

# **GOD IS SOVEREIGN OVER ALL**

Daniel 2 & 4

## **Awareness**

Before listening, reflect:

- Dreams and visions play a big role in how God communicates with his people in the book of Daniel. Do you think that God continues to use dreams and visions today? Why or why not?
- What do you think the phrase “God humbles the proud” means?

In the book of Daniel, Daniel bravely serves as God’s interpreter, explaining what God is warning Nebuchadnezzar about through his dreams. Though it takes a lot of humbling, Nebuchadnezzar realizes that he is no match for Yahweh—who not only reveals mysteries but holds the future in his hands. For the Israelites living in exile, hearing how God’s sovereign power changed their oppressor’s heart would have been encouraging and a source of future hope. These stories are also an encouragement to us to remember that we can remain hopeful for God’s justice and peace because he is sovereign over all.

Listen: [\*God is Sovereign Over All\*](#)

## **Reflection**

After listening, consider:

- When God answers Daniel’s prayer, he reveals the king’s dream and tells Daniel what it means. Daniel’s first response is to praise God. Similarly, King Nebuchadnezzar’s response to hearing his dream and its interpretation is also to offer praise. Reread Daniel’s psalm in Daniel 2:20-23 and King Nebuchadnezzar’s praise in Daniel 2:46-48. What differences do you notice between their praises?
- Reread Daniel 4:34-37. How is King Nebuchadnezzar’s praise in this passage different from his praise in chapter 2:46-48? What is different about King Nebuchadnezzar in chapter 4 compared to chapter 2?
- King Nebuchadnezzar’s praise at the end of chapter 4 was also his testimony. He did not hide in his shame but turned to God in worship and praise. He admitted his pride and testified to God’s power. What other testimonies—whether from people in the Bible, history, or your own life—have taught you about humility?
- At the end of segment 3, hosts Darrell Delaney and Scott Hoezee discuss why this story would have been encouraging to the Israelites in exile. Do you think it can similarly encourage Christians today? Do you find comfort and encouragement in it? Why or why not?

## **Related Passages**

- **Psalm 37**
- **2 Corinthians 4:1-3, 7-18**
- **Isaiah 2:11-18**

## Conclusion

When Babylon conquered Israel, God's people were brought low and humbled because in their pride they had lived in disobedience and disregard for God. That was why they were exiled to Babylon. The humbling of King Nebuchadnezzar led him to repent of his pride and to worship the King of heaven. These stories assured and reminded Israel of God's sovereignty and they assure us of this today too, but they are also an invitation to repentance. Are there areas in your life where pride causes you to forget God's power and work? Bring your confessions as well as your need for hope in difficult circumstances to God in prayer. Like Daniel (Daniel 2:20-23) and King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 4:34-37), praise God for who he is and for what he has done in your life.

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