

RESILIENT COURAGE

June 28 & 29, 2025

Daniel 2:1-13, 17-18 (NLT)

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Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, "Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means." But the king said to the astrologers, "I am serious about this. If you don't tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble! But if you tell me what I dreamed and what the dream means, I will give you many wonderful gifts and honors. Just tell me the dream and what it means!"

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The astrologers replied to the king, "No one on earth can tell the king his dream! And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or astrologer! The king's demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people." The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed. And because of the king's decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends...

Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon.

3 Keys to Recognizing a Religious Fraud

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They elevate their beliefs and themselves above everyone.

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→ Conflict to Scripture -

Everything they say will appear to be truth but ultimately contradict scripture.

Undermining faith in God -

They will develop in you a dependence on what they say, requiring a level of faith that ultimately leads you astray from faith in God.

Spiritual deception -

They appear to communicate with the dead or energy forces in the universe, even though scripture says to avoid this type of paganism.

→ Moral ambiguity -

Astrology and similar practices will develop in you a contrary world view instead of a biblical worldview.

→ Psychological impact -

These practices will often develop anxiety, confusion, and deep disappointment, instead of the peace and clarity God brings through His Word.

→ Cultural and social pressure -

With the increased influence of social media, many Christians are feeling social pressure to participate in these unbiblical practices.

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Now, suppose someone says, "Consult mediums and spiritists who moan and mutter their incantations in their ritual pits; after all, isn't it right for people to seek oracles from their gods by asking the dead about the destiny of the living? You are to answer them: "Listen to the teaching and instruction of the Lord! If their speech does not line up with his word, they will have no light of dawn!"

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But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves.

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So admit your sins to each other, and pray for each other so that you will be healed. Prayers offered by those who have God's approval are effective.

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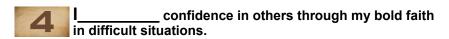
That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. He said, "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."

Three ways	God	speaks	to	us
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Proverbs 2:1-5 (GW)

My son, if you take my words to heart and treasure my commands within you, if you pay close attention to wisdom, and let your mind reach for understanding, if indeed you call out for insight, if you ask aloud for understanding, if you search for wisdom as if it were money and hunt for it as if it were hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and you will find the knowledge of God.



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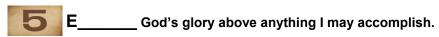
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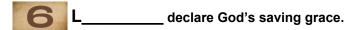


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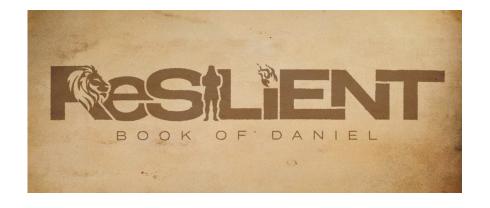


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Three ways God speaks to us:

- The <u>Bible</u>
- Prayer
- Circumstances

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