



CAPITOL COMMISSION[®]

The Death Warrant for Daniel and his Friends

APRIL 27-29, 2022

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Daniel 2:7-13 *They answered again and said, “Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will give its interpretation.” 8) The king answered and said, “I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm: 9) if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you! For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation.” 10) The Chaldeans answered the king, and said, “There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter; therefore no king, lord or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean. 11) It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.” 12) For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. 13) So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.* (NKJV)

Were these wise men so foolish as to ignore their king’s demand? Had the king made up his mind to get a proven interpretation of his dream? Why does he accuse them of lies and corruption? Was he going to allow any of his counselors to dodge his test? Do the wise men blame the king for their inability to fulfil his test? Are they admitting that all their wisdom is bankrupt in their inability to fulfill the king’s demand? Did that initial group survive? Is the death decree Daniel’s graduation present from the king?

FOCUS ON FUTURE BIBLE STUDIES:

- MAY 4-6: DANIEL 2:14-18 *THEIR ONLY HOPE WAS PRAYER!*
- MAY 11-13: DANIEL 2:19-24 *ANSWER TO PRAYER: DANIEL WAS GIVEN THE DREAM!*

The emperor, King Nebuchadnezzar, was terrified! His dream had been repeated over and over so that he related them as “dreams” and “his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him” (Daniel 2:1). The sleepless king demanded the answer to his continual nightmares! He had called in his expert specialists who had not only trained the captives from foreign lands, but had spent their entire lives studying numerous mysteries and especially dreams. The first group were the scholars who documented every advance in learning and also boasted abilities in repelling demons with spells, incantations and magic. The second group of specialists studied the stars and thereby claimed an ability to predict the future and the will of heaven, creating horoscopes and even communication with the dead. Witchcraft was the expertise of the third group also specializing in “cutting” drugs. Nebuchadnezzar had once belonged to the final group who were the elite class in Babylon specializing in strategy and wisdom to expand and maintain the empire. Probably Nebuchadnezzar had caught these counselors previously in a lie, so that he was not willing to trust them. So he decided to require a mystery he knew (his dream), and if they could accurately tell him that, then he would trust them to accurately interpret it. Could these professionals pass the test?

NEBUCHADNEZZAR, IN REQUIRING THE MEN TO TELL THE DREAM, WAS TESTING THEM. THEY SHOULD PROVE THE ACCURACY OF THE INTERPRETATION BY REVEALING THE CONTENTS OF THE DREAM. HE HAD NO CRITERION BY WHICH TO JUDGE THEIR INTERPRETATION, BUT HE DID AS TO THE DREAM ITSELF. LEON WOOD

BIBLE STUDIES

WEDNESDAY @ 7:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – FREDERICKSBURG – 106 CARTER ST (JUST NORTH OF THE BRIDGE CROSSING THE RAPPAHANNOCK)

THURSDAY @ 8:00 AM – BIBLE STUDY – RICHMOND – SHONEY’S, 9963 HULL STREET ROAD (LOCATED AT HULL & COURTHOUSE)

FRIDAY @ 7:30 AM – BIBLE STUDY – SUFFOLK – VILLAGE INN, 6116 COLLEGE DRIVE, NEAR HAMPTON ROADS CROSSING

Virginia

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GOD CHOSE TO DEMONSTRATE HIS ALMIGHTY POWER AND HIS UNFATHOMABLE WISDOM TO A MAN WHO WAS INEBRIATED WITH HIS OWN LUST FOR POWER AND WISDOM IN ORDER TO SHOW JUST HOW WEAK AND FOOLISH THAT MAN REALLY WAS. RODNEY STORTZ

I. THE PROOF REQUIRED

DANIEL 2:7-9

With surprising audacity, these “wise” men ignore the king’s required test and repeat their request to know the dream. They still believe that they are only responsible to “*give its interpretation.*” Such a unanimously preferred response only heightens the suspicions of the king who then accuses them of trying to “*gain time.*” His point is that such a tactic might work with their children, but not with their king. He is indignant that they would use this ploy and lets them know that such will never change his mind—“*my decision is firm.*” The frustrated king probably shouts his demand so that it cannot possibly be ignored again: “*if you do not make known the dream to me, there is only one decree for you!*” Now he also has reason to reveal his distrust. “*For you have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the time has changed.*” He is letting them know that this time his temper will outlast their deceit. Then he emphatically repeats his test, “*Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can give me its interpretation.*”

BY THEIR REPEATED REQUEST, THEY HAVE CONVINCED THE KING OF THEIR INABILITY TO DECLARE EITHER THE DREAM OR ITS INTERPRETATION. EDWARD YOUNG

II. THE PETRIFIED RESPONSE

DANIEL 2:10-11

Now the king’s counselors panic and begin to tell him the truth regarding their actual lack of ability to give the king his dream. In their pride they assume that since they lack the ability to meet the demands of the king, then no one

is able to do so. “*There is not a man on earth who can tell the king’s matter.*” With this logic they blame the king for making such a demand upon them. “*Therefore, no king, lord or ruler has ever asked such things of any magician, astrologer, or Chaldean.*” Literally, they are trying to stroke his pride, “*great and powerful king has ever asked...*” and notice that they left off the third group of demon possessed drug dealers. After making the excuse that it is “*difficult,*” these Babylonian leaders reveal that the gods that they serve are products of their imagination, “*whose dwelling is not with flesh.*” In short, they are chiding the king for asking of them what no mortal man can possibly accomplish, but only their gods who are inaccessible.

HERE WE SEE THE UNIQUENESS OF THE GOD OF THE BIBLE, WHO IS BOTH ABLE AND WILLING TO REVEAL HIS PLANS AND PURPOSES TO MANKIND. IAIN DUGUID

III. THE PITILESS RAGE

DANIEL 2:12-13

The terrified king now flies into a fit of rage. His counselors have first ignored his demands and now they have blamed him for making such demands. They have admitted that they were completely unable to help the king in a way that he can count on and though they have claimed to give interpretations aligned with the will of heaven, now he knows that they have no access whatsoever to his gods and their past claims were entirely a sham. Thus he has no mercy upon them and he “*commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.*” Likely the initial counselors would have been immediately killed as the king had so clearly promised. Then there would have been the systematic annihilation of the rest of the wise men throughout the capital city. “*So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men,*” even those foreign students who had just graduated from the Babylonian academy, though there were four who were ten times better than all the rest. Thus “*they sought Daniel and his companions to kill them.*” Would God protect His own saints?

Questions to Ponder:

- 1) Do you thank God for a government that has a path of legal appeal to justice?
- 2) Are those who do not know God bankrupt of the true security found in Christ alone?
- 3) Could Daniel and his friends depend upon a sovereign God even in the most dangerous time?