

DEVOTED: THE HEART TO STAND

DANIEL 2:1-24

Read Daniel 2:1-24 together.

Consider the context of this account by answering the following questions:

? Who is involved in this story (2:1, 2, 13, 14, 17-19)?

? When is this story taking place (Consider 2:1 and the greater context of the Book of Daniel described in 1:1-2.)?

? Where is this story taking place (1:2)?

? What happens in this story (Try summarizing this account in a few bullet points together.)?

Pastor Tony said, "Nebuchadnezzar is at the top of the world, but he's also at the end of his rope."

? Describe Nebuchadnezzar's mental state (2:1, 3, 5-6, 8-9, 12).

Pastor Tony said, "It's driving him crazy not to understand what tomorrow brings."

? Have you ever found yourself in a crisis of faith? Are you experiencing one now? What can you do to stand firm in faith during a season of doubt? How can you encourage each other when you face seasons of trial and doubt?

Read Daniel 2:10-11 below.

The Chaldeans answered the king and said, "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."

? Are the Chaldeans right or wrong? Who do they think is able to know the future? Who do you think is able to know the future? What attribute of God tells us that he knows the future?

Pastor Tony said, "There's a yearning in every person that cannot be quenched by what the world has to offer."

? Read Ecclesiastes 3:9-11 below and discuss what evidences you see in our world that God has put eternity into the hearts of man.

⁹ What gain has the worker from his toil? ¹⁰ I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. ¹¹ He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end.

? Describe Daniel's mental state (2:14-16). What does Daniel do in response to the distressing news that the king intends to kill him and his friends (2:17-18)?

? What circumstance in your life are you trying to fix yourself that you need to be covering in prayer? Remember Tony said, "If prayer isn't your initial response, make it your next response." What circumstance can you begin covering in prayer today? What part of your day could you commit to prayer so you do not neglect taking it before God's throne?

? What is it about Daniel that gives him the supernatural ability to respond differently from Nebuchadnezzar to distressing circumstances?

Daniel isn't panicking in the face of adversity; he is running to the Lord. He goes to sleep, and as he sleeps, God reveals the vision to Daniel. Then Daniel responds to God's faithfulness to answer his prayers with worship.

Read Daniel 2:20-23 below.

Daniel answered and said:

**“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.”**

? What truths does he proclaim about God? How do those truths change your perspective on whatever challenging circumstances you are currently walking through?

In the face of death, Daniel kept an eternal perspective. Daniel's posture is one of humble reliance upon a faithful God. His faith in God's sovereignty is weightier than the trials he faced that day.

Let's consider our current circumstances in light of these gospel truths:

Romans 5:6-8 says, “For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 10:9 says, “because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

? What is our eternal perspective? What must we do to experience God's salvation?

? What truth about God that Daniel clung to is revealed in the phrase “Jesus is Lord”? How will it change your life this week to cling to the hope that God is the sovereign, reigning Lord of the universe?