

The Junior Observer

Vol. 34, No. 3 Published by The Observer, Official Catholic Newspaper of the Diocese of Rockford JuniorObserver@RockfordDiocese.org

Q&A

Who wanted to know the meaning of his dream?

Who revealed the dream's meaning to Daniel?

Read more about it in Daniel 2

An Old Testament Story

Daniel Explains a King's Dream

Catholic News Service

One day, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon wanted his dream interpreted.

He summoned all of the city's enchanters, sorcerers, magicians and Chaldeans. Nebuchadnezzar expected these men to know what his dream was without being told and then interpret it correctly.

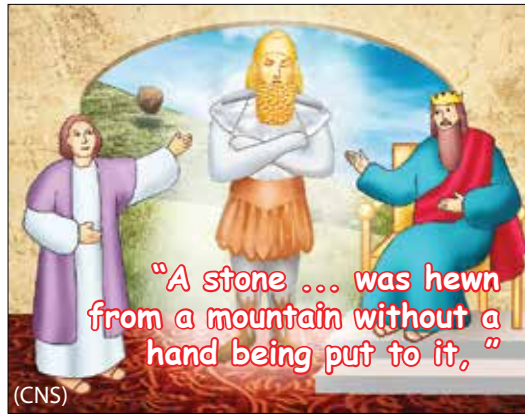
The king became angry when the men said they could not do so, and he ordered all of Babylon's wise men to be put to death.

Daniel, an Israelite who had been taken to Babylon to serve Nebuchadnezzar after the king's siege of Jerusalem, heard what was going on.

God had blessed Daniel with knowledge, wisdom and the understanding of visions and dreams. So Daniel asked for time from the king so he could interpret the dream.

During the night, God gave Daniel a vision in which the king's dream and its meaning were revealed.

Daniel praised God and asked to



Bible Trivia

What food did Daniel and his friends eat when they were being trained for the king's service? (Hint: Daniel 1:12)

Answer: Vegetables

see the king.

"There is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what is to happen in the last days," he said.

He described the king's dream, which was about a very large and bright statue. The statue's head was made of gold; its chest and arms were made of

silver; its belly was made of bronze; its legs were made of iron; and its feet were part iron and part tile.

"While you looked at the statue, a stone which was hewn from a mountain without a hand being put to it, struck its iron and tile feet, breaking them in pieces. The iron, tile, bronze, silver and gold all crumbled at once. ... But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth," Daniel told the king.

Daniel explained that the statue's head represented Babylon, and the other parts represented different kingdoms that would take Babylon's place. And the stone that struck the statue's feet and made the entire thing crumble represented the kingdom that God would create that would put an end to the other kingdoms and would not be destroyed.

The king was so pleased that he made Daniel ruler of the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men.

Advent Begins on Dec. 1

Advent is all about waiting for the birth of the Baby Jesus. This year the season of waiting and preparation begins Dec. 1.

There are many prophecies throughout the Old Testament that predict the coming of Jesus as the Messiah.

For example, Isaiah 7:14 and 9:5 talk about Jesus' birth.

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign; the young woman, pregnant and about to bear a son, shall name him Emmanuel" (Is 7:14).

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon His shoulder dominion rests. They name Him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace" (Is 9:5).

Advent gifts

In honor of Advent, it's a great time to give gifts to needy moms and babies.

Think of how your family might get ready for a new brother or sis-

ter. Would you buy blankets and diapers? Cribs and clothes? Any of these items would make wonderful gifts for your family to buy for a nearby pregnancy center.

Advent traditions

Does your family have any Advent traditions? This may be the year to start one.

Everyone can help make a simple Advent wreath.

All you need are five toilet paper tubes. Paint three purple, one pink and one white. After they are dry, glue the tubes to a strong paper plate, putting the white tube in the middle and the others around the outside.

Cut leaves from green construction paper, and the flames from yellow.

Glue the flames to craft sticks and put one in a "candle" each week and on Christmas day.

Find directions for this and other Advent crafts (with help from an adult) on our Pinterest board, The Observer Advent & Christmas.



(Observer photo)

Puzzle

Using the hints provided, answer the following questions about Daniel and Joseph.

1. What was Daniel's name changed to when he was taken to Babylon? (Daniel 1:7)

2. Where did King Darius cast Daniel? (Daniel 6:17)

3. Who was Joseph's father? (Genesis 37:3)

4. How many sons did Joseph have? (Genesis 46:20)

Answers: 1. Belshazzar; 2. in a lion's den; 3. Israel (Jacob); 4. two