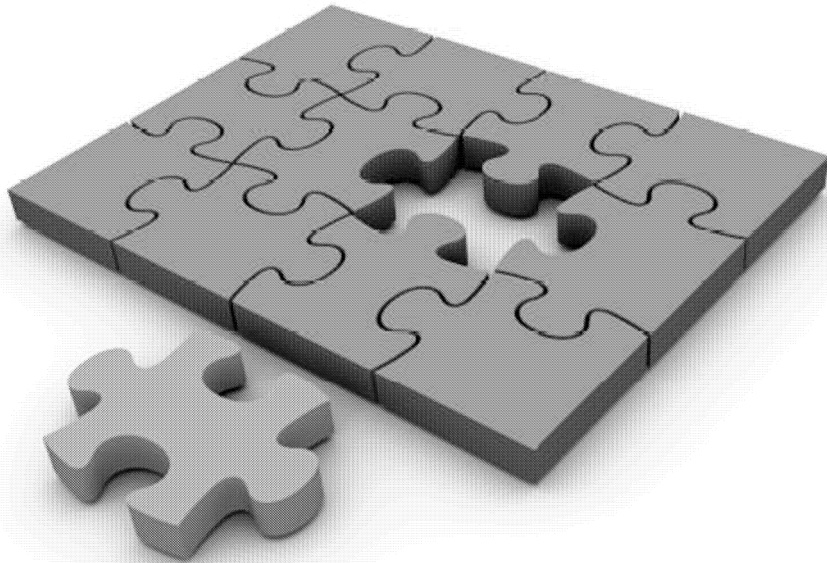


Studies in Daniel – (Study 14) “I had a dream...”

Reading: Daniel 4:5-9



Living a godly life in an ungodly world

There is a great contrast between the king's condition in verse 4 where we finished in our last study and that of verse 5 where the most powerful man on earth begins the story of his encounter with the God of the universe.

- 1) The abrupt manner in which the dream is introduced in verse 5 illustrates the unexpected suddenness of the event itself. *What other examples in scripture demonstrate the transient nature of earthly contentment, prosperity and security?*
- 2) As we read these verses we might be tempted to say “here we go again”. *What are the key similarities and the key differences between these verses and the account of the king's first dream in chapter 2?*
- 3) Why, if Daniel had been placed in charge of all the wise men of Babylon after that previous episode in chapter 2 (see 2:48); and was so well known for his ability to interpret dreams; did the king not summons him first of all?
- 4) At first glance it seems rather inconceivable that the king had not learnt from the experience of that first dream in chapter 2. *What do you think is happening here and how could that be said to still be the case for many today?*
- 5) It is interesting to note in verse 8 that the king makes specific reference to Daniel's Babylonian name. *Why do you think that this detail is included in Nebuchadnezzar's testimony?*
- 6) At the end of verse 8 and into verse 9 Nebuchadnezzar acknowledges that ‘the spirit of the holy gods’ is in Daniel. *What does the king mean and how does it show to what extent he has understood Daniel's god?*