

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

January 10, 2021

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading:

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *The Run From the Outhouse* (Daniel 2:14-30)

Announcements:

Faith Bible Church financial statements for the past year of 2020 are now available on the bulletin table. See Treasurer Ed Ostrowski with any questions.

Beginning today: Please give your prayer requests to your hard-of-hearing pastor in writing before the service begins.

Mai Gudmalin and Matt Erickson are engaged, but we won't be having a bridal shower for Mai due to Covid concerns. But they are registered at Target under Matt's name though, if you'd like to give them a wedding gift!

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone

Daniel 2:1-13 *The King Had a Dream!*

Later we learn the king only dreamed *one* dream, so the word “dreams” here (v.1) must mean he had that one dream *over and over*. Since it “troubled” him, it must have been a *nightmare*. Don't envy the rich; their riches won't let them sleep for fear of *losing* their riches (Eccl.5:12). Besides, envy is *unhealthy* as well as *unspiritual* (Pr.14:30).

The king called his advisers “then” (v.2)—when “his sleep brake from him” in verse 1—in *the middle of the night* to show him his dream. “Shew” means to *interpret* (cf.5:15). Pagans back then thought their gods *communicated with them* in dreams (cf.Mt.27:19), so the king thought he'd just heard from his gods with troubling news that he needed interpreted pronto! And he wasn't the first pagan king to need a dream interpreted (Gen.41:1-8).

In Chapter 1, we saw that Daniel and his 3 friends were in a 3-year program to *become* advisers, and Daniel 2:1 says that they were still in their second year, so the king only summoned his graduates to interpret this troubling dream.

The king told his advisers that he'd had a dream (v.3) and they asked him what it was (v.4). “Chaldeans” (2:4) was another name for *Babylonians* (Ezek.23:15). “Syriack” (2:4) was what the *Syrian* language had evolved into in Babylon, the way English evolved in our country. Daniel mentions this because at this point he starts *writing* in Syriack because it was the language that all the nations spoke after Assyria conquered them. Daniel is about to describe *the future* of the nations, and he wants them to be able to read it, so they know Israel's God is God. It's kind of like how God wanted the New Testament written in Greek because everyone spoke Greek after Alexander the Great conquered the world.

There's also 15 *Persian* words and 3 *Greek* words in Daniel. Bible critics say that this is because Daniel wrote his book after the Persians and Greeks conquered the nations and spread *their* language. They say that because they don't want to admit Daniel's God *predicted* they'd

conquer the world, because to admit that would mean admitting that the God of the Bible is God. But Daniel spent his life standing in the king's court (cf.1:5) hearing ambassadors from Persia and Greece, so some of their words had crept into his vocabulary, the way Japan's word *tsunami* crept into ours.

The king didn't *like* being asked what his dream was (2:5), so just said the thing was gone from him, meaning: "I meant what I said" (cf.Ps.89:34). After threatening to kill them if they couldn't interpret his dream, he offers to reward them if they can (2:6), so they ask him again what he dreamt (v.7).

The king accused them of stalling (2:8), hoping he'd get so desperate for an interpretation that he'd tell them his dream. He told them his "decree" of killing them would stand (v.9) if they didn't tell him his dream. He knew that every time he'd asked them to interpret a dream in the past that they "had prepared" lying words to tell him—i.e., they just made something up "till the time be changed." That refers to a change in *administration* (cf.2:21). In other words, they'd just interpret the dream to be a prophecy of something that wouldn't come true *till after he was no longer king*, so he couldn't kill punish them when it didn't come true!

That means this wise king figured something out. After a year of listening to their phony interpretations, he figured out that if he makes *them* tell *him* what he dreamed, then he can be sure they were in touch with the gods and he could trust their interpretation.

They were partly right when they admitted that only the gods knew his dream (2:10,11), for *Daniel's* God did (Amos 4:13). But *only* Daniel's God did (IKi.8:39). But when those advisors admitted they weren't in touch with the gods that knew his dream, the king commanded them to die (2:12). He'd been paying them to tell him what the gods said, and now they admit they didn't know what the gods knew!

This death order included Daniel and his friends (2:13) even though they hadn't been given a chance to interpret the dream—probably because the king figured if the men who had graduated his advisory school couldn't interpret it, there was no use asking men who were still in school.

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

January 10, 2021

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger

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