

Hope

HOPE IN CHAOS

Daniel 2

A. Stress in Babylon

- [1] The Dream/Demand [2:1-11]
- [2] The Declaration/Drama/Discretion [2:12-16]
- [3] The Response/Revelation [2:17-23]
- [4] Daniel's Confidence [2:24-30]
- [5] Daniel Describes/Interprets the Dream [2:31-45]
- [6] Nebuchadnezzar's Response [2:46-49]

B. Connection to Christmas - Magi

[Wisdom of the nations bowing down
before Jesus - the true wisdom of God - Keller]

- [1] God's Word - read and believed [Matt. 2:6]
- [2] Pursued Jesus [Matt. 2:1-2a]
- [3] Recognized the Worth of Jesus [Matt. 2:2b]
- [4] Humbly worshiped Jesus [Matt. 2:11]
- [5] Obeyed God instead of Man [Matt. 2:12]

Discussion Questions/Prayer

1. Read Matthew 2:1-12 [journey of the wise men to Bethlehem] and Genesis 12:1-3 [God's promise to Abraham]. How does the appearance of these "wise men from the east" represent a partial fulfillment of that promise? [LCSB]
2. Read Daniel 2:17-23. When Nebuchadnezzar called on Daniel to interpret his dream, Daniel asked his friends to pray for him. He knew exactly where insight and wisdom originated. Much was at stake: the lives of Daniel, his friends, and the wise men of Babylon. How do you respond in stressful situations when there seems to be no answer to a complex situation?
3. As you pray this week, reflect on Daniel's words to God. [a] Praise Him for His power and wisdom (v. 20); [b] acknowledge His sovereignty over seasons and kings (v. 21); [c] savor the thought that He knows everything and shares His knowledge with people (v. 22); [d] thank Him for the ways He's blessed you personally and answered your prayers (v. 23). [Abide]

Daniel 2:44-49 "And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, ⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure."

⁴⁶ Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. ⁴⁷ The king answered and said to Daniel, "Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery." ⁴⁸ Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. ⁴⁹ Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.

Numbers 24:17a [Prophecy of Balaam] I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel;

Micah 5:2 "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd [Ezekiel 34:23] my people Israel."

Matthew 2:1-2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:11-12 And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Daniel 9:24-26 Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place. ²⁵ Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. ²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off. . .