

# God uses dreams

## Daniel 2:1-49 and 4:4-37







One night King Nebuchadnezzar started having bad dreams. Each night he would dream the same dream but he did not know what it meant.

So, he asked all his wise men about the dream.

“Oh Great King, tell us what your dream is and we will interpret it,” asked the wise men.

King Nebuchadnezzar looked at them in shock, “What do you mean ‘tell me the dream’? If I tell you, then you’ll just make up something. In fact, if none of you can tell me my dream and its meaning, then you are frauds and of no use to me. I will have to execute you all.”



When Arioch, chief of the royal guards, was making arrangements for the execution, Daniel wisely took him aside and quietly asked what was going on.

After Arioch told him, Daniel went to the king and asked for a little time so that he could interpret the dream.

Daniel went home and told Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego what the king had said.

“Please pray for me, pray that our God who knows all mysteries will reveal the dream’s meaning to me,” Daniel said.





That night Daniel went and prayed to God, and God gave him the answer to his prayer.

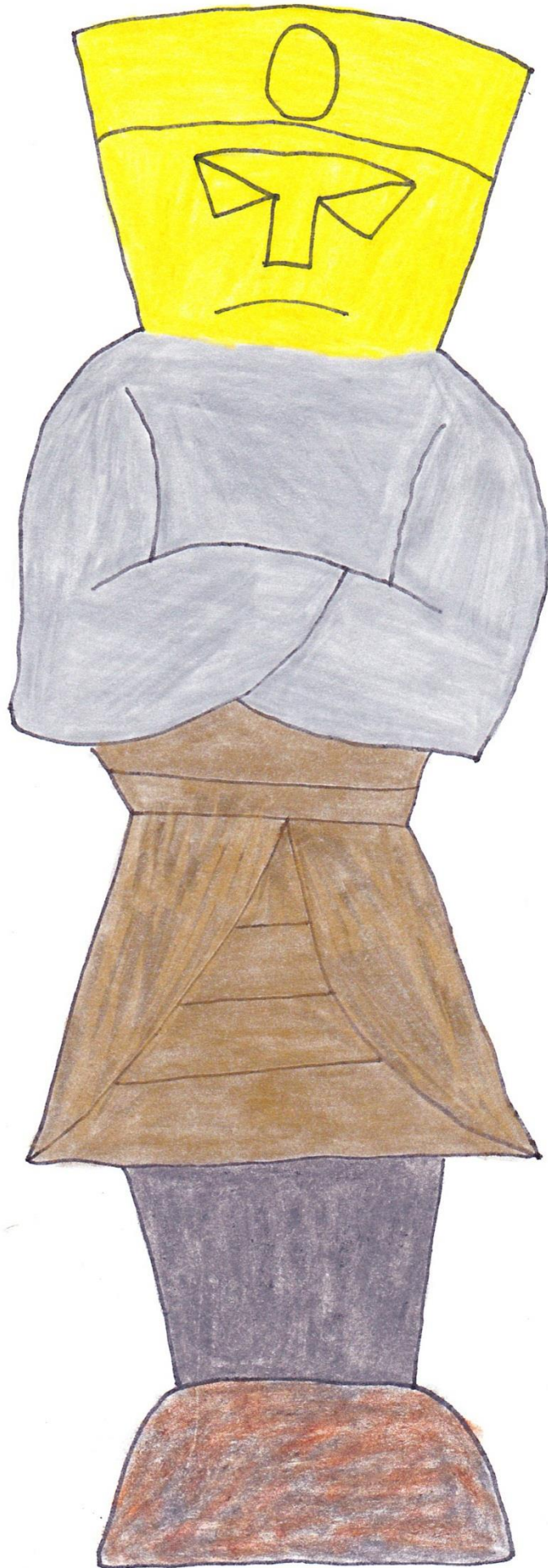
“Thank you Lord for providing me with the wisdom I need.” And Daniel stood up and hurried to Arioch. “I have the answer to the king’s dream.”

Daniel nervously walked before the king, and stood ready to answer.

“Can you tell me my dream?” Nebuchadnezzar angrily demanded.

“No man can learn of your dream, oh King, but the Living God in heaven has revealed to me what your dream is and what it means,” Daniel replied.

