

DANIEL 2

Daniel and his friends continue their astounding journey of influence. As they stand firm together, Daniel 2 tells the story of them learning from Yahweh what He was up to in future world history. So in this second chapter the book takes on a nature that goes beyond amazing! We need to understand the information the book of Daniel gives us. We also need to understand more about what God is like and what He is up to.

Our ability to live life well depends on WHAT we know but also on WHO we know. We need the TRUTH of God, but we need God HIMSELF as well. This chapter gives us profound access to WHAT we need to know and to WHO we need to know. Don't miss taking time to reflect on it! It's life-giving!

1. Verse 14 says that Daniel spoke with “prudence and discretion” to an official of a very angry king. As you read the words of Daniel’s reply, what are some of the marks of a prudent reply in a hostile atmosphere? What are some personal applications of this for your life?
2. Read verse 17. Who are your “friends” that walk with you and that you share your spiritual challenges with?
3. Read Daniel’s words of thanksgiving and worship (verses 20-23). What are some things about God that help us stand firm in times of turmoil?
4. The fourth kingdom the vision speaks to is the rise of Rome and western civilization’s domination of the world. What are some statements made about that kingdom that history has clearly born out?

5. The average person will not have national influence. But God wants us to be His influencers in our culture. So far in Daniel's story, what are a couple of key things that could serve as principles of gaining godly influence? AND, what should a person who has a "need to lead" learn from Daniel?

6. What are some things you have learned so far about representing God to an ungodly culture from the story of Daniel?

A HIGH-YIELDING FOLLOWUP

We are drawn to prophecy, and rightly so. It makes up much of the Bible and is purposely put there by God. It is not given just to make us smarter. It is certainly not given to make us smug and arrogant. But it IS given purposely by God for important reasons.

It is good to understand why prophecy is given. Read a portion of Isaiah that was written before the Israelites were conquered by the Chaldeans and exiled to Babylon. Begin reading at Isaiah 44:1. Read through the end of chapter 48. There will be sections you don't understand. Don't let that stop you. When you are done, pay special attention to 48:1-8. After doing that write down some of the reasons given by God for giving us prophecies.

These reasons and others given in Scripture mean that we should pay attention to prophecy. Even though it is hard to understand we should invest time to have a reasonable understanding of it. It will strengthen our faith. It fuels hope. Because of this that it builds in us, prophecy will help us stand firm and stand together in troubled times.