

## Daniel 2

### Surviving the dream



We might have guessed that something like this coming, back in 1:17. But, like Daniel, we need to see the focus of this story (and the book as whole) is not Daniel and his friends, or the supernatural world and dreams and visions and such, but the “God in heaven who reveals mysteries” (28).

- **“Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown”** (Shakespeare)  
But is this (1) just the routine cares of a head of state?

- **Setting the scene** (2-12)

Is Nebuchadnezzar just being canny here, insisting that his advisors tell him what he dreamed, as well as what it means? What else might account for this?

His various advisors are clearly in trouble here, and we surely understand their predicament. But how close do they come to the truth with their answer of vv11-12?

- **Enter Daniel** (13-23)

Notice how Daniel's speech (13) is described. How much damage is done by *ill-considered* speech (James 3:8)?

What does Daniel know about God that affects what he does in response to this deadly threat? And how does he show this?

- **Before the king** (24-45)

Notice Daniel's initial quibble: no, *he* can't provide what the king demands – *nobody* can. But God is not confounded by human limitations: “a God in heaven who reveals mysteries” (28), “a great God” (45). Do we always “give glory to God” in this way?

The interpretation (36-45): what can we gather from this with some certainty? What is more speculative? What questions still remain unanswered? How much does it matter? – how much of this do we need to know in precise detail?

- **Wrapping it up** (46-49)

What do Nebuchadnezzar's actions here show about his spiritual state? By how much has it changed?

v49: so the young (1) Hebrew exiles are now placed in prestigious positions in Babylon ... about which, more to follow ...