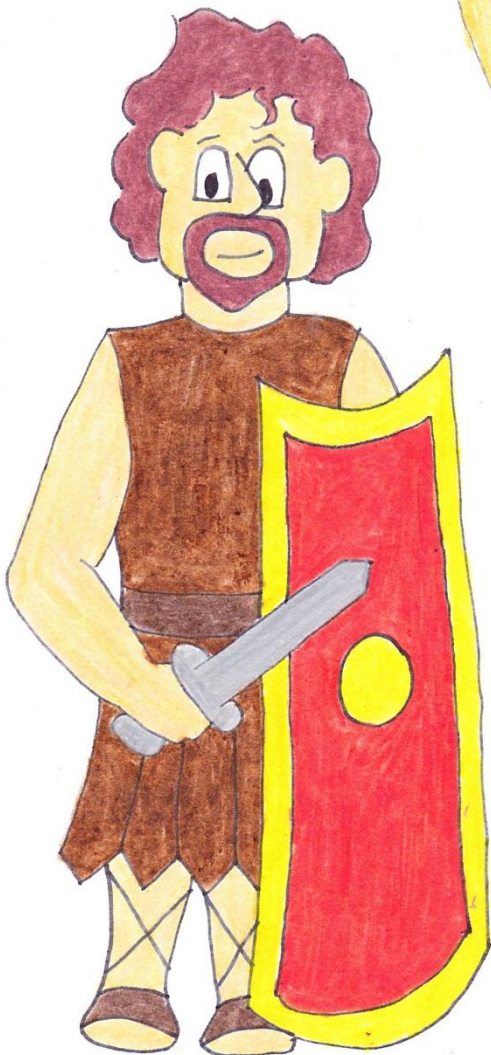
“Very well, then tell what YOUR God says.”





“O King, what you saw in your dreams was a large statue. The head was made of gold, the chest of silver, the hips and belly of bronze, the legs of iron, and the feet made of clay and iron mixed together.

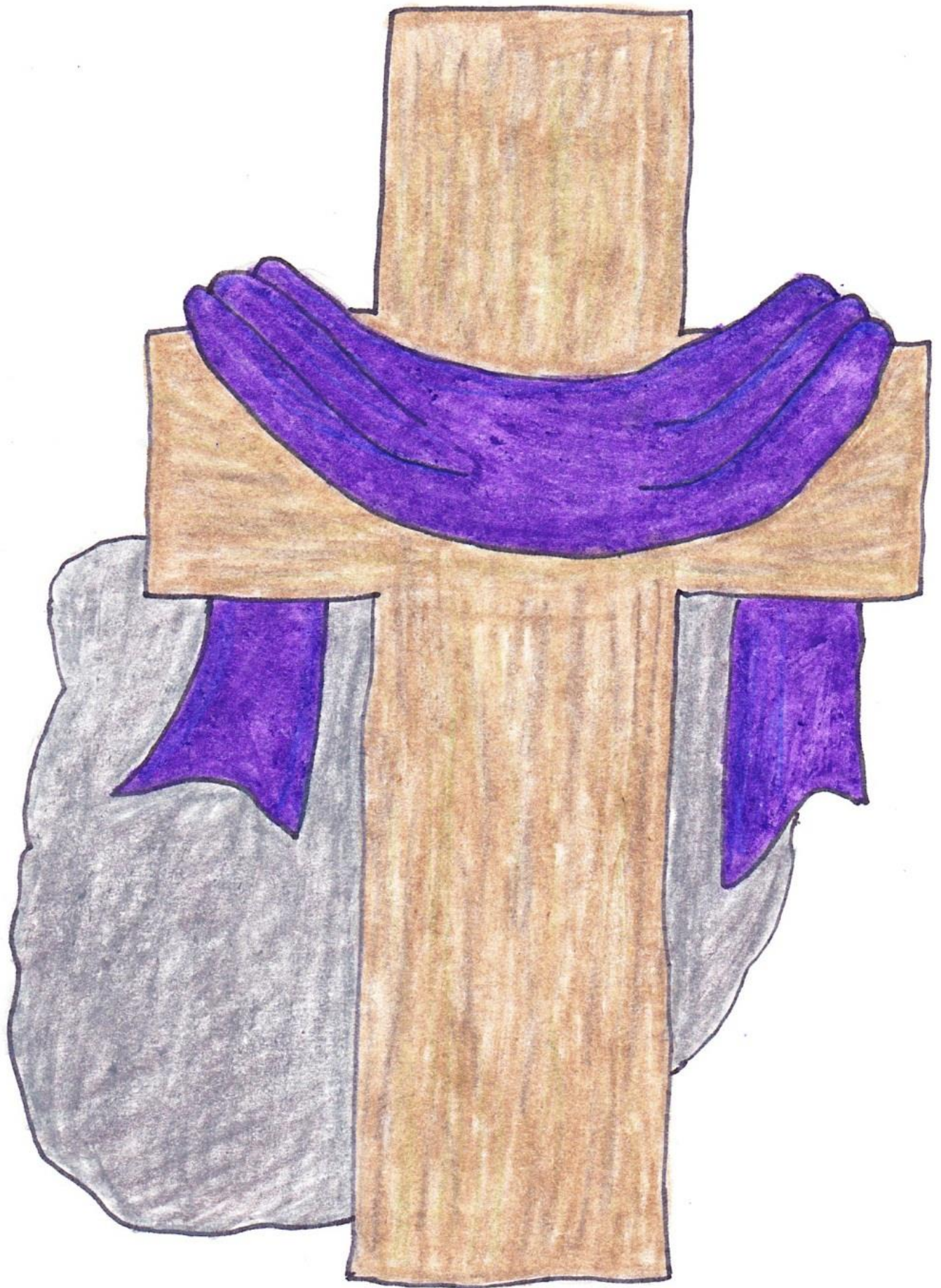
And as you watched a rock was formed out of a mountain. The rock came and knocked down the statue, so it turned to dust. Then the rock grew and grew and it ruled the whole world.



