

Have you woken puzzled over a dream that isn't quite remembered? Or worse, from one remembered, which was disturbing or frightening.

Nebuchadnezzar was, literally, 'on top of the world'. Ruler of the mightiest empire of the time. Yet, he was as frail as the next, possibly more so, at the top there is only one direction to go.

As was normal, and probably still is, he had surrounded himself with specialist advisors, wise men, astrologers, magicians etc., to help make decisions that could affect the whole empire.

The problem was that they were not as clever as they, and he, had thought. When it came to that strange dream they were unable to help because they didn't know what the dream was. Nebuchadnezzar was canny enough not to help them by telling them. If they knew, they could then give a meaning.

That knowledge could come from one place, well two actually. Either Nebuchadnezzar himself, or the real King of Kings.

### **Read Daniel 2:26-49.**

1. Are dreams real, or just dreams? When are dreams visions and what is the difference between them? Where do prophecies fit in?

2. Have you ever asked God to give you a vision or dream? If you were to pray, what would you ask God to speak about?

3. Have you ever been 'put on the spot' and asked difficult questions? What did that feel like and how did you respond?

4. Read Vv. 31-35. If the rock that becomes the mountain is the Kingdom of God, who are the others? Why them? Have they even been yet?
5. I am not like Daniel. It is possible that I may have taken the credit for interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dream without acknowledging God. There is a moral to learn from Daniel's actions. What do you think it is?
6. Daniel was telling the most powerful man on earth, at that time, some bad news yet Nebuchadnezzar heaped honour and power upon Daniel – have you ever had to deliver bad news? How do you react to varying types of criticism?
7. God's plans are perfect. Why is it so hard to be a Daniel? Are we more like a Samson or who else may we be?
8. Despite everything Daniel was still a slave, a hostage to Nebuchadnezzar. When, or is it ever, right to serve 'the enemy'? Why? Ephes. 6:5-9 may help.
9. Look again at Vv. 46-47. I see something strange here. Firstly Nebuchadnezzar gives praise to God – as is right, but then heaps praise wealth and power onto Daniel. Is the 'messenger' responsible for the message? If so why or why not? How does history generally treat messengers?

## Prayer Points

This year's harvest appeal from BMS World Mission is all about sowing abundant life and the Word of God across Bangladesh.

Lift up our partner, the Bangladesh Baptist Church Sangha (BBCS), in prayer. Pray that they will achieve their vision of training up at least 120 people to serve in communities across Bangladesh over the next five years.

Pray for BMS mission workers Louise and Pete Lynch. Pray for their work with BBCS, that they will be able to inspire many to serve and share the gospel message.

## Sermon Notes



# BIBLE STUDY

September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024

## Faith in the Fire:

### The God of Dreams : Daniel 2:26-49

The book of Daniel tells Daniel's story—and a fascinating and instructive story it is. But the main purpose of Daniel is to reveal to us who God is - His character, His purposes, His way of working in the world for the good of His people. The main lesson of Daniel, then, is not, as is sometimes assumed *Dare to be a Daniel!* Rather, the main point is this: *Dare to trust in Daniel's God, even when the world seems against you.* How do we remain faithful to God, especially in an age where it seems a great deal is moving in a different direction? What does it look like to trust in God when our world is turned upside down? Daniel remained faithful and God used him to great effect, how can God use us in the fiery challenges of life?

If you would like to join a Connect Group, please contact the church office 01424 730001