

BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

We're in... Unit 4: The God Like None Other

Unit 4 Big Question and Answer:

Can Anybody Tell Me What the LORD Is Like?

He's Not Like Anyone Else!

PFI NIV Songs 4, Tracks 3,4

Unit 4 Bible Verse: 1 Kings 8:23, NIV 1984

"O LORD, there is no God like you." 1 King 8:23

PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 6

BIBLE TRUTH

We're learning... Bible Truth 5:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

God gave people minds to think and to learn with. From birth, people begin to learn things and they keep on learning their whole lives. But still, they die still not knowing many things.

God is very different from people. God knows everything in the whole universe and more. He knows everything about us, even what we are thinking in our hearts or do when no one else can see. He knows all of the past, the present, and even the future. No one has ever taught God anything. He just knows it. God is "omniscient"—all-knowing. He works out everything with perfect timing, according to His perfect will.

BIBLE VERSE

How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!

Bible Truth 5 Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him."

CASE STORY

Daniel 1-2

Our story is called:

The Case of the Impossible Answer.

As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:

1. What was the impossible answer and who wanted it?
2. Who gave the impossible answer? Why was he able to give it when no one else could?

This is an Old Testament story. It takes place about 600 years before Jesus lived on earth.

The huge, throne room of the mighty King of Babylon was magnificent! It was beautifully decorated with bricks glazed in royal blue, white and yellow daisies and great, roaring lions.

There certainly was roaring coming from the king's Throne Room this day, but it wasn't coming from the lions on the walls. It was coming from the mouth of the king, himself.

"Guards! Take these men and have them cut to pieces! Order their grand homes flattened into piles of rubble! Spare not a one of these worthless magi of mine! They are all fakes!" the king ordered the court soldiers. There was a flurry of ropes and rich robes as the guards seized and struggled with the magi—the highest, richest, most honored advisors of the king. They bound their hands and marched them out of the King's presence and thrown into prison.

These arrests were just the first. The guards spread out over Babylon, rounding up other magi of the king. At last they came to the door where the four magi, Belteshazzar, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, lived.

Bang! Bang! Bang! "Open up, Belteshazzar. This is Arioch, commander of the palace guard."

"What is it you want, gentlemen?" Belteshazzar asked as he opened the door to Arioch and his men.

"By the king's orders all magi are to be arrested and cut into pieces. Your homes are to be torn down. The rest of the magi are already in prison. You and your friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, are the last ones to be rounded up before execution," Arioch explained.

"What happened? Why does the King demand we die?" Belteshazzar asked in surprise.

Arioch told the story: "Today the King called the magi to his throne room for an important meeting. He told them, "My Magi, I have not been able to sleep for nights because of a dream that keeps troubling me. I have called you

together to tell me what it means.”

“O king, live forever!” they answered him, “Tell your servants the dream, and we will tell you what it means.”

“I’m not going to tell to you. You’re magis, you should know it even without me telling you. Tell me the dream and its meaning and I’ll reward you greatly. If you don’t, you’ll be put to death and your houses destroyed,” the king replied.

“This isn’t fair! No one can do what the king asks,” the magis told the king. “Only the gods can.”

“Throw these worthless magi in jail, the king ordered,” Arioch explained. “Now I’ve come for you.”

Beltshazzar thought about what the magi had said to the king: “They were right. Neither they nor the fake gods they worshiped could know these things. Only the LORD, the one, true God, could do this. He knows everything there is to know. The other magi don’t worship Him, but we do. We can ask Him to tell us the dream and its meaning,” Beltshazzar decided.

Beltshazzar turned to the king’s servant and said, “Arioch, you are a wise servant. Wouldn’t you like to spare the king the loss of all his magi? Let me speak to the king about this matter.”

Arioch agreed and led Beltshazzar to the king.

“Oh, King, I’m sure you would rather have your dream explained than put to death your magi. Give me a chance,” Beltshazzar suggested. The king agreed.

Beltshazzar returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. “Only the LORD can reveal these things. Pray with me. Let’s ask Him to help us and spare our lives, too,” he said to them.

The four men cried out to the LORD to help them. That very night He revealed both the dream and its meaning to Beltshazzar in a vision (special dream from God). Beltshazzar was overjoyed! “LORD, I praise You! You know all things. You reveal the secret hidden things that know one else knows. Thank You for telling me the king’s dream and its meaning!” he prayed.

Beltshazzar told Arioch the good news. The king asked he be brought to him at once.

The king asked Beltshazzar, “Are you able to tell me my dream and what it means?”

Beltshazzar replied, “Not me or your gods could do this, but the LORD, the one, true God can. He can reveal secret things because He knows everything there is to know.”

Beltshazzar declared. “He has shown you the future.”

“You saw an enormous, dazzling statue. The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms were made of silver, its belly and thighs were made of bronze. Its legs were made of iron and its feet were partly iron and partly clay. While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken into tiny pieces which were blown away by the wind. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth,” Beltshazzar told the king.

“This was your dream. Now for its meaning. You, O king, are the head of gold on the statue. The LORD has given you great power and made you ruler over many peoples and lands,” Beltshazzar told him.

The other parts of the statue are pictures of the kingdoms that will come after yours. Each one will rule over many peoples and lands, but they will each be weaker than the one before,” Beltshazzar explained.

