

## Daniel 2: There is a God in Heaven

**1-3** In the second year of his reign, King Nebuchadnezzar started having dreams that disturbed him deeply. He couldn't sleep. He called in all the Babylonian magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and Chaldeans to interpret his dreams for him. When they came and lined up before the king, he said to them, "I had a dream that I can't get out of my mind. I can't sleep until I know what it means."

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**4** The Chaldeans, speaking in the Aramaic language, said, "O king, live forever! Tell us the dream and we will interpret it."

**5-6** The king answered them, "This is my decree: If you can't tell me both the dream itself and its interpretation, I'll have you ripped to pieces, limb from limb, and your homes torn down. But if you tell me both the dream and its interpretation, I'll lavish you with gifts and honours. So go to it: Tell me the dream and its interpretation."

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**7** They answered, "If it please your majesty, tell us the dream. We'll give the interpretation."

**8-9** But the king said, "I know what you're up to - you're just playing for time. You know that if you can't tell me my dream, you're doomed. I see right through you - you're going to cook up some fancy stories and confuse the issue until I change my mind. It's not going to happen!"

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First tell me the dream, then I'll know that you're on the up and up and I will listen to your interpretation."

**10-11** The Chaldeans said, "There is not a man on earth who can meet the king's demand, for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or Chaldean. What you're asking is impossible unless some god or goddess should reveal it - and they don't hang around with people like us."

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**12-13** Because of this the king was angry. He lost his temper and ordered the whole company of Babylonian wise men killed. When the death warrant was issued, Daniel and his companions were included. They also were marked for execution.

**14-15** 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: "Why this all of a sudden?"

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**15-16** After Arioch filled in the background, Daniel went to the king and asked for a little time so that he could interpret the dream.

**17-18** Daniel then went home and told his companions Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what was going on. He asked them to pray to the God of heaven for mercy in solving this mystery so that the four of them wouldn't be killed along with the whole company of Babylonian wise men.

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**19-20** That night the answer to the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Daniel blessed the God of heaven, saying:

"Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.

**21** He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings;

**22** he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.

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**23** To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for 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 matter."

**24** So Daniel went back to Arioch, who had been put in charge of the execution. He said, "Call off the execution! Take me to the king and I'll interpret his dream."

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**25** Arioch didn't lose a minute. He ran to the king, bringing Daniel with him, and said, "I've found a man from the exiles of Judah who can interpret the king's dream!"

**26** The king asked Daniel (renamed in Babylonian, Belteshazzar), "Are you sure you can do this - tell me the dream I had and interpret it for me?"

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**27-28** Daniel answered the king and said, "No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the days ahead. This is the dream you had when you were lying on your bed, the vision that filled your mind:

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**29-30** "The Revealer of Mysteries showed you what will happen. But the interpretation is given through me, not because I'm any smarter than anyone else in the country, but so that you will know what it means, so that you will understand what you dreamed.

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31-36 "What you saw, O king, was a huge statue standing before you, striking in appearance. And terrifying.

The head of the statue was pure gold, the chest and arms were silver, the belly and hips were bronze, the legs were iron, and the feet were an iron-ceramic mixture.



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While you were looking at this statue, a stone cut out of a mountain by an invisible hand hit the statue, smashing its iron-ceramic feet. Then the whole thing fell to pieces - iron, tile, bronze, silver, and gold, smashed to bits.



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It was like scraps of old newspapers in a vacant lot in a hot dry summer, blown every which way by the wind, scattered to oblivion.

But the stone that hit the statue became a huge mountain, and filled the whole earth. This was your dream.



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36-40 "And now we'll interpret it for the king. You, O king, are the most powerful king on earth. The God of heaven has given you the works: rule, power, strength, and glory. He has put you in charge of men and women, wild animals and birds, all over the world - you're the head ruler, you are the head of gold.

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But your rule will be taken over by another kingdom, inferior to yours, and that one by a third, a bronze kingdom, but still ruling the whole land, and after that by a fourth kingdom, ironlike in strength. Just as iron smashes things to bits, breaking and pulverizing, it will bust up the previous kingdoms.

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41-43 "But then the feet and toes that ended up as a mixture of ceramic and iron will deteriorate into a mongrel kingdom with some remains of iron in it. Just as the toes of the feet were part ceramic and part iron, it will end up a mixed bag of the breakable and unbreakable. That kingdom won't bond, won't hold together any more than iron and clay hold together.

