

Daniel 2:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar
Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was
troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

Analysis

The timing 'second year of Nebuchadnezzar' creates an apparent chronological difficulty with Daniel 1:5, 18 (three years of training). This likely uses Babylonian accession-year dating where the first partial year doesn't count, making this approximately 603 BC. God sovereignly sends troubling dreams to the pagan king, demonstrating His control over even the sleep of mighty emperors. The repeated 'Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams' emphasizes the disturbing nature—multiple dreams or recurring visions that troubled his spirit. God uses dreams to reveal truth to pagans (cf. Pharaoh, Gen. 41; Abimelech, Gen. 20), showing His universal sovereignty and willingness to communicate even with those who don't acknowledge Him.

Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar II ruled 605-562 BC after defeating Egypt at Carchemish. In his second regnal year (603 BC), he consolidated power over his vast empire stretching from Egypt to Persia. Ancient Near Eastern kings took dreams seriously as divine communication, employing professional dream interpreters. Mesopotamian omen literature contains extensive dream interpretation manuals. The king's troubled sleep reflects the ancient belief that disturbing dreams portended significant events requiring wise counsel.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's use of dreams with pagan rulers demonstrate His sovereignty over all nations and peoples?
2. What does this passage teach about God's willingness to reveal truth even to those who don't acknowledge Him?

Interlinear Text

וּבְשָׁנָה ת	שְׁנֵי יָמִים	לְמַלְכוּת	נְבֻכַדְנֶצַּר ר	חָלָם
year	And in the second	of the reign	Nebuchadnezzar	dreamed
H8141	H8147	H4438	H5019	H2492
נְבֻכַדְנֶצַּר ר	חָלָם וְ	וַתִּתְּפַ עָם	רוּחַ וְ	וְשֵׁנָתוֹ
Nebuchadnezzar	dreams	was troubled	wherewith his spirit	and his sleep
H5019	H2472	H6470	H7307	H8142
עָלָיו: נִהְיָה ה				
brake	H5921			
H1961				

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 4:5 (Parallel theme): I saw a dream which made me afraid, and the thoughts upon my bed and the visions of my head troubled me.

Esther 6:1 (Kingdom): On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king.

