



# Power & Perspective

# DANIEL

FLOURISHING IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

## Daniel – Set in Babylonian Rule

- chosen of God in exile due to unfaithfulness

- Lev. 26:33, Isaiah 39:5-7

- \* plunder, take the brightest & assimilate them

So Far

- **God takes credit for the situation 1:2**

*“And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.”*

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- God gives favor to 4 boys vs.9

*“And God gave Daniel favor and compassion in the sight of the chief of the eunuchs,”*

- God gives success to faithful servants vs.17

*“As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.”*

- seen by the King and others vs.19

*“And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers that were in all his kingdom.”*

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# 1. Disturbing Dream

*“In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanter, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.”*

- God speaks to an evil King
- troubled spirit – loss of sleep

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## a) seeks an answer vs.5-6

- *“The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor.”*

- two impossible demands

- no ‘other’ option – tell me dream & meaning

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## b) deemed impossible vs. 10-11

*“There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”*

- what you ask is impossible

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## 2. Devastating Decree vs.12-13

*“Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”*

### a) favored boys facing destruction

- no fault of their own
- find themselves in dire circumstances
- watch reaction to unfair, serious situation

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## b) reaction of Daniel vs.14-16

*“Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, “Why is the decree of the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.”*

- prudence (wisdom), discretion (tact)
- posture, seeking information

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### 3. Determination to Seek God

- Daniel determines to find God's perspective & help in times of trouble

a) gathers the community of faith vs.17-19

*"Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night."*

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## b) Immediate response of Worship & Thanks

*“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for 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 matter.” 20-23*

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- c) perspective comes from you
- d) you are in charge of all things
- e) you grant wisdom & understanding
- f) answer our request, active in our situation

#### 4. Direction to the King vs.27-30

*“Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay*

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*in bed are these: To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.”*

- note – message from God for you
- no self elevation – messenger from God

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## **5. Dream & Interpretation vs. 31-45**

a) God has given you this position

- He is in control of all things

b) God will raise up & take down 3 more kingdoms

- He is accomplishing His will

c) God is going to establish His kingdom – eternal

- He is about redeeming His creation

## **6. Response & Responsibilities vs.46-69**

- glory given to God, rewards to Daniel & co.

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# So What?

## 1. God is In Charge and Active

- using kings, kingdoms, leaders, His will done

## 2. Favored and Faithful face Danger

- will be troubled waters
- design is for us to flourish in hostile environments

## 3. Determine now to Seek God

- need community of faith
- ask of the Lord – clear and hearing

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## 4. Perspective is Important

- clarified through worship & thanksgiving
- gives courage to respond

## 5. Seek Prudence & Discretion

- James 1:5-6 *“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”*

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