

DANIEL

The Power of Impossible

August 11, 2024 | Daniel 2



SHEPHERD
CHURCH

THE PREFACE

Daniel 2:1 (NIV84) ¹In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep.

1. In the ancient world, dreams were significant and often viewed as **predictions** of the future.
 - A. A King's dream was viewed as more significant because it affected **everyone** in his kingdom.
 - B. Nebuchadnezzar and other kings had a **team** of people to help understand such matters.

Daniel 2:2 (NIV84) ²So the king summoned the magicians, enchanter, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king,

THE PROBLEM

Daniel 2:5–6 (NIV84) ⁵The king replied to the astrologers, "This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble. ⁶But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me."

1. The king required that the wise men to tell him the **dream and** the interpretation!
 - A. This request is to prevent the wise men from deceiving him with a **fictional** interpretation.
 - B. The wise men felt the request was **impossible** and compelled them to do something foolish.

Daniel 2:7, 10-11 (NIV84) ⁷Once more they replied, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it." . . . ¹⁰The astrologers answered the king, "There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. ¹¹What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men."
 - C. The king's response was for ALL wise men to be **executed**, including Daniel and his friends.

Daniel 2:12 (NIV84) ¹²This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon.
 - D. This problem was **orchestrated** by God!

Daniel 2:13 (NIV84) ¹³So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death.

THE PRAYER

1. Daniel courageously approaches the king **uninvited**, an offense punishable by death.

Daniel 2:16 (NIV84) ¹⁶At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.
2. Upon understanding the situation, Daniel's first reaction was **prayer**!

Daniel 2:17–18 (NIV84) ¹⁷Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

 - A. God revealed the mystery of the dream and interpretation in a **vision**.

Daniel 2:19 (NIV84) ¹⁹During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision . . .
 - B. The response to Daniel's answered prayer was **praise**.
 - Daniel praised God when the answer came but **before** the deliverance occurred.

Daniel 2:19 (NIV84) ¹⁹ . . . Then Daniel praised the God of heaven . . .

- Daniel was **confident** that he had heard from God.

Daniel 2:23 (NIV84) ²³I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king."

THE POWER OF GOD IS DEMONSTRATED IN THE REVELATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Daniel **acknowledges** that God is the one who revealed and interpreted the dream.

- A. Only the God of heaven **knows** all things.

Daniel 2:27–28 (NIV84) ²⁷Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come . . .

- B. Only the God of Heaven can **do** all things.

Daniel 2:28 (NIV84) ²⁷ . . . He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come . . .

- The dream and interpretation reveal a God who is **sovereign** and controls all things.

2. Nebuchadnezzar **acknowledges** that the dream and interpretation are accurate.

Daniel 2:46 (NIV84) ⁴⁶Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor . . .

- A. That Nebuchadnezzar would fall prostrate before Daniel would have been a **shocking** sight.

- The king was not worshipping Daniel; Daniel as a **representative** of his God.

Daniel 2:47 (NLT) ⁴⁷The 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."

- B. Nebuchadnezzar recognized his place and honored God appropriately.

Daniel 2:46 (NLT) ⁴⁶Then King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him.

THE PROMISE KEPT

1. Daniel and his friends were **promoted** for God to continue to use.

Daniel 2:48–49 (NIV84) ⁴⁸Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. ⁴⁹Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court.

- A. What initially seemed like a **setback** was really a **setup** to get Daniel and his three godly friends into a position of authority in the most powerful pagan kingdom on the planet.

NEXT STEPS

1. What if your impossible situation is being orchestrated by God?

- A. God uses impossible situations to **grow** us.
- B. God uses impossible situations to **glorify** Himself.
- C. God uses impossible situations to help **guide** the lives of others.

2. Be confident that God can use you regardless of your age, or circumstance.

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV84) ¹²Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

3. Make prayer your first response not your last resort?

