

Joyful Life Bible Studies

Daniel 2:1-23

Lesson 3

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. In response to last week's study of Daniel 1:1-21 complete the following sentence:

Chapter One of Daniel has inspired me to _____
_____.

2. Chapter Two of Daniel records the fascinating account of a crisis that arose because of King Nebuchadnezzar's troubling dream. Read Daniel 2:1-23. Write the word, phrase or verse that particularly captures your attention.
3. Daniel was a man of prayer. Prayer is essential for our understanding of the Bible. Take a few moments to express to the Lord your desire and need in relationship to your study this week by writing your prayer here.

*Teach me, O LORD . . . Give me understanding . . .
Direct me in the path of Your commands,
for there I find delight.
Psalm 119:33a,34a,35 NIV*

SECOND DAY: Read Daniel 2:1-9

1. Most Bible expositors agree that there was a three year gap between chapter one and two of the Book of Daniel. What does Daniel 2:1 record happened *in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign?*

Advanced Students: Explain the seeming contradiction between the *three years* of training in Daniel 1:5 and the *second year* of the king's reign in Daniel 2:1.

2. The king's disturbing dream set off an unusual series of events. Read Daniel 2:2-9 and sense the emotions of those involved in the dialog between the king and his wise men. Identify the king's counselors from verse 2.

a. Briefly summarize their conversation from the following verses:

(1.) Daniel 2:2,3

(2.) Daniel 2:4-6 (Note: Beginning with Daniel 2:4 through 7:28 Daniel wrote in Aramaic, the ancient language of Syria. The rest of the book is in Hebrew.)

(3.) Daniel 2:7-9

Note: *Chaldeans* here refers to a class of soothsayers who were astrologer-priests in the Babylonian empire.

3. The king's demands seemed unreasonable and the penalty extreme. What does this suggest to you about King Nebuchadnezzar?

4. What did you find most interesting in today's study?

THIRD DAY: Read Daniel 2:10-13

1. Continue to follow the intriguing interaction between King Nebuchadnezzar and his wise men by reading Daniel 2:10-12. Describe what happened according to the following verses:
 - a. verse 10

 - b. verse 11
 - (1.) What does their admission imply?
 - (a.) How does Psalm 135:15-18 describe their *gods* (idols)?
 - c. verse 12

2. Look once more at the phrase *all the wise men in Babylon* (Daniel 2:12). Think about the king's alarming *decree* as you write Daniel 2:13 here.
 - a. What kind of reactions do you think this could have provoked in:
 - (1.) the king's wise men

 - (2.) Daniel and his companions

3. Later on in this lesson we will discover that Daniel knew the psalms of David (see Daniel 2:22). Think of this in the light of Psalm 56:3,4. How would this have encouraged him?
 - a. How does this encourage you?

FOURTH DAY: Read Daniel 2:14-18

1. Daniel 2:14-16 indicates it was at this strategic point that Daniel entered the scene. What do the following verses say about Daniel and his reaction to this life-threatening situation:
 - a. verse 14
 - b. verse 15
 - c. verse 16

2. What action did Daniel take in response to the king's decree? Answer from Daniel 2:17,18.
 - a. Write his requests here.

 - b. How is he an example for you?

Optional: Think of a time when you called upon others to intercede in a difficult situation. Briefly share the outcome with your group.

3. Notice Daniel's specific requests in Daniel 2:18. How does this speak to you about your prayer requests?

FIFTH DAY: Read Daniel 2:19-23

1. Our study today centers on one of the most outstanding expressions of praise and thanksgiving found in this book. From Daniel 2:19a why was Daniel filled with praise?

a. *Then* what did Daniel do? verse 19b

(1.) What do you do when God answers your prayer?

2. Meditate on Daniel's psalm of praise in Daniel 2:20-22. Record a few of Daniel's declarations of praise from:

a. verse 20b

b. verse 21

c. verse 22

3. Notice the following quote from Pastor Chuck: *As Daniel wrote a song of praise in gratitude for God answering their prayer, we get some insight into why God could use him in such a mighty way and why this young man had so much wisdom. In his short psalm, Daniel quoted at least fifteen passages of scripture. He quoted from Genesis, Exodus, 2 Chronicles, Job, and Psalms several times, and even from Isaiah.* How does this inspire you?

4. How did Daniel conclude his praise? Answer by writing Daniel 2:23 phrase by phrase. *Selah* - pause and think about this.

5. From today's study how is Daniel an example for you?

*O Lord GOD,
Thou hast begun to shew Thy servant Thy greatness,
and Thy mighty hand: for what God is there in heaven or in earth,
that can do according to Thy works, and according to Thy might?
Deuteronomy 3:24*

SIXTH DAY: Review Daniel 2:1-23

1. From this week's lesson note one insight, fact or thought about:
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar
 - b. the king's wise men
 - c. Daniel
 - d. Daniel's three friends

2. Share a practical application for your life from Daniel 2:1-23.

3. In what way has your study this week enriched your knowledge and appreciation of the Lord?
 - a. In response to this write a sentence of thanksgiving and praise to the Lord for Who He is and what He has done.

4. What especially blessed or encouraged you through your study this week?