

Understanding and Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 7: The Word of Knowledge

In this lesson you will learn:

1. What is the gift of the Spirit called “a word of knowledge”?
2. Why is it needed in the work of God?

Revelation from God is not given to tell you everything you want to know:



Some things belong only to God!



Deuteronomy 29:29

²⁹ *The secret things belong unto the LORD our God:*

but those *things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

Some things belong only to God!



God will tell you what you NEED to know in order to accomplish HIS purpose.



God expects us trust our future to HIM and know our life is in HIS hands.

Stay away from anyone who offers to tell you secrets that God keeps hidden. This is the work of witches and fortune-tellers, and others who give themselves over to lying spirits and practice the black arts.

The Spirit SPEAKS

The Spirit REVEALS

By the gift of the word of knowledge, the Holy Spirit reveals a secret you need to know to complete your assignment from God, something that you could not know any other way, such as the meaning of a dream or a future event.

To learn more about the word of knowledge, we will look at the amazing story of Joseph, found in Genesis chapters 37 to 50.



In Genesis 37, Joseph told his brothers about two dreams:

In the first dream, his brothers' bundles of grain bowed down to his bundle of grain.

In his second dream, the sun, moon, and 11 stars bowed down before him.



His older brothers were so jealous that they thought about killing him, but then they decided to sell him to the Midianites, who sold him to a captain in Pharaoh's guard.



In Genesis 39, we learn that the captain's wife tried to seduce Joseph, and he ran away from her. She said he assaulted her, and Joseph was put in prison.



In Genesis 40, we learn that Joseph interpreted the strange dreams of the Pharaoh's butler, and baker who were imprisoned with him. Both dreams came to pass just as he said they would.



In Genesis 41, we learn that two years later, Joseph was taken out of prison to stand before the Pharaoh to interpret his strange dreams.



Genesis 41:15-16

- ¹⁵ 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.*
- ¹⁶ And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, *It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.*

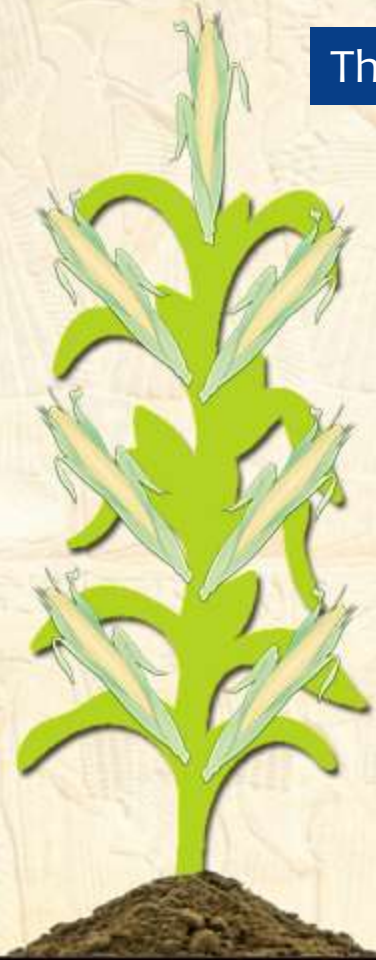


Genesis 41:17-21

- ¹⁷ And Pharaoh said unto Joseph,
In my dream, behold, I stood upon the bank of the river:
- ¹⁸ And, behold, there came up out of the river seven kine [cows], fatfleshed
and well favoured; and they fed in a meadow:
- ¹⁹ And, behold, seven other kine came up after them, poor and very ill
favoured and leanfleshed, such as I never saw in all the land of Egypt for
badness:
- ²⁰ And the lean and the ill favoured kine did eat up the first seven fat kine:
- ²¹ And when they had eaten them up, it could not be known that they had
eaten them; but they were still ill favoured, as at the beginning.
So I awoke.



The Pharaoh went back to sleep and had another dream!



Genesis 41:22-24

²² And I saw in my dream, and, behold, seven ears came up in one stalk, full and good:

²³ And, behold, seven ears, withered, thin, *and* blasted with the east wind, sprung up after them:

²⁴ And the thin ears devoured the seven good ears: and I told *this* unto the magicians; but *there was* none that could declare *it* to me.



Joseph told Pharaoh the meaning of the dreams.

Genesis 41:25

And Joseph said unto Pharaoh,
The dream of Pharaoh is one:
God hath shewed Pharaoh what he is
about to do.

