

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

BE TESTY

By Jeff Sweeten

Irritability is not good; being “testy” is. A little fruit inspection is evidence of the heart’s intents and defines the fruit tree (Matthew 7:16-20; Romans 16:18a). Nebuchadnezzar was testy (Daniel 2).

The king’s soothsayers were probably living in “tall cotton” until he asked them to validate their existence (v. 2). His dreams troubled him, and he wanted the truth. His “prophet test” called for his otherworld entourage to not only interpret the dream but, first(!), tell him what he had dreamed (v. 9). Any innovative, fertile imagination could conjure up speculations; that was too easy. What wise ol’ King Nebu wanted was the unknown dream first, and only then would the interpretation be valid.

Now, if a prophet could look inside your mind and recite a dream not previously revealed, knowing it’s interpretation would be equally supernatural. (So, why do phone psychics start off by asking your name?). His sorcerers stalled and, then, panicked as their subconscious screamed: “Busted!” They responded, *“It is a difficult thing that the king requests, and there is no other who can tell it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh”* (v. 11).

There must have been some preliminary suspicion about their powers of prophecy but the nail in the snake-charmers’ coffins was that the king could now draw the conclusion that they hadn’t been getting their information from the gods to start with, so he began killing them. But, Daniel knew the Truth. *“The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king. But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days”* (vs. 27-28).

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). The next time a friend gets perturbed because you challenged his/her faith, remember King Nebuchadnezzar. And, if you are challenged, ask yourself when you would prefer to learn the truth: before you buy the lie or after the lie has become your life (2 Thessalonians 2:11-12)? The Judgment is too late to discover truth; challenge now. *“Test all things; hold fast what is good”* (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Be testy!

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130