

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

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does God use inner restlessness and anxiety to prepare hearts for receiving His truth?
2. What does the king's troubled spirit teach about the human need for divine wisdom beyond what worldly expertise can provide?

Interlinear Text

סִלְמָנִי	בְּמַלְאָכִים	בְּמַלְאָכִים	לְבָם	לְבָם	בְּמַלְאָכִים	אָמַר
said	H1992	And the king	a dream	unto them	I have dreamed	
H559		H4428	H2472		H2492	
וְתַּתְפַּעַם	רֹוחַ	עַתָּה	לְדֹבֶר	אַתָּה	בְּמַלְאָכִים	
was troubled	and my spirit	to know	H853	a dream		
H6470	H7307	H3045		H2472		

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 40:8 (Parallel theme): And they said unto him, We have dreamed a dream, and there is no interpreter of it. And Joseph said unto them, Do not interpretations belong to God? tell me them, I pray you.

Genesis 41:15 (Parallel theme): And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it.