But what about the mountain of rock that destroyed the statue and filled the whole earth? “In the time of those kings, the LORD will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself last forever,” he explained.

“The LORD, the great God, has shown you the future. This is your dream and its meaning,” Beltshazzar told the king.

The king was amazed. And though he was the great king of Babylon, he bowed down to Beltshazzar. “Your God is the one, true God over all gods. He has revealed the answer to my dream,” he replied.

Then the king rewarded Beltshazzar and his three friends by making them important leaders. And what great leaders they were! They didn’t rely on their own wisdom or that of idols, like the other magi. They sought only the LORD, the God who knows everything there is to know.

Our Bible Truth is:

The LORD Knows Everything There Is to Know

Our Bible Verse is: Daniel 2:20-22

“Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.”

Beltshazzar and his friends knew this, and even the king of Babylon came to confess this was true.

Did you ever wonder what happened with King's dream? The LORD told Beltshazzar the king's dream and gave him its meaning, but did it really come true?

Yes, it did! The kingdoms in the King's dream have come, just as the LORD told Beltshazzar they would. But what about that last kingdom? The one that was to come and last forever? Which is it? That kingdom is the kingdom of God. It's the kingdom Jesus brought the beginnings of when He suffered and died on the cross of God's people. It was then that He beat sin and death for God's people. Now, the kingdom of God lives in the hearts of God's people. God's Holy Spirit dwells there and is at work, helping them to know God and live to please Him with their lives.

But one day, God's kingdom will not just be in the hearts of God's people! Jesus will come back. He will do away with sin and death forever! He will set up God's kingdom completely in the new heaven and earth. Together He will live and reign with God's people forever! What a wonderful day that will be!

Isn't the LORD amazing? You and I cannot even know what will happen tomorrow, but the LORD is the God who knows everything there is to know. He even knows what will happen thousands of years in the future! What difference does that make for our lives? We know that there is not one day when we need to live in worry or fear, if we are God's people. God's people always have reason to joyfully trust Him. The LORD already knows the future and has planned everything according to His perfectly marvelous will. He loves them and will take care of them, no matter what.

How can we become God's people? By turning away from disobeying God and trusting in Jesus as our own Savior who died to take our punishment when He died on the cross.

Let's praise our great God who knows everything there is to know. Let's ask Him to help us to remember what He is like and trust Him with everything in our lives.

Note on Story: I chose to use the less well-known names of Beltshazzar, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; and call Nebuchadnezzar, the King of Babylon because this is a familiar story for so many children. Feel free to replace the familiar names (Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego), if more appropriate for your group.

Draw a picture from the story

SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU
<p>1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False: God gave people minds to learn things their whole lives. If they keep on learning, they will learn everything there is to know. Answer: False. God did give people to learn things, but they can never learn everything there is to know. Only God can.</p> <p>2. Crack the Case Questions: a. What was the impossible answer and who wanted it? Answer: To tell the king his dream and its meaning. The king wanted it.</p> <p>b. Who gave the impossible answer? Why was he able to give it when no one else could? Answer: Belteshazzar. Because the LORD, the one, true God who knows everything there is to know, revealed it to him.</p> <p>3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse: Daniel 2:20-22 "Praise be to the name of God ____ and ever; wisdom and power are His...He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the ____. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in ____, and light dwells with him." Answer: for ever, discerning, darkness.</p>

BIBLE TRUTH HYMN
<p>Immortal, Invisible <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 16</i></p> <p>Verse 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise, In light inaccessible, Hid from our eyes, Most blessed, most glorious, The Ancient of Days, Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.</p> <p>Words: Walter Chalmers Smith Music Welsh Hymn Tune</p> <p>The LORD is the Ancient of Days—He has always lived. He has always known what has happened, everywhere in the whole universe and beyond.. He is Immortal—He will never die, but always live to know everything. He is only wise—He always knows what is best and always does what is best. Because He is almighty and victorious, everything in the past, present and future always will be the working out of His perfect will.</p>

AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY
<p><i>A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication</i></p> <p>A God, we praise You for knowing everything there is to know and able to reveal to us whatever we need to know.</p> <p>C God, we confess that many times we have sins we try to hide from others and from You, but You know them all. We need Jesus to save us!</p> <p>T God, we thank You for giving Your people all the wisdom they need. Thank You for promising to always give us wisdom when we ask You.</p> <p>S God, we ask that You would work in our hearts that we might turn away from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. Help us to know You better and give us wisdom to know how to live for You.</p>

BIBLE VERSE SONG
<p>Praise Be to the Name of God <i>PFI NIV Songs 4, Track 17</i></p> <p>Praise be to the name of God forever and ever, Wisdom and power are His forever and ever. He gives wisdom to the wise, and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; He knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with Him. Praise be to the name of God forever and ever, Wisdom and power are His forever and ever. Daniel Chapter Two, verses twenty through twenty-two.</p> <p>Words: Daniel 2:20-22, NIV 1984 Music: Constance Dever ©2012</p> <p>These verses tell us that the LORD is the God who knows everything there is to know. He is completely wise. There is nothing that can be hidden from Him. He is the one who gives wisdom to make wise people wise.</p>