

10. Daniel and the King's dream

One night the great king of Babylon had a dream. When he woke up he was very troubled. He called all his advisers and said, "I had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means." The king's advisers said, "O king, just tell us the dream and we will explain it." But the king answered, "No. You must tell me the dream and explain it too. If you can not tell me what the dream was and explain the meaning of it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses will be totally destroyed. So, tell me the dream and I will know that you can explain it as well."

Some of the young men who were captured in Israel lived in the palace to serve the king. Amongst them were Daniel and his three friends. They knew God. When Daniel heard the king's order, he and his friends asked God to help them and God revealed the dream and its meaning to Daniel. The next day Daniel went to see the king. The king asked Daniel, "Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and explain it?" Daniel said, "No one can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about. But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown the king what will happen in the future. The dream you had went like this:

พระเจ้าบาเบลทรงฝันว่าเห็นรูปปั้นขนาดใหญ่สองประ
แต่ละส่วนของรูปปั้นนั้นทำด้วยวัสดุต่างกัน ศีรษะเป็น
ทองคำ ออกและแขนเป็นเงิน ท้องเป็นทองสัมฤทธิ์ ขาทำด้วย
เหล็ก และเท้าเป็นเหล็กผสมดินเหนียว
“แล้วพระองค์ทอดพระเนตรเห็นนิมิตศรรีย์ก่อน
หนึ่งตัดมาจากภูเขา ไม่ใช่โดยฝีมือมนุษย์ กิ่งลงมาจาก
ไหล่เขา ชนโครมที่เท้าของรูปปั้น รูปปั้นนั้นก็พังครืน
ลงมาหมด ทั้งทอง เงิน ทองสัมฤทธิ์ เหล็ก และ
ดินเหนียวผสมปนเปกัน แล้วหินที่กลิ้งลงมา
มีขนาดใหญ่ขึ้น ๆ จนเต็มโลก”

Daniel explained to the king that God revealed the future through the dream. After the Babylonian Empire there would be three more empires before God himself would come and change the world.

Vocabulary

to be troubled	หนักใจ	I was troubled when I heard the bad news.
advisers	ที่ปรึกษา	Advisers are people who give advice.
to destroy	ทำลาย	The car was destroyed by fire.
to reveal	เปิดเผย	The secrets were revealed to the press.
mystery	ความลึกลับ	No one knows exactly what happened. It is still a mystery.
future	อนาคต	We can learn from the past to prepare us for the future.
empire	จักรวรรดิ	Bill Gates became the richest man through his software empire.

Comprehension

1. Why were the king's advisors upset?.....
2. How did Daniel know what the king dreamt?
3. How can God know what will happen in the future?.....

