

## Spiritual Growth Questions for March 12, 2023

1. **Read Daniel 2:1-11.** In the exchanges between Nebuchadnezzar and his royal officials, what does Nebuchadnezzar seek and how does he pursue this? How would you summarize the responses from his royal officials? What made the king's demand unfair? What reasons can you think of that Nebuchadnezzar would refuse to reveal the details of his dream? Why were the pagan gods unhelpful?
2. **Read Daniel 2:12-13.** In your own words how would summarize the situation as it develops in 2:12-13. How have you seen the things of this world lacking the power to deliver in an impossible situation?
3. **Read Daniel 2:14-18.** What stands out to you about Daniel's responses in these verses? What role does prayer play in Daniel facing this impossible situation? Do you have friends that you can ask to pray for you? If so, how does knowing that others are praying help you?
4. **Read Daniel 2:19.** How does God respond to Daniel's prayer? When God answers one of your desperate prayers what do you do?
5. **Read Daniel 2:20-23.** What does Daniel praise God for in these verses? How does this perspective help Daniel face the impossible? What are some things that you can praise God for along these lines?
6. **Read Daniel 2:24-30.** What stands out to you about how Daniel approaches the king? How do you think he was able to stay calm even under the threat of death? What can we learn from how Daniel sees God in this impossible situation? How could we apply this to a situation that we are facing right now?
7. What difference would it make if you see yourself as having been placed where you are by God to make his word known and understandable to those around you?
8. What kind of needs, burdens and desires are in your life that would require this type of prayer for God's mercy that Daniel called for in our passage for this week?

**Deeper study: Read I Corinthians 1:18-2:16.** How could this passage be a Christian reflection of Daniel 2. Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 1Cor. 1:20. Consider how we have the mind of Christ when we face impossible situations "in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom." Col. 2:3.

**Prayer:** Dear Sovereign Lord, I recognize that you have placed me right where you want me to be in this broken world. I realize that I am broken and unable to deliver myself from my brokenness. I need to a fresh revelation of the greatness of God. I need to drink from the wisdom of your perspective. I realize that You desire to use me as an ambassador in this broken world. May the light of your glorious Gospel reveal the Risen Christ through my soul. May I decrease and you Lord Jesus increase! Please reveal yourself to me through my impossible situations. May God give me great strength (externally) and peace (internally) to walk with You this week.

## Living for God in a Broken World: A Study of Daniel Facing the Impossible Daniel 2:1-30 March 12, 2023, Pastor John Lloyd

How do we live for God in ungodly times-like our own. Is it worth standing firm and obeying God when His kingdom seems so far away? How can we live courageously and confidently in nations that do not seek to live under God's rule? How is it possible to be a blessing to our nations and show the power and goodness of our God, even in a time such as ours? This is the context that Daniel found himself in. This story will exalt God as king and His kingdom in ways that will ultimately find their fulfillment in Jesus. Today, we will see how Daniel faces an impossible situation which human wisdom cannot solve. God reveals himself to Daniel so strongly that He delivers him from the wrath of the most powerful king on earth. May God teach us how to trust and follow Him in the impossible situations that we are facing. I can trust God with it!

Daniel 2:1 In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream." 4 Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." 5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. 6 But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation." 7 They answered a second time and said, "Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will show its interpretation." 8 The king answered and said, "I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm— 9 if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation." 10 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. 11 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." 12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. 13 So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. 14 Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. 15 He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. 16 And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king. 17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known

to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. 19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. 20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21 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; 22 he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him. 23 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."

**Big Idea:** God longs to reveal Himself to me in my impossible situations. It's my relationship with God that will sustain me in an impossible situation.

I. Impossible situations reveal the \_\_\_\_\_ of pagan \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel 2:1-3 In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. 2 Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. 3 And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream." 2:4-9

Daniel 2:10 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. 11 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."

II. Impossible situations reveal that I am \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel 2:12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. 13 So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

Daniel 2:14 Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. 15 He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel.

Isaiah 46:10a God knows the end from the beginning!

III. Impossible situations require that I \_\_\_\_\_ with God \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

Daniel 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Colossians 2:3 "In whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Jesus is wisdom himself. I Corinthians 1:30.

Daniel 2:19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. 20 Daniel answered and said: "Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21 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; 22 he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

IV. Impossible situations are the avenue to reveal the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

I Corinthians 2:10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

Daniel 2:27 Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: 29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. 30 But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

But if you walk faithfully, if you obey what God says regardless of pressure or threats, God will place you in a strategic position and use you in a mighty way. He will give you the privilege of opening eyes of men and women to the fact that God exists, that he is active and involved in human events, and He must be reckoned with. That is the message of the book of Daniel. Ray Stedman

**May my impossible situations grow and strengthen my relationship with God. I can trust God and follow God in my impossible situations!**