

God is Sovereign Over All

Our lives are filled with changing situations and circumstances beyond our control. When we experience injustice or lack power over aspects of our own lives, it can be tempting to question if God is present in our situation. We can begin to wonder if God is even able to help us in the face of unjust authority. The Israelites living in exile under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar likely experienced similar challenges to their faith. But in Daniel 2 and 4, God reminds us of his sovereignty through the dreams of King Nebuchadnezzar. As Daniel retells the king's dreams and interprets them, we find hope because those dreams remind us that in all things, no matter the situation, God is sovereign and in control.

AWARENESS Before listening reflect on what you already know or understand about topics we'll cover in the episode.

- 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?



LISTEN TO THE EPISODE: [God is Sovereign Over All](#)

READ [Daniel 2 & 4](#)

REFLECTION After listening, consider the following questions:

- 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 for further study

[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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