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Nebuchadnezzar Promotes Dani’el 2: 46-49

Nebuchadnezzar promotes Dani’el DIG: Why did king fall down before Dani’el? Was the king a believer at this point? Who are the people today who have the opportunity to influence our world’s leadership the way Dani’el influenced the king? How can we best pray for those people to be a positive influence?

REFLECT: The king did not forget his dream. And you must not forget it either; don’t forget what the God of heaven reveals to you through this dream, for this is a dream that will come true. How do you handle the compromise of your godly values? What primary theological truths are emphasized in this chapter?

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and as such, was to be honored and feared.



With the successful explanation and interpretation of **Nebuchadnezzar's dream** (**to see link click Aw – The King's Dream**), **the king** was overwhelmed. **He** knew **Dani'el** had spoken the truth and **fell down before Dani'el and paid him honor, ordering that an offering and incense be presented to him (2:46).** Although aware that **Dani'el** was not divine, as evidenced by the fact that **the king** immediately gave glory to **Dani'el's God** and not to **Dani'el** (see below), **the Babylonian ruler** ordered an **offering** be given to **Dani'el** as **ADONAI's** representative**.** Regardless of **Nebuchadnezzar's** intent, **Dani'el** would have never accepted worship of **himself** and would have been appalled at the suggestion. **The king's** actions are perfectly understandable in light of the circumstances. **He** had just witnessed a miracle. Had not **Nebuchadnezzar's** own **magi** declared to **him** that such knowledge could only come from **the gods themselves (2:10-11)**? **The king** had concluded that **Dani'el** was **the man** in touch with **the God of heaven**; and as such, was to be honored and feared.[107]

The king said to Dani'el, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings," the ruler over **the kings** of the earth, **and a Revealer of mysteries** because **ADONAI** was the only **God** who was **able to reveal this mystery (2:47),** that is **the dream** and **its** interpretation. At this point, then, we cannot conclude that **Nebuchadnezzar** had become a believer. While **he** had given **YHVH** a position of superiority, **he** still only added **Him** to **the Babylonian** pantheon.[108]

Many people are like **Nebuchadnezzar** today. They know about the true **God** – many even believe in **His** miraculous powers – but they never step over the line from knowledge to faith (see **Hebrews Al – How Shall We Escape If We Ignore So Great a Salvation**).

Nebuchadnezzar had declared that anyone who revealed and interpreted **his dream** would **receive gifts and rewards and great honor (2:6a)**. Therefore, **the king** kept **his** word and promoted **Dani'el** with **great honors**, just as **Pharaoh** had honored and promoted **Joseph** in **Egypt (Genesis 41:39-43)**.[109] **Then the king placed Dani'el 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 (2:48).** Apparently, **Nebuchadnezzar** saw **Dani'el** as a superior **astrologer**. This conclusion illustrates **the king's** lack of spiritual insight. **Dani'el** would never practice **astrology**. **He** would never ask the stars to tell **him** about the future. Instead, **he** would always go to **the Creator** of the stars, and that was **the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**. **A rabbinic commentary points to this truth. "There was no disloyalty from the religious point of view in Dani'el accepting this position. What was forbidden by the Torah was not the knowledge, but the practice, of the Babylonian superstitious arts (Sloki, *Dani'el, Ezra, Nehemiah,* page 20).**[110]

Babylon was divided into many **provinces**, each one under the leader of a **satrap (3:2a)**. **Dani'el** was made **a satrap** over **the province** in which the royal court was located. From **the king's** perspective, this promotion would be the logical reward for **his** success as an interpreter of **dreams**; from **Dani'el's** perspective, there would be many opportunities for **Dani'el** to compromise, but **Dani'el's** faith in **ADONAI** was strong and **he** would choose to always trust and serve **God**. Also, not to mention jealousy of **the royal administrators** who would cause **Dani'el** no little amount of trouble (see **Dm – The Conspiracy of the Royal Administrators**).[111]

This passage raises a number of questions, such as how did these **Gentile astrologers** from **Babylon** know that **a Jewish King** had been born? And, even if they knew about it, why would they choose to come and worship **Him**? There had been **astrologers** in **Babylonia** at least from the time of **Nebuchadnezzar**. Yet, there is no record of one **wise man** from **Babylon** going to **Jerusalem** to worship **a Jewish king** – until the birth of **Yeshua** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Av – The Visit of the Magi**). The answers to these questions go back to

Dani'el and **his** position as the head of **the Babylonian** school of **astrology**.[112]

Moreover, Dani'el did not forget **his friends**, but asked that **they** be promoted too. So **the king appointed Shadrach (Hananiah), Meshach (Mishael) and Abednego (Azariah) administrators** to serve under **Dani'el** in **the province of Babylon, while Dani'el himself remained at the royal court,** as an advisor to **Nebuchadnezzar (2:49).** The references to **Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego** set the stage for the next court story in **Dani'el** . . . the account of **the statue of gold** and **the fiery furnace** (see **Bk – Nebuchadnezzar's Statue of Gold and the Fiery Furnace**).

Three primary theological truths are emphasized in this chapter. First, **God** is sovereign over kings and the affairs of this earth. If **the Lord** does not control our lives, from the actions of rulers and other positions of power to the most minute circumstance, then everything in life is uncertain. We are victims of circumstance, and whatever happens will happen. *Que sera, sera!* But since **ADONAI** is sovereign, as the Bible declares **Him** to be, and since **He** is our **God** – since the promises **He** makes and the actions **He** takes are certain to be fulfilled – then we can be confident of the future and know that we will be able to live our lives in a way that pleases **YHVH**. Second, **Ha'Shem** is omniscient. **He** knows all things, including the future, and at times chooses to reveal the future to human beings. And third, empires will rise and fall until **Messiah** comes back, but the glorious **Kingdom of God** will surely come and all wickedness of earthly regimes will cease (see **Bg – The Fifth Empire: The Kingdom of God**).[113]

*Dear heavenly **Father**, praise **You** that **You** are so wise, loving and holy! The greatest joy is living a life close to **You**, praising **You** for **Your** wonderful character that never changes! **Faith** is the key for those who **seek YHVH**. **Now without faith it is impossible to please God. For the one who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).** Though **Nebuchadnezzar fell down** before **Dani'el**, acknowledging with words that **You** are **the God of gods and the Lord of kings**; **he** did not have **faith**, for **his** heart did not worship **You** as **his Lord** and **King**. **He** would soon have **a statue** made for **his** own glory and would require all to worship **the golden statue**. **Faith trusts You – no matter what the circumstances are**. **Daniel's faith** caused him to trust in **You** even when **his** life was on the line and **he** knew that **he** would be thrown **into the lion's den** because **he** chose to publicly pray to **You**, and **You** protected **him (Dani'el 6)**. **L**ike those who lived out their **faith**, even in the midst of hard trials, so I love **You** and want to live by **faith**.*

You *are so wonderful and so worthy of all love and worship. In* ***Messiah Yeshua’s*** *holy* ***Name*** *and power of* ***His*** *resurrection. Amen*