

(Questions for Small Groups & Individuals - from Pastor Mark's sermon on 6-6-10)

## The Book of Daniel – Chapter 2

### God is in control ... and He has a plan

[Many of the questions have no right or wrong answer but are meant to promote discussion (or individual contemplation) about the scriptural principles involved. If you have difficult questions (that cannot be resolved in your small group), please feel free to contact Pastor Mark. **To the Small Group Facilitator:** There may not be time to discuss all of the questions. Always feel free to skip some questions so that you can focus on those that are most important for your group to discuss.]

#### REVIEW from Daniel Chpt. 1

**Question #1:** Pastor Mark has given a “theme” to the Book of Daniel: “God is in control ... and He has a plan.” Have you ever felt that God was not in control and/or you questioned if He had a plan? Share your thoughts with your small group. What helped you overcome these doubts?

#### READ Daniel 2:1-12 1 John 4:1

**Question #2:** Pastor Mark said that Nebuchadnezzar knew this dream was very significant and he had to have an authentic interpretation of it. Pastor Mark said that the king was very shrewd in how he sought a genuine interpretation of his dream. He said that the king's requirement that his magicians and sorcerers knew what his dream was – without the king telling them – required a genuine miracle and thus guaranteed the accuracy of the interpretation. Pastor Mark said that when people claim miraculous powers or special messages from God - we need to be very careful and discerning. Have you ever had a person claim to have miraculous powers or special messages from God that proved to be false? What would be your advice to a new Christian that was confronted by something like this?

**Question #3:** Pastor Mark defined a miracle as, “God intervening in natural law”. As you consider this definition, do you think Christians today use the term “miracle” too casually? Why do you think it is important to be careful what we call a “miracle”?

#### READ Daniel 2:13-24

**Question #4:** Pastor Mark said that verse 17 tells us that Daniel immediately asked his 3 close friends to pray and then he prayed himself about the interpretation of the dream. When you are confronted by a crisis, is prayer your immediate response? Do you have people you could contact to ask for prayer? What has helped you develop a better prayer life both as an individual and with other people?

#### READ Daniel 2:25-30

**Question #5:** Pastor Mark points out that Daniel is very careful to give credit to God for the interpretation of the dream. Have you ever observed a Christian be miraculously used by God - but then not give the credit to God and allow himself to receive the credit? Why must Christians guard against this temptation?

#### READ Daniel 2:31-49

**Question #6:** Pastor Mark said that Daniel then gives the interpretation of the king's dream – which is a prophecy about the future. The gold part of the statue represents the Babylonian Empire, the silver part – the Persian Empire, the brass part – the Greek Empire, and the iron (and iron & clay) – the Roman Empire. As you consider this astoundingly accurate prophecy, how would you use this as evidence to support the Bible's authenticity?

#### READ Ephesians 2:20 & 1 Peter 2:8

**Question #7:** Pastor Mark said that the stone that destroyed the statue represents Jesus at His second advent (or “coming”). Jesus is described in these New Testament verses as a stone. The book of Daniel and the New Testament were written several centuries apart and yet the imagery of the stone fits perfectly. Does the harmony of these passages encourage your faith in the Bible's validity? Why?