

Daniel 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

Analysis

The king's statement 'I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream' reveals deep existential anxiety. The Hebrew ruach (spirit/wind) was troubled (pa'am, agitated), showing inner turmoil that wouldn't let him rest. He intuitively recognizes this dream carries profound significance beyond ordinary nighttime visions. God uses this anxiety to create openness to His revelation. The king's uncertainty about the dream's meaning (and possibly its details) prefigures his later confession that only the God of heaven reveals mysteries (v. 47).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern kingship ideology held that kings received divine communication through dreams, omens, and visions. A disturbing dream threatened the king's sense of divine favor and political stability. If the gods were warning of danger, failure to interpret and respond could mean military defeat, rebellion, or natural disaster. This explains Nebuchadnezzar's urgency and harsh treatment of counselors who couldn't provide interpretation.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

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