

Daniel 2:1-13 - A Restless D.R.E.A.M.

Intro – Quick review of Daniel after several week pause. – Fits toward the end of OT history as the nation goes into exile. God's patience had run out. The people had refused to listen to the prophets, so God sends Nebuchadnezzar to conquer them. Daniel & 3 friends were taken in the first deportation in 605 BC. They were royals/princes who were young (teenagers?). These young captives were castrated & heavily pressured to conform to their new settings. They were given new names/new religion /new education /new nutrition under compulsion. These young guys world was turned upside down...yet their faith was not crushed - it was increased. They trusted that God would sustain them even when they chose meager rations over abundant food. They prospered in their captivity earning the respect of their captors and excelling in education. Neb found them 10 x's better than everyone else. Chapter 2 records a dream the king had. It made Neb restless and that threatened the life of Daniel and all those in his division - wise-men

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM

- There is a question about the timing of this dream 2:1 - 2nd year
 - Several different solutions - Could have happened during Daniel 3 yr. education
 - Daniels trials came early, hard and fast. freshman & sophomore yr. - impressive response
- It wasn't just one dream "dreams" 2:1
 - Probably a recurring dream. (An unusually disturbing and recurring dream)
 - Neb was sleepless
- The king sought help from the experts. 2:2-4
 - Occultic experts Magicians, conjurers, sorcerers (Daniel's division of education)
 - These positions all came under the term "wise men" - 2:12 (same class as Magi)
- The king was very dubious...& very serious about getting a true interpretation - 2:5
 - He didn't trust the expert advisers. Neb was a skeptic - 2:9a
 - Neb reasoned - "if they could know what the dream meant then they should know what the dream was."
 - 2:9b reasonable request and test from a thinking man
- The occultic experts objected to such a demand 2:10-11
 - "This is unprecedented"
 - "Only the gods can fulfill the request"
 - Amos 4:13 the Only True God is the only revealer of secrets
 - Daniel 2:22 Heb. 4:13
- King Neb wants to clean house 2:12
 - Daniel and his 3 friends were in this "house" (fraternity) of the wise men 2:13
 - Neb took this dream very seriously...for it was no ordinary dream

SIGNIFICANT DREAMS

1. There are several significant dreams which the Bible records
 - a. The most significant dreams were given to pagan kings. God has spoken to sinful humans

- b. Dreams used to reveal: warning from sin / personal future / national future / world future / personal decisions/ personal warnings / personal direction

OT - Abimelech / Joseph, Cupbearer & Baker / Pharaoh / Nebuchadnezzar

- c. NT - Joseph / Wise-men / Pilate's wife - Matt. 27:19 / Paul - Acts 16:9-10 (vision)
 - i. Decisions, warnings, and directions (world changing event when gospel went west)
- 2. Some dreams are significant in the Bible, but dreams are not prominent in the Bible
 - a. There are only a handful of dreams recorded over 2500 year period
 - b. Can be significant.....not prominent....nor frequent - the significant ones are uncommon

D.R.E.A.M.

An acrostic to help summarize some biblical information regarding dreams

- D - Deceive
 - Don't be deceived by a dream...or the "*meaning*" of a dream (Neb was a skeptic)
 - False prophets are called dreamers. Deut. 13:1 Jude 8
 - Jer. 23:25-32 scathing rebuke (dreams don't compare to God's word)
 - Beware of the dreamers...don't be gullible
 - Occultic practices try to contact spirits that communicate to mind- trance/dream
- R - Release
 - We are fearfully and wonderfully made. Dreams has a purpose
 - God has given us sleep. The mind can unwind at night - a psychological release valve
 - Do your dreams ever relate to how your day went? Is. 29:8
- E - Eerie
 - Nightmares are not new.... only being a recent product of horror movies
 - I was never afraid to camp at night until after my 1st horror movie
 - Be careful what you put into your mind!
 - Job 7:13-15 Job suffered even when he slept
- A - Anxiety
 - Ecclesiastes 5:3 "A dream comes when there are many cares" NIV
 - When the mind is anxious our dreams become active
 - I often dream about preaching - can't find text...or notes...or words
 - Recently dreamed I delivered the worse sermon ever...relieved it was a dream
 - Ecclesiastes 5:7
 - Much dreaming means not much meaning - empty/worthless
 - Fearing God is much better than frequent dreaming
- M - Message
 - God has used (and uses) dreams to relay message
 - Numbers 12:6-8
 - Job 33:14-18
 - Acts 2:17
 - Heard reports of Muslims dreaming about Jesus.... (Acts 10 - Cornelius)
 - God's final message to mankind is given through His Son (not dreams)
 - Heb. 1:1-2
 - Dreams would be a downgrade from the clear Word.... Jesus