

THE BOOK OF

DANIEL

Using Your Spiritual Gifts

Chapter 2

Goal Of Chapter 2

To help you to see how Daniel uses a supernatural gift given to him by God, while living in a pagan culture. Oftentimes we don't exercise the gifts in us out of hesitancy - their operation could signify going against social and even religious norms - but what we see here is that while living out our faith we should be looking for ways to glorify God with the gifts he has given us.



Babylonian Captivity

The Babylonian captivity was the period in Israel's history when Jews were taken captive by King Nebuchadnezzar. Due to Israel's sin and rebellion, God uses the nation of Babylon to punish his people. Under King Nebuchadnezzar's reign, the Babylonian Empire spread throughout the Middle East, and according to 2 Kings 24:1 it was around 607 B.C. that King Nebuchadnezzar took many of the finest and brightest young men from each city in Judah captive. This included Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. During the period of Babylonian captivity, the main prophets were Jeremiah and Ezra. Jeremiah was the prophet during the time leading up to the fall of Jerusalem and the exile while Ezra dealt with the return of the Jews as promised over 70 years before by God through the prophet Jeremiah. The book of Nehemiah also deals with the return and rebuilding of Jerusalem after the exile was over. God eventually does judge the Babylonians for their sins, and the Babylonian Empire fell to the armies of Persia in 539 B.C.

Spiritual Gifts (Continuationism)

Continuationism is the belief that all the spiritual gifts, including healings, tongues, and miracles, are still in operation today, just as they were in the days of the early church. As a church we believe that the gifts of the spirit have not ceased, but that they should be in full operation in the lives of believers and God's church. We believe that God gives his body a diversity of gifts for the building of his bride and the witness of his power. Paul spends time encouraging us to use and pray for these gifts while also cautioning us against abusing them.

List of Spiritual Gifts

Please note that this is not a completed list

- Tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28, 30)
- Interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:10, 30)
- Prophecy (Ephesians 4:11)
- Miracles (1 Corinthians 12:10, 28)
- Healing (1 Corinthians 12:9, 28)
- Generosity (Romans 12:8)
- Teaching (1 Corinthians 12:28)
- Evangelism (Ephesians 4:11)
- Discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10)
- Hospitality (1 Peter 4:9–10)
- Dream Interpretation (Daniel 2, Genesis 37: 5-11)
- Administration (Corinthians 12:28)

Understanding Daniel 2:44–45

Daniel now comes to the climax of the revelation of King Nebuchadnezzar's dream: the coming kingdom of God through his son Jesus, which is symbolized by the stone. This stone will be of divine origin, God himself will cut from the mountain it. Will not be made by human hands like the other materials mentioned in this dream interpretation. This stone is also eternal, based on verse 44 which says it will never be destroyed. Lastly, by earthly standards this stone is not as precious as the other materials listed - it represents Jesus emptying of himself and coming as a humble servant with no army, no servants, and no earthly kingdom.

Examples Of God Using Dreams, Interpretations & Vision

- Joseph - Genesis 37:1–11 (Dream)
- Joseph - Genesis 40 (Interpretation)
- Joseph - Genesis 41:1-57 (Dream & Interpretation)
- Abimelech - Genesis 20:1-7 (Dream)
- The Midianite and Amalekite armies - Judges 7:12-15 (Dreams)
- Samuel - 1 Samuel 3:1-21(Vision)
- Solomon - 1 Kings 3:5 (Dream)
- Joseph - Matthew 1:21 (Dream)
- Zacharias - Luke 1:5-23 (Vision)
- Pilate's wife - Matthew 27:19 (Dream)
- Peter - Acts 10:9-15 (Vision)

Questions:

1. Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Have you ever spent time praying for God to reveal what they are?

2. Have you considered the many ways you use the giftings God has given you at your occupation? (See verses 46-49 as Daniel used his gift which caused God to get the glory and Daniel to be promoted.)

3. Daniel's gift is used outside of the church. How have you done using your giftings outside of the four walls of the church?