Genesis 41:29

Behold, there come seven years of
great plenty throughout all the land
of Egypt:



Genesis 41:30-31

³⁰ And there shall arise after them seven years of famine; and all the plenty shall be forgotten in the land of Egypt; and the famine shall consume the land;

³¹ And the plenty shall not be known in the land by reason of that famine following; for it *shall be* very grievous.





Genesis 41:32

And for that the dream was doubled unto Pharaoh twice; *it is* because the thing *is* established by God, and God will shortly bring it to pass.

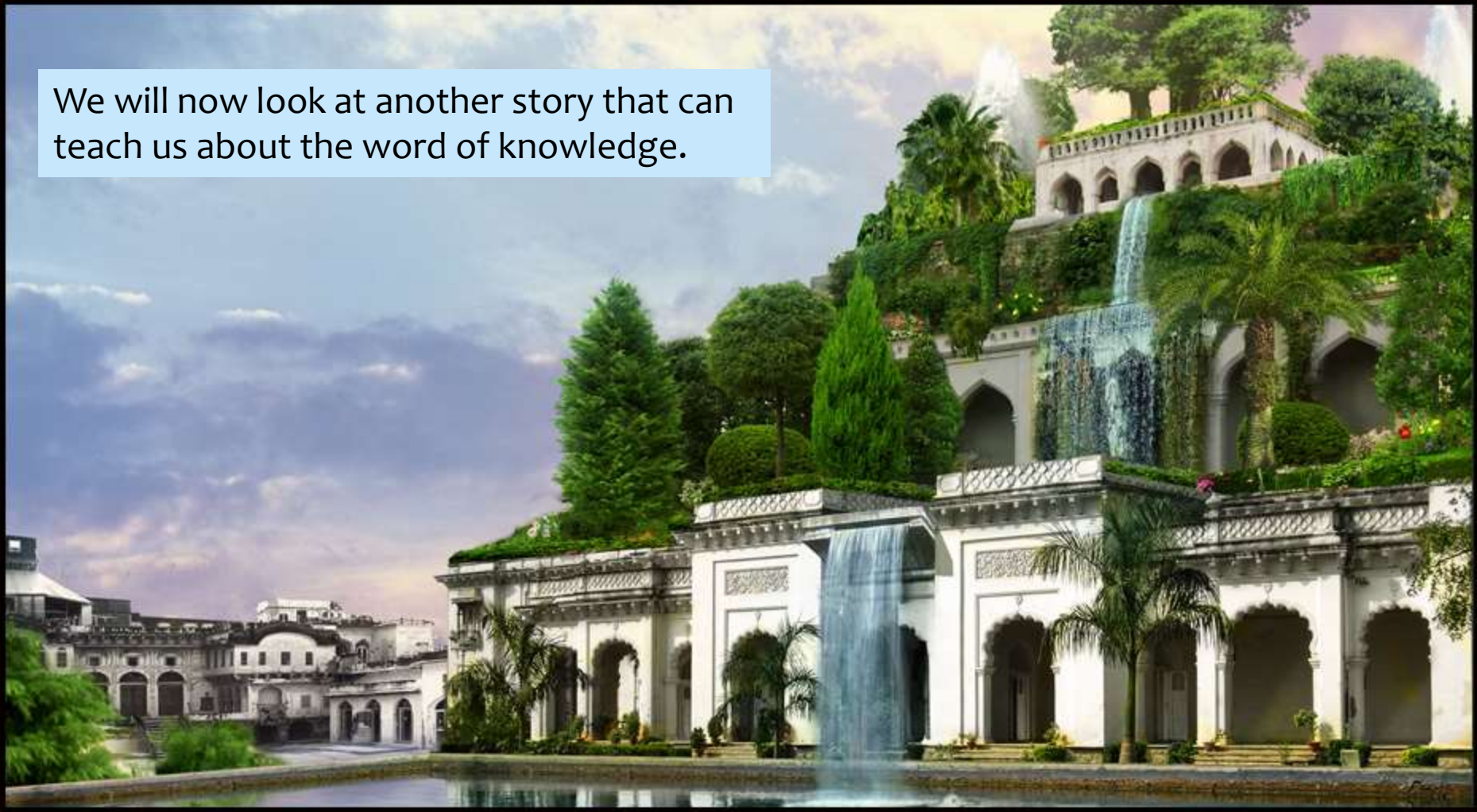
The interpretation of Pharaoh's dream had four parts:

1. God was giving Pharaoh an answer of peace (these things would lead to something good for Egypt).
2. The two different dreams had the same meaning.
3. There would be seven years of great plenty followed by seven years of severe famine.
4. These events would come to pass shortly.

