



Story Context for Leader:

God was with His people while they were in Babylon. He also worked in the lives of those who held His people captive. To a king named Nebuchadnezzar, God revealed exactly what would happen to the Gentile kingdoms.

Bible–Telling Story

The Demand

Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon. One night he had a dream that troubled him. He called his counselors and told them to interpret his dream. They said, “Tell us the dream and we will interpret it for you.”

The king said, “You are to tell me my dream as well as its interpretation. If you don’t, you will suffer a slow death and your houses will be destroyed. But, if you tell me my dream and its interpretation, I will give you great rewards and honor. Now, tell me my dream!”

His counselors were shocked, but asked a second time, “Tell us your dream and we will give you the interpretation.”

Nebuchadnezzar grew impatient. “You’re stalling for time. You heard what I said. If I tell you my dream, you will make up an interpretation just to humor me. If you are able to tell me my dream, then I will know you are giving me the right interpretation.”

The counselors begged him. “No king has ever asked their counselors to do this. Only gods know the dreams people have when they are asleep.”

This made Nebuchadnezzar angry. He declared that all the counselors were to be killed, so the guards started gathering them up. Daniel heard of this and immediately sent a message to the king, “Give me some time and I will tell you your dream, as well as the interpretation.” Daniel asked his friends to pray.

The Dream

God showed Daniel the king’s dream, and gave him the interpretation. Daniel made an appointment, and then went to meet with the king. Nebuchadnezzar looked at him and said,

“Is it true you can tell me my dream and its interpretation?” Daniel was careful with his answer. “No man is able to do what you have asked, but there is a God in heaven who has shown me what you dreamed when you were asleep.

“He has given you a vision of what is going to happen in the future of the world. You saw a massive statue in your dream. It had a head of gold. Its arms and chest were silver, and its belly and hips were bronze. It had legs of iron, and its feet were a mixture of iron and clay. Suddenly a stone was cut out of a mountain, but you couldn’t see the hands that did it. This stone hit the feet and the entire statue was destroyed.

“The pieces crashed to the ground and the wind blew it all away as if it had no weight at all. As you watched, the stone got larger until it filled the entire earth.”

The Interpretation

“This is the interpretation of your dream. God has made you the head of gold. After you will arise another kingdom that is not as good as you. Then a third kingdom of bronze will rule the world. The fourth kingdom will be as strong as iron and will crush everything in its way. The last kingdom will be divided with two feet and ten toes. Part of the kingdom will have the strength of iron, but part will be as brittle as clay.

“The stone carved out of the mountain is God’s kingdom, which will be formed without earthly hands. God will destroy all the kingdoms of this world, but His kingdom will never end.

“Oh king, God has shown you the future with a dream, and it will happen just as the dream has said.”

Nebuchadnezzar fell down with his face to the ground, and said, “Your God is God! He is the Lord!” He then made Daniel a great ruler in his kingdom.

The Demand

hands on your head like a crown

Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon

head on hands like sleeping

had a dream that troubled him

motion “come”

called for his counselors

point out

tell us your dream.

point in

tell me my dream or slow death

point out

tell us your dream.

point in

you would just make something up.

point out

no king as ever asked this.

point in

kill them all.

to the side (to Daniel)

I'll tell you your dream.

The Dream

hand to the side of forehead

God showed Daniel the king's dream

point far out

The future of the world

both hands on head

head of gold

put hand on chest and hold other hand out

chest and arms of silver

put hands on stomach and side of hip

belly and hips of bronze

put hands on legs

legs of iron

point to feet

feet of iron mixed with clay

hand out like holding something—and throw it

stone made without hands – hits statue

fingers explode out – wave hands out

move hands up

*statue is destroyed – blows away
stone got larger until it filled the entire earth*

The Interpretation

both hands on head

you are the head of gold

put hand on chest and hold other hand out

another kingdom not as good as you

put hands on stomach and side of hip

third kingdom will rule the world

put hands on legs

fourth kingdom will crush

point to feet

last kingdom will be strong but brittle

put hand out like holding something

God's kingdom formed without hands

fingers explode out – hands move out

*God will destroy all the kingdoms of the world
there will be no end to His kingdom*