

(This is written to give you good things to enjoy, because look again at what Paul told Timothy (1 Tim 6:17-18)! I think he was thinking of us at the time: **17 Instruct those who are rich in the present age not to be conceited and not to put their hope in the uncertainty of wealth, but in God, WHO RICHLY PROVIDES ALL THINGS TO ENJOY. 18 Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, and to be generous and ready to share...**) The following ice breaker is just a starter for your group. The message comes after the second bar. Please enjoy!)

**CROWD BREAKER: Have you ever had a dream that you remember to this day? What was your most memorable dream? What did it mean to you? —The scribe**

Note: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP. The purpose is to unite, not divide; to fearlessly proclaim the freedom the gospel brings. Any part of these notes might be appropriate as a crowd breaker for your own group. The goal is to create memories from Sunday that will serve for a long time. BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study. This study is also a great devotion, taken slowly through the week.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions raised by Pastor Mark's message from this Sunday. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.**

**What do you do when a vaccine is mandated, and contrary to your inclinations?**

Mark's dream...escape from second story gym through a door. Crumbling city. Fires. Chaos dark. Mark finds a group that he resonated with, beckoning with him to follow. Group grows as they ascend the mountain, where they are all tribes together praising Jesus. Mark's interpretation. Do not let the enemy isolate you. It will be dangerous to be alone. The season we are in right now, it is too risky to be alone. The enemy is aggressive. Jesus must be in the center of a life of worship with like-minded individuals. Protection and healing and safety is found in communion with like-minded people. Time in the word. Time in worship. **What do you think? What does this say about life groups and their importance? Why is there safety on the mountain, and not in the city?**

<sup>1</sup>Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; and his spirit was so troubled that his sleep left him. <sup>2</sup>Then the king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to tell the king his

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dreams. So they came and stood before the king. **3**And the king said to them, “I have had a dream, and my spirit is anxious to know the dream.” ***What is strange about this request?***

**4**Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will give the interpretation.” ***What are these people missing? What do they need to do the task the king asks them to do?***

**5**The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, “My decision is firm: if you do not make known the dream to me, and its interpretation, you shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made an ash heap. **6**However, if you tell the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts, rewards, and great honor. Therefore tell me the dream and its interpretation.” ***What is the king's response? How strong is he? How serious? What are the chances of survival for the king's counselors?***

**7**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 **10**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***t 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*.

#### God Reveals Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

**14**Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise *men* of Babylon; **15**he answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, “Why is the decree from the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the decision known to Daniel.

**16**So Daniel went in and asked the king to give him time, that he might tell the king the interpretation. **17**Then Daniel went to his house, and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, **18**that they might seek mercies from the God of heaven concerning this secret, so that Daniel and his companions might not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon. **19**Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a

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night vision. So Daniel blessed the God of heaven. **Look at the sequence. Daniel goes to the king first. Then he goes to his partners in prayer. Talk about the prayer: Do they know the answer before they pray? Do they know that they will know? Why did God give the dream to Nebuchadnezzar, and then the interpretation to Daniel? What did this do for Daniel's and the others' reputation?**

**Notice Daniel's response:**

**20**Daniel answered and said:

"Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
For wisdom and might are His.

**21**And He changes the times and the seasons;  
He removes kings and raises up kings;  
He gives wisdom to the wise  
And knowledge to those who have understanding.

**22**He reveals deep and secret things;  
He knows what is in the darkness,  
And light dwells with Him.

**23**"I thank You and praise You,  
O God of my fathers;  
You have given me wisdom and might,  
And have now made known to me what we asked of You,  
For You have made known to us the king's **the demand.**" **Why is thanksgiving so powerful?**

Daniel Explains the Dream

**24**Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise *men* of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation."

**25**Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, "I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation."

**26**The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, "Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?"

**27**Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, "The secret which the king has demanded, the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. **28**But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. **Why could they not know?** Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these: **29**As for you, O king, thoughts came to your *mind while* on your bed, *about* what would come to pass after this;

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and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be. [30](#)But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for *our* sakes who make known the interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart. **To whom does Daniel ascribe the wisdom? Why does he say God gave him the answer? How many people did this answer to prayer rescue?**

[31](#)“You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. [32](#)This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, [33](#)its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of [ii](#)clay. [34](#)You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. [35](#)Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. **What do you remember of the graphic Mark showed?**

[36](#)“This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. [37](#)You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; [38](#)and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given *them* into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold. **Where did Nebuchadnezzar’s kingdom come from? How important is this? How will this statement play a role in the chapters ahead?** [39](#)But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. [40](#)And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, *that kingdom* will break in pieces and crush all the others. [41](#)Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. **How do we see “the strength of iron” today in Europe, though it is divided? Is there a nation standing against the tides?** [42](#)And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile. [43](#)As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. **What do these nations not have?** [44](#)And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. [45](#)Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.” **What do we know about the stone? What happened to the stone that the builders rejected? How much of the four is left standing when the One comes? Look up Luke 20:17-18** [17](#)But Jesus looked directly at them and said, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: ‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? [18](#)Everyone who

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**falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.” What are we supposed to do with this stone, instead of letting it crush us, or instead of stumbling on it? What is the chief cornerstone in your life?**

Mark speaks of “...a look ahead...Daniel’s seventy years and where we fall before Jesus’ return.” **What do you know? What do you think: Where is the USA in this dream? Why is it good not to know? Why is it important to be sensitive to the times we are in? Look up Luke 17: ...26**Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man: **27**People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. **28** It was the same in the days of Lot: People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. **29**But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.... **What were people not doing in Lot’s day that they were doing in Noah’s day? How important is it to know the answer? Is this a clue or an accident? How sudden was the destruction? What warning did the people have?**

**What happens when folks get hung up on the rapture? (Do you know what “the rapture of the church” is?) How many do you remember have declared the precise day of His return? How many have been right so far?**

Daniel and His Friends Promoted

**46**Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. **47**The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.” **48**Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon. **49**Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in **the** gate of the king. **What is Nebuchadnezzar’s reaction? What is his declaration? What does this say of the king? How much power is given to the children of Israel? How is power acquired in the kingdom?**

**Why does the enemy try to isolate you after you receive Jesus? Why is it so important not to be isolated? Why do we need this hope in Jesus so much more now than any?**

**Mark prayed for courage, peace and wisdom. How does that echo Daniel’s prayer in this chapter? What will an answer to that prayer look like?**

**Take time to pray for one another. Be blessed.**

**What is your biggest takeaway? Follow the Truth wherever He leads you. He has a Name: Jesus. What is your next step? –the scribe**