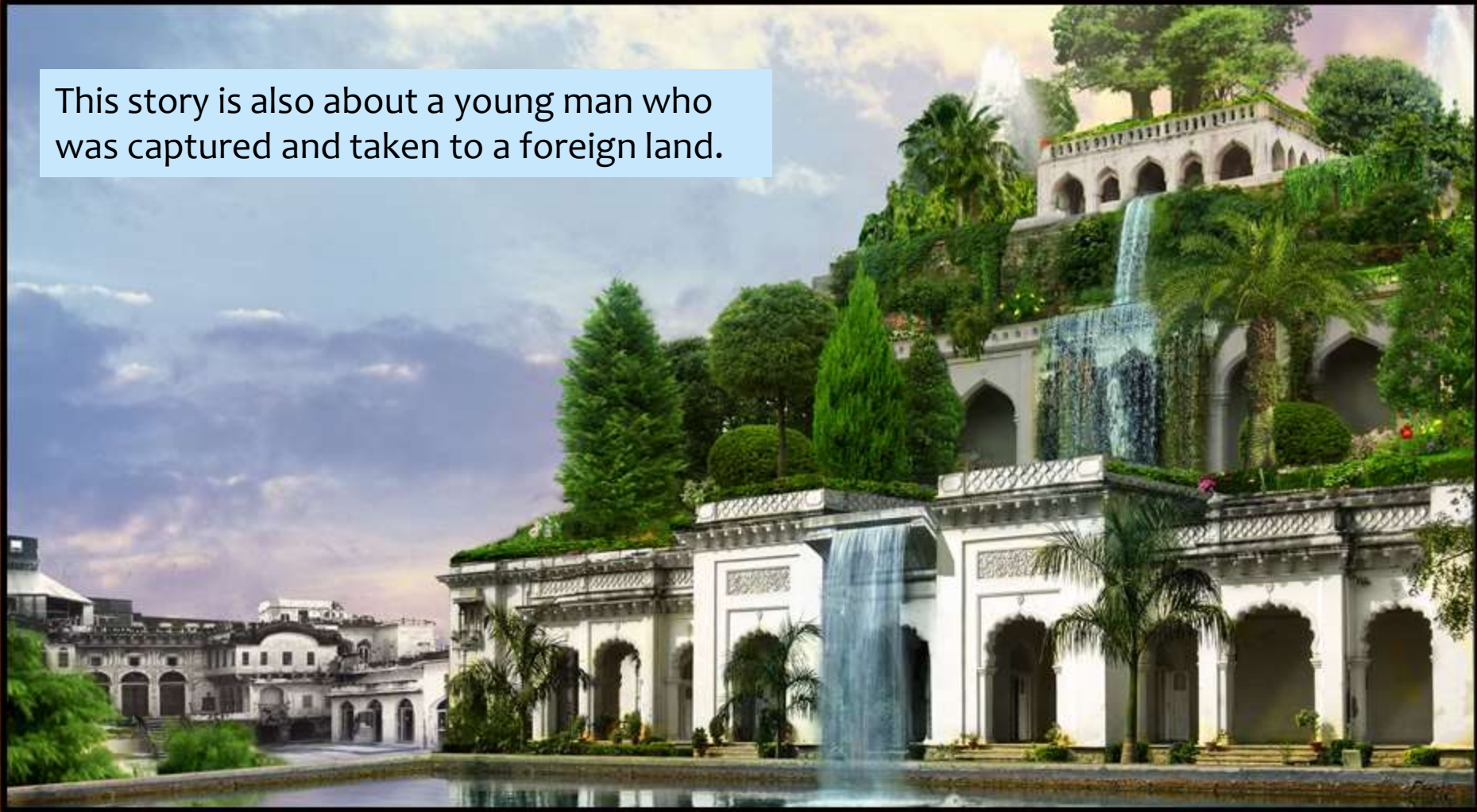
How did Joseph know the meaning of the baker and butler's dreams?
How did he know the meaning of the Pharaoh's two dreams?

These secrets were REVEALED to Joseph by a word of knowledge.

