

DEN OF DREAMS // WK. 2

Welcome back to Faith Student!! We are so glad to spend the BEST NIGHT OF THE WEEK with YOU! Last week we started a brand new series on the Book of Daniel, "The Den of Dreams" and we are so pumped to dive back into the word and how Daniel navigated Babylon. Tonight we will be studying how Daniel sought after wisdom from above when facing adversity. Ask the Lord to keep your heart open and your ears ready to hear and receive whatever it is that the Lord wants to speak to you tonight.

BACKGROUND //

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that troubled him, and he was seeking wisdom and someone to interpret it. However, he didn't want just anyone to speak into it, he wanted someone who is qualified to tell him WHAT the dream was and INTERPRET it. That way he knew it wasn't false or corrupt. He sought the truth, and if anyone tried otherwise, they would be killed. He had a great curse in store if it was not interpreted by the sorcerers and enchanters, but if it was, then they would receive great reward. This was because they could not PRETEND to interpret it. No one could tell him the dream or its interpretation, so he ordered all the wise men to be executed. When word of this reached Daniel, he had a different idea. That is where we pick up in verse 14...

SCRIPTURE //

Daniel 2:14

14 When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. **15** He asked Arioch, "Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?" So Arioch told him all that had happened. **16** Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.

17 Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. **18** He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon. **19** That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. **20** He said, "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power.

21 He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. **22** He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. **23** I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."

Daniel Interprets the Dream

24 Then Daniel went in to see Arioch, whom the king had ordered to execute the wise men of Babylon. Daniel said to him, "Don't kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream." **25** Arioch quickly took Daniel to the king and said, "I have found one of the captives from Judah who will tell the king the meaning of his dream!" **26** The king said to Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar), "Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?"

27 Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. **28** But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed. **29** "While Your Majesty was sleeping, you dreamed

about coming events. He who reveals secrets has shown you what is going to happen. **30** And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.

Nebuchadnezzar Rewards Daniel

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar threw himself down before Daniel and worshiped him, and he commanded his people to offer sacrifices and burn sweet incense before him. **47** The 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."

48 Then the king appointed Daniel to a high position and gave him many valuable gifts. He made Daniel ruler over the whole province of Babylon, as well as chief over all his wise men. **49** At Daniel's request, the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be in charge of all the affairs of the province of Babylon, while Daniel remained in the king's court.

- Daniel goes to his friends for prayer and wisdom. To intercede on His behalf. Not for them to share their wisdom, their thoughts, but for God to impart wisdom. That the secret would be revealed to Daniel so that they would be spared.
- Immediately after receive the wisdom + strength, Daniel praises God, praises the God of his ancestors for answering his prayer. For sparing he and his friends.
- He goes to the king and shares that it is not because of his wisdom that he knows the dream and the meaning behind it, but because of God. No enchanter or magician could know this but the Lord. The Lord revealed it to Daniel.

TITLE //

- The title of this message is **STEP OF FAITH** and today we are going to take a look at how to walk in faith in the face of adversity. When the world seems against you, when the enemy attacks, what will you do?

ILLUSTRATION //

- Have you ever been in a situation where you didn't know what to do?
 - What is the first thing you do?
 - Go to your friends?
 - Go to your mom or dad?
 - Go to a teacher or a mentor?

TRANSITION //

- Maybe you are finding yourself at a loss of what to do in the situation you're in. Whether that is that you're grades are getting low, you're friends are making decisions and you don't know if you should do it with them, you keep looking for a job, but no one seems to want to hire you, or you are trying to share about Jesus and no one wants to listen. What do you do? Maybe you're seeking guidance from everyone around you and not the Lord. Going to your parents or mentors is not a bad thing by any means, but who do you go to first? The Lord or the people around you? Well, we can look to Daniel for an example of what we should do when facing trials.

MAIN POINT //

- **When facing adversity, go to the Lord for His ultimate wisdom and guidance.**

ASK THE LORD // v.18

- **17** Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. **18** He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon
- When you are seeking guidance, when you don't know what to do with your life.. start with the lord. Seek Him first. Ask Him to reveal things to you.
- Don't let your first response be to seek wisdom from your friends, but instead ask them to join with you in prayer and take that step of faith *with* you.
- Praying friends are the most valuable friends
 - Surround yourself with friends who value the mercy of God and who will lift you up in prayer
- You don't have to do it alone, but don't let man's opinion become higher than God's
- Ask the Lord to do it and He will
- Go to the secret place, whether that is your room, your closet, the living room, your old playroom, etc. find that place, go there, pray. And don't stop praying. Don't stop asking. Then walk in faith that the lord is going to move.
- Matthew 7:7 **"Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you."**
- The Lord isn't hiding from you, but you have to seek him, you have to ask him. He wants us to go after Him for all our answers in life. He wants us to go to Him in times of need. He is right there ready to receive you, but it is up to you to go to Him. To go to the secret place, to seek after Him.

Not only do we see Daniel ask the Lord to move, we also see him PRAISE THE LORD!

PRAISE THE LORD // v.19-23

- **19** That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. **20** He said, "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. **21** He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. **22** He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. **23** I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."
- In the uncertainty, in the possible fear, praise Him anyways.
- Praise Him when things are hard and when things are easy
- Praise Him when things work out and when they don't go according to your plan
- Before seeing that everything works out in your favor, praise the Lord because you know that His word says,
- Romans 8:28, **"And we know that God causes everything to work together[m] for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them."**

- If you are walking in Him, if you are trusting God, if you love God, then praise Him!!!! Because you know that everything will turn out how He wants. Not that it will turn out how you want, or that it will be easy, but that it will turn out according to His will and His plan.
- So before doing the job or the task, before anything else, praise Him.
- Sometimes we can let the pressures and our to do list take precedent before praising the Lord, but that is not the example we see from Daniel here
- We see he sought the Lord's wisdom, praised him, and then thanked Him for it
- He didn't seek His wisdom then immediately run to man to save his own life
- He sought the wisdom, praised, then told the king the interpretation of the dream
- The secret was revealed to him and instead of boasting that he was given the revelation, he praised the Lord privately before going before the king

SHARE THE LORD'S FAITHFULNESS // v.27-30

- **27** Daniel replied, "There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king's secret. **28** But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed. **29** "While Your Majesty was sleeping, you dreamed about coming events. He who reveals secrets has shown you what is going to happen. **30** And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.
 - He is faithful to protect you and keep you, so why wouldn't we share that with everyone we know??
- When the Lord has answered a prayer, when he has been faithful, let the people know!!
- Spread the word, let your friends know, let your leaders know, let strangers know how the Lord has been good to you.
- It would be a shame to keep all the good things God has done in your life to yourself, so share it!!
- Share to lift up His name, not your own. That is why we share our testimony or encouragement to others.
- **Share a personal story or example..**
 - **That is why Luke gets up and shares a verse the Lord laid on His heart, because he knows the Lord has been faithful and wants you to know that as well!**
 - Let others know what the Lord has done and who He is. How He has been good and faithful in your life
 - Give Him the glory for the things He has done!
- Ask the Lord to move, praise Him, and share His faithfulness!! That is the model we have seen from Daniel in chapter 2 and that is what we should do as well!

Response:

- Call to action: what is the Lord asking of you?
 - Ask the Lord: do you need to join with someone in prayer for something you are seeking from the Lord?

- Praise the Lord: has the Lord been good to you? PRAISE HIM!!
- Share the Lord's faithfulness: ask the Lord to give you boldness and then share with someone what He has done in your life!!