

A TEST OF FAITH

(Daniel 2:1-23)

- I. A TROUBLED King (Dan. 2:1-13)
 - A. DREAMS disrupted Nebuchadnezzar's sleep (2:1)
 - 1. Occurred during the SECOND YEAR of his reign
 - 2. Resulted in a TROUBLED SPIRIT
 - B. Nebuchadnezzar summoned ALL the WISE MEN (2:2)
 - 1. *Magicians*: SCHOLARS or SOOTHSAYER priests
 - 2. *Conjurers*: ENCHANTERS or MEDIUMS
 - 3. *Sorcerers*: Practitioners of INCANTATIONS
 - 4. *Chaldeans*: Master ASTROLOGERS
 - C. He demanded that they TELL his DREAM and EXPLAIN its MEANING (2:3-9)
 - 1. King wanted to UNDERSTAND the dream
 - 2. Chaldeans offered to INTERPRET it if he'd TELL it
 - 3. King either said his COMMAND was FIRM or that the DREAM was FORGOTTEN
 - 4. King pronounced DIRE PUNISHMENT for FAILURE
 - 5. King announced great REWARD for SUCCESS
 - 6. Chaldeans were CONFIDENT if he'd TELL THEM the dream
 - 7. King accused them of STALLING in hope he'd CHANGE

- 8. King asserted his DECREE was FINAL
- D. Chaldeans CONFESSED their INABILITY (2:10-11)
 - 1. No MAN could do what the king demanded
 - 2. Only a GOD could REVEAL the secret
- E. Nebuchadnezzar pronounced his SENTENCE (2:12-13)

II. An URGENT Plea (Dan. 2:14-23)

- A. Daniel requested an OPPORTUNITY to INTERPRET the dream (2:14-16)
- B. Daniel and companions met to PRAY (2:17-18)
 - 1. The source of wisdom is not the HEAVENS, but the GOD OF HEAVEN
 - 2. Contrasts the MERCY of God with the CRUELTY of the King
- C. God ANSWERED Daniel's PRAYER (2:19-23; cf. 1:17)
 - 1. Communicated in a "NIGHT VISION," not a DREAM
 - 2. Prompted a HYMN of PRAISE
 - a. Praised God as the Controller of TIME and EVENTS
 - b. Praised God as the Source of WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE
 - c. Praised God for His IMMEDIATE HELP