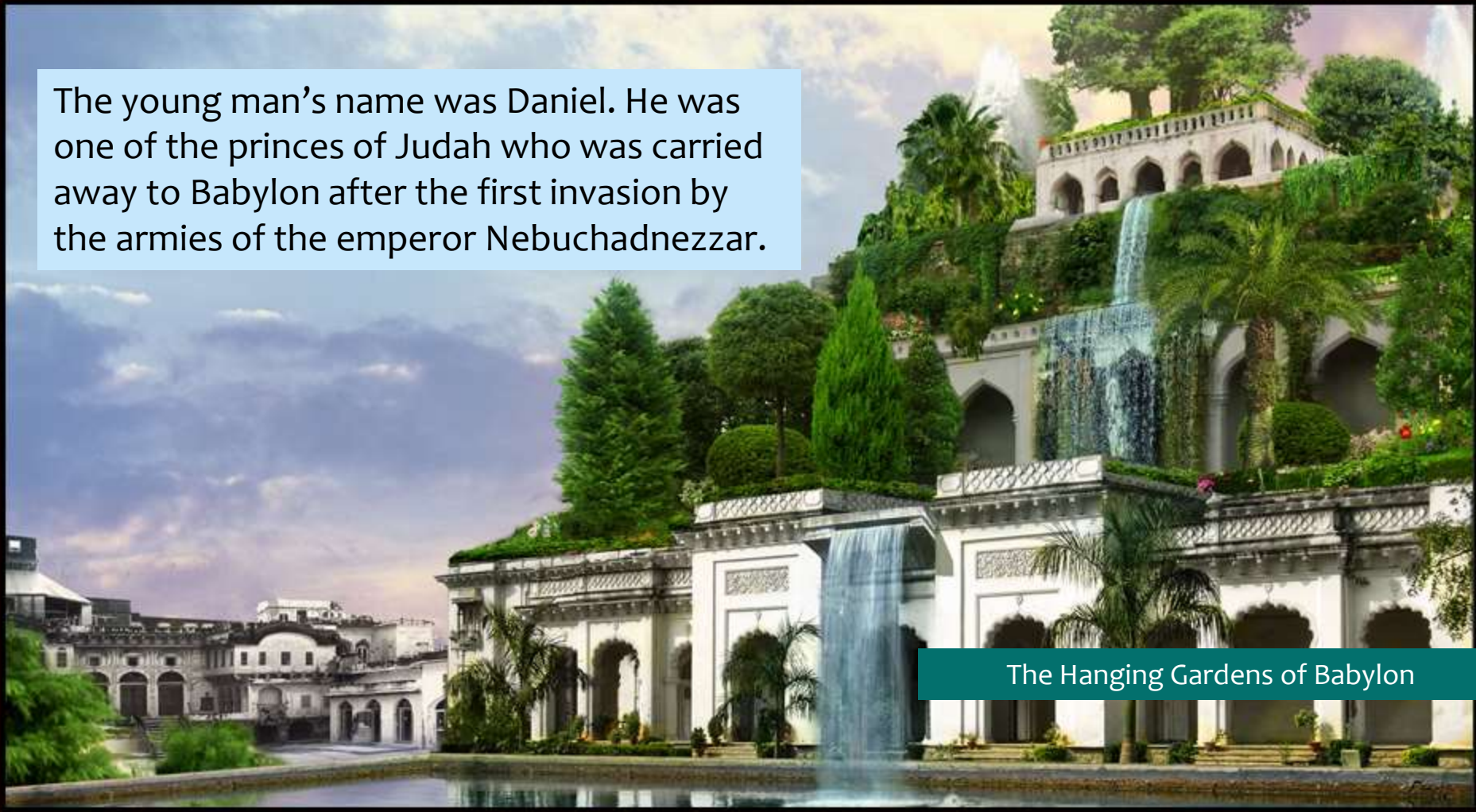
We will now look at another story that can teach us about the word of knowledge.



This story is also about a young man who was captured and taken to a foreign land.



The young man's name was Daniel. He was one of the princes of Judah who was carried away to Babylon after the first invasion by the armies of the emperor Nebuchadnezzar.



The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

It was King Nebuchadnezzar who needed help understanding his dream.



Daniel 2:3-4

- 3 And the king said unto them,
I have dreamed a dream,
and my spirit was troubled to
know the dream.
- 4 Then spake the Chaldeans to the
king in Syriack,
O king, live for ever:
tell thy servants the dream, and
we will shew the interpretation.



But this time, things were a little different. When the king woke up, his memory of his dream vanished away. He needed someone to INTERPRET his dream, but first he needed someone to tell him WHAT he dreamed!

Daniel 2:5a

- ⁵ The king answered and said to the Chaldeans,
The thing is gone from me:



The king kept many men on his payroll who were supposed to be able to solve such mysteries.

Now he would find out if they were truly gifted, or just pretenders.

Daniel 2:5b-6

- ⁵ ... if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.
- ⁶ But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof.



All the court magicians ran away in fear. But Daniel was confident that God was with him.

Daniel 2:16

¹⁶ Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.





