successive type of metal, what do you notice about the quality of the metal? What does this tell you about each kingdom that will arise?
4. What do you think was going through Nebuchadnezzar's head as Daniel spelled out in detail everything about his dream?
5. Who was the head of Gold and why was it important that the king knew that the various parts of the body represent different kingdoms?
6. Why do you think that Daniel spent more time explaining the 4<sup>th</sup> kingdom than the others? (Pastor Daniel mentioned that Rome was never conquered. What happened to Rome?)
7. Explain what was odd about the final kingdom of the feet and ten toes?
8. Explain what the stone represents and what happens to the image in the last days?

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ DANIEL 2:46-49**

1. What was king Nebuchadnezzar's response to the revelation of his dream? Explain...
2. Read Isaiah 49:6, 1 Kings 8:59-60, Is. 42:6, Gen. 12:1-3 and discuss how Daniel's encounter with Nebuchadnezzar was part of God's original purpose for Israel to be a light to the gentiles.
3. How does Daniel's promotion illustrate God's faithfulness to those who trust in Him?

**Applying God's Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**The end is written. For God, there are no surprises. He already knows how the story is going to play out. That should give us peace. When you look around and see a world that is falling apart, you know that things are just falling into place. Everything is happening according to His predetermined plan. Our job is to keep our eyes on the Lord. There are many aspects about prophecy that can be confusing, but one thing that is crystal clear from the Bible is that in the end, God wins. So, while it's fun to guess and speculate about how things will play out, at the end of the day, the Bible doesn't tell us to focus on trying to figure out who the anti-christ is—but it does tell us to be looking for the return of Jesus Christ!**

1. How does uncertainty about the future cause anxiety or fear in your life?
2. What does it look like today to have the same faith that Daniel had in God when facing an uncertain future?
3. What is a step of faith you need to take this week?

**PRAYER:** Close in prayer, with the knowledge that God is in control, He knows the end from the beginning. Let's praise Him because our future is in His hands and God has a good plan for us His children. Prophecy was written to encourage us and trust God with our future.

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:” {Is. 46:9-10}