“Now let us interpret your dream. You, are the most powerful king on earth. The God of heaven and earth has given you much, you are that head of gold. Your rule will be replaced by another inferior kingdom, and that will be replaced by yet another, a bronze kingdom, but still ruling all.

After that a fourth kingdom of iron will come, and just as iron is strong so is it, but it too will be destroyed. Finally a kingdom of iron and clay will come, and it will be both strong and weak like iron and clay.”





“But the stone that came and destroyed the statue will be a kingdom that will rule forever. This, o king, is the meaning of your dream.”

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his knees and worshipped the God of Daniel, and exclaimed, “Your God is truly the Master of Mysteries. Let everyone know, that your God can explain mysteries.”

And Daniel was appointed a ruler, and he had his friends appointed as rulers as well.







Time passed and God sent Nebuchadnezzar another dream. This time we have the story in his own words.

“While I, King Nebuchadnezzar, lay sleeping in my bed I had a terrible dream. I was really worried about the dream.

I asked all of my prophets and magicians what the dream meant, but none of them could tell me. So I asked Daniel to come and explain the dream.



“When I told Daniel the dream he looked very worried. I said, “Don’t let the dream alarm you. Just tell me what it means.”

Finally, Daniel answered me, “Oh King, if only the dream was about your enemies and not you.”

You dreamed there was a large tree in the middle of the land. It was strong and tall, and all the animals rested underneath it. Every creature was fed by this tree.





“Then in my dream a messenger came down from heaven and said, “Let the tree be cut down and its stump bound with iron and bronze and remain in the ground. Let his mind be that of an animal, and until seven years pass for him.

Let this be done so that all may know who is God.”







“Daniel answered, “O King, this is what your dream means. You are that tree. God has declared that you will go mad and for seven years will act like an animal. At the end of that time you will be king again and you will acknowledge God is Lord over even you.

I suggest you repent of your sins and pray God has mercy.”

As I stood looking out over my city and marveling over all I had built a voice came from heaven and declared, “This day your dream will be fulfilled. Your mind will become that of an animal. Several years will pass by until one day you acknowledge the Most High God.”

At once it was as if my mind had left me and I ran from the palace.



“Then I lived as a beast for seven years. My nails grew out like claws, and my teeth were like the teeth of a beast. My beard became long and gnarled.

At the end of that time I raised my eyes to heaven and recognized the Most High God..

Now I, King Nebuchadnezzar, do recognize the Most High God, and do praise His name.

He is the Maker and Creator of all that exists, and I praise His Holy and Excellent Name.”



# Questions

## Younger Kids

1. What is Daniel's response when he finds out he is going to be executed? How do you respond to big problems?
2. How did Daniel know what King Nebuchadnezzar's dream was? How does God help you in times of trouble?
3. Why did God punish Nebuchadnezzar and make him an animal?

## Middle Kids

1. Read Daniel 2:14, 17-18. How did Daniel attempt to solve the problem? What steps can you take to solve problems you have?
2. Read Daniel 4:30. Who does Nebuchadnezzar believe gave him those riches? Read Proverbs 15:25. What is God's reaction to the proud?

## Older Guys

1. Read Daniel 2:2-5. What does Nebuchadnezzar expect the magicians to do? Is this fair? What does God say about people who are false prophets? Read Matthew 7:15 and 2 Peter 2:1.

Why do you think God dislikes false prophets so much?

2. Read Daniel 2:20-23. What does Daniel say about God? Where else can you see God like this?
3. Read Daniel 2:46-49. How did Nebuchadnezzar reward Daniel? What did Daniel do for his friends? Is this a right use of power?
4. Read Daniel 4:4 & 8. Do you think Nebuchadnezzar is a believer at the beginning of the story? What evidence do you have of this?

### Activities

1. Play a variation of “Head, and Shoulders, Knees, and Toes.” Instead call out “Gold, Silver, Bronze, Iron, and Clay.” See who can touch the right part when you call it out.
2. **TREASURE HUNT, fill in details**

### Online

1. Nebuchadnezzar’s statue dream lesson-  
<http://kidsbibledebjackson.blogspot.com/2014/05/daniel-nebuchadnezzars-dream.html>

2. Nebuchadnezzar's dreams lesson-

<http://www.biblesongsandmore.com/2012/11/12/nebuchadnezzars-dreams-daniel-2-and-4/>

3. Nebuchadnezzar's statue dream printable-

<http://biblecraftsandactivities.com/crafts-book-of-daniel-part-1/>