Daniel 2:17-18

- 17 Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:
- 18 That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.



Having the gifts of the Spirit doesn't mean you don't need God anymore.

The gifts help you to get help you need from God!

Daniel 2:17-18

- ¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:
- ¹⁸ **That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret;** that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon.



If Daniel did not keep his promise to the king, he and his friends would also be put to death.

Daniel 2:17-18

- ¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:
- ¹⁸ That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; **that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.**





Daniel 2:19

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.



A revelation is a secret revealed!

Daniel 2:19

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.



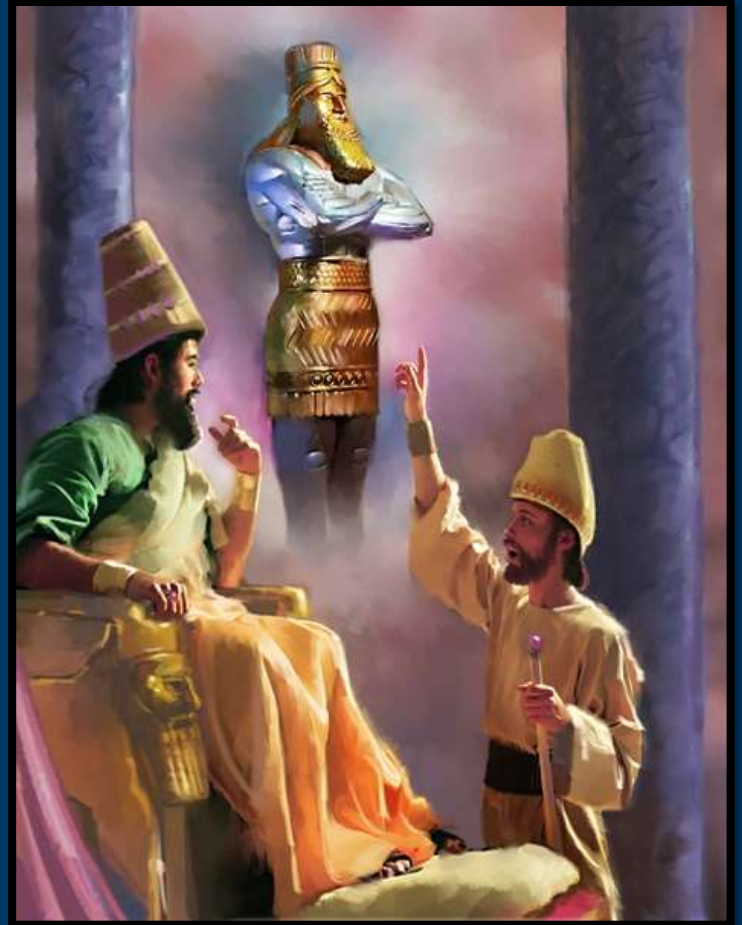
Daniel knew that HIS God was able to do what the other gods could not do.

Daniel 2:27-28a

- ²⁷ Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said,
The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;
- ²⁸ **But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets,** and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days...



By a revelation of a **word of knowledge**,
God showed Daniel what the king needed
to know.



Daniel tells the king what he dreamed in
Daniel 2:31-35.

He tells the king the meaning of his dream in
Daniel 2:36-45.



Daniel told the king that God gave him this dream to show him “what should come to pass.”

Daniel 2:28b-29

²⁸ Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

²⁹ As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came *into thy mind* upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter:

and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.



Nebuchadnezzar's dream foretold the foreign empires that would reign over the Holy Land until the day Jesus came to restore it once and for all. *

*this vision did not include the era of God's ministry to the Gentiles, a time that was "kept secret since the world began" (Rom. 16:25).



Just like it happened in Egypt, God showed his power to put his servant into a position of great authority in a foreign land.





Daniel 2:46-48

- 46 Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.
- 47 The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth *it is*, that your God *is* a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.
- 48 Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise *men* of Babylon.

Romans 8:28 says, “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

God turned the misfortunes of Joseph and Daniel into a great blessing for them and all his people.

In the next lesson we will study the word of WISDOM, the companion gift to the word of knowledge.

Questions to help you understand the lesson:

1. According to Deuteronomy 29:29, the secrets things belong to _____, but the things that are revealed belong to _____.
2. What are the SIX dreams we read about in the story of Joseph?
3. What were the four parts of the interpretation to Pharaoh's dream?
4. What were the two things Daniel needed to know about Nebuchadnezzar's dream?
5. What happened to both Joseph and Daniel as a result of the help they gave to the kings of Egypt and Babylon?

Each question is worth 20 points.



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