

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, January 21, 2018

**Do You Need a Comeback?
A Study of Daniel 2**

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Describe your favorite “comeback moment.” This can be from a sports team, a business, or a personal story of rising above disability or failure.

In Daniel 2, Daniel faced certain death. He needed a comeback. To find out why he was in this fix, answer the following questions. Use the verses provided.

- ❖ What does the king ask of the astrologers (verses 1-3)?
- ❖ Why is he testing their competence (verses 4-11)?
- ❖ In his fury, what does the king decide to do (verses 12-13)?

When you need a come-from-behind win, do what Daniel did. Use your sermon notes to fill in the main points as we come to them.

Pr _____
Your comeback starts with prayer.

Read Daniel 2:14-18.

For you, does prayer tend to be a “first response” or a “last resort”? Why?

Daniel enlisted his friends to join him in prayer. Do you ask for prayer from others or do you tend to keep your burdens private? Why?

If you attended yesterday’s event, “The Lord’s Prayer Experience,” discuss any new insights or commitments you have about prayer.

Pr _____
Celebrate your relationship with a God who is great and good.

Read Daniel 2:19-23.

What gifts does Daniel praise God for? Why?

What does Daniel's praise song say about God? About prayer? About counting our blessings?

Why does Daniel particularly praise God for giving him "wisdom and power"? How does this relate to the claims of the king and astrologers?

Pr _____

Help others understand the character and ways of the God you love.

Daniel helped the king understand God in two ways: in the way the dream was revealed to Daniel and in what the dream revealed.

*Daniel helped the king understand God
in the way the dream was revealed to Daniel*

Read Daniel 2:24-30.

To whom did Arioch give credit for finding an answer to the dream? To whom did Daniel give credit?

*Daniel helped the king understand God
in what the dream revealed*

Read Daniel 2:31-35.

In the upcoming Winter Olympics, what material is used for the first-place medal? The second-place medal? The third-place medal?

What material was the head made of? The chest and arms? The thighs? The legs and feet?

As the description of the statue moves from head to feet, is the quality improving or declining?

Read Daniel 2:36-43. The golden head is interpreted as Nebuchadnezzar. The rest of the statue is interpreted as successive nations that come after Babylon, one after the other. Does this vision imagine human governments as getting progressively better or increasingly corrupt?

Read Daniel 2:44-45. What did Daniel say was the rock in the dream, and what did the rock do? In Matthew 21:42-44, the rock is identified in what way?

Read Daniel 2:46-47. Daniel had just told the king that his kingdom would be overcome by a series of kingdoms of declining quality, and all of them would be demolished by the arrival of God's "Rock." So, why did the king act so relieved?

Daniel served as a high official in Babylon into his 90s, though this vision revealed everything he worked for would crumble. What kept him going? (Jeremiah 29:4-7 might help here.)

In what way is the Christian life in today's culture like Daniel's faithful service as an exile in Babylon?



Close with praise reports and prayer requests