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44-45 "But throughout the history of these kingdoms, the God of heaven will be building a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will this kingdom ever fall under the domination of another. In the end it will crush the other kingdoms and finish them off and come through it all standing strong and eternal. It will be like the stone cut from the mountain by the invisible hand that crushed the iron, the bronze, the ceramic, the silver, and the gold.

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"The great God has let the king know what will happen in the years to come. This is an accurate telling of the dream, and the interpretation is also accurate."

46-47 When Daniel finished, King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face in awe before Daniel. He ordered the offering of sacrifices and burning of incense in Daniel's honour.

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He said to Daniel, "Your God is beyond question the God of all gods, the Lord of all kings. And the revealer of all mysteries, I know, because you've solved this mystery."

48-49 Then the king promoted Daniel to a high position in the kingdom, lavished him with gifts, and made him governor over the entire province of Babylon and the chief in charge of all the Babylonian wise men.

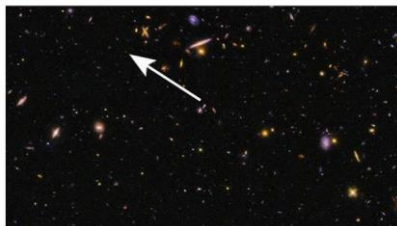
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At Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to administrative posts throughout Babylon, while Daniel governed from the royal headquarters.

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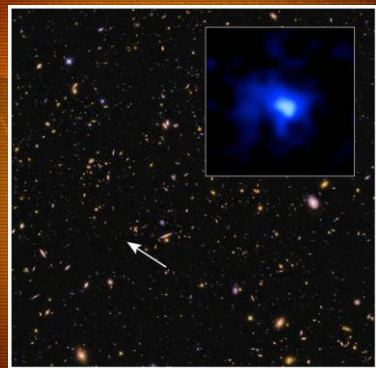
### Astronomers measure most distant galaxy yet

RACHEL FELTMAN  
Last updated 08:14, May 9 2015



This is a Hubble Space Telescope image of the farthest spectroscopically confirmed galaxy observed to date.

## Daniel 2: There is a God in Heaven



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### God is sovereign

"In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand..."

Daniel 1:1-2

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### God is sovereign

"...blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings."

Daniel 2:20

## Daniel 2: There is a God in Heaven

### God is sovereign

"The Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will."

Daniel 4:17

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### God is sovereign

#### Sovereign

*noun*

#### 1. a supreme ruler, especially a monarch

*synonym* ruler, monarch, supreme ruler, Crown, crowned head, head of state, potentate, suzerain, overlord, dynast, leader; king, queen, emperor, empress, prince, princess, tsar, royal duke, grand duke, elector, crown prince, princeling, prince regent, mogul, baron, liege (lord), lord, emir, sheikh, sultan, maharaja, raja

*adjective*

#### 1. possessing supreme or ultimate power

*synonym* supreme, absolute, unlimited, unrestricted, unrestrained, unbounded, boundless, infinite, ultimate, total, unconditional, full, utter, paramount; principal, chief, dominant, predominant, ruling; royal, regal, kingly, monarchical

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#### 1. He is in control

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"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 21:6

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<sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:16-17

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<sup>3</sup> Our God is in the heavens;  
He does all that He pleases.

Psalms 115:3

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As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God.

<sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God

Psalms 42:1-2

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#### 2. He is the source of all wisdom

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### God is sovereign

#### 1. He is in control

#### 2. He is the source of all wisdom

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting...

James 1:5-6

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### God is sovereign

#### 1. He is in control

#### 2. He is the source of all wisdom

#### 3. He will accomplish His purposes

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### God is sovereign

1. He is in control
2. He is the source of all wisdom
3. He will accomplish His purposes

"I am God, and there is none like me,  
<sup>10</sup> declaring the end from the beginning  
 and from ancient times things not yet  
 done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand,  
 and I will accomplish all my purpose'

Isaiah 46:9-10

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2. He is the source of all wisdom
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<sup>17</sup>Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the  
 heavens and the earth by your great power  
 and by your outstretched arm!

Nothing is too hard for you.

Jeremiah 32:17

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Jesus who, being in very nature God, did not  
 consider equality with God something to be used to  
 his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing  
 by taking the very nature of a servant, being made  
 in human likeness. And being found in appearance  
 as a man, he humbled himself by becoming  
 obedient to death - even death on a cross!

Philippians 2:6-8

