

Title: You've Got Mail - Daniel 6 1-10

Read:

¹ In the first year of the reign of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream. What he saw as he slept in his bed terrified him—a real nightmare. Then he wrote out his dream: ²⁻³ "In my dream that night I saw the four winds of heaven whipping up a great storm on the sea. Four huge animals, each different from the others, ascended out of the sea. ⁴ "The first animal looked like a lion, but it had the wings of an eagle. While I watched, its wings were pulled off. It was then pulled erect so that it was standing on two feet like a man. Then a human heart was placed in it. ⁵ "Then I saw a second animal that looked like a bear. It lurched from side to side, holding three ribs in its jaws. It was told, 'Attack! Devour! Fill your belly!' ⁶ "Next I saw another animal. This one looked like a panther. It had four birdlike wings on its back. This animal had four heads and was made to rule. ⁷ "After that, a fourth animal appeared in my dream. This one was a grisly horror—hideous. It had huge iron teeth. It crunched and swallowed its victims. Anything left over, it trampled into the ground. It was different from the other animals—this one was a real monster. It had ten horns. ⁸ "As I was staring at the horns and trying to figure out what they meant, another horn sprouted up, a little horn. Three of the original horns were pulled out to make room for it. There were human eyes in this little horn, and a big mouth speaking arrogantly. ⁹⁻¹⁰ "As I was watching all this, "Thrones were set in place and The Old One sat down. His robes were white as snow, his hair was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, its wheels blazing. A river of fire poured out of the throne. Thousands upon thousands served him, tens of thousands attended him. The courtroom was called to order, and the books were opened. ¹¹⁻¹³ "I kept watching. The little horn was speaking arrogantly. Then, as I watched, the monster was killed and its body cremated in a roaring fire. The other animals lived on for a limited time, but they didn't really do anything, had no power to rule. My dream continued. ¹³⁻¹⁴ "I saw a human form, a son of man, arriving in a whirl of clouds. He came to The Old One and was presented to him. He was given power to rule—all the glory of royalty. Everyone—race, color, and creed—had to serve him. His rule would be forever, never ending. His kingly rule would never be replaced.

Think:

Imagine waking up one morning having had that dream. You might decide to not eat pizza before you go to bed next time. How God speaks to us can be really strange sometimes. I don't know about you but I often hear people say things like "God spoke to me", "I had a picture", "In my vision" or "God gave me a word". What does that mean? Did God speak to them in a big booming voice? Did God give them a bit of paper with a word written on it? Was the picture framed? If we look throughout the Bible God speaks to people in all types of ways. Here God has given the king a dream that he dreamt whilst asleep. That doesn't mean all dreams are from God, just some. God spoke audibly through a burning bush to Moses, that doesn't mean that he always or even often speaks out loud, let alone through bushes. So how does God speak? Well the answer is... ah well actually that's the problem. We can't box our God up into a simple to understand packages. God's like you in some ways. He doesn't just use MSN, he doesn't just use text messages, and he doesn't just use email. If you want to speak to your mates you might go on MSN, but that won't be any good when you speak to your Granny, unless of course you have a techo Gran. When you want to communicate to parents they might think it a bit strange if you sent them a letter, when you can speak to them. God uses what he has available to him, and because this is the God who created the world he pretty much has everything available to him. So don't be surprised if God speaks to you in some strange ways sometimes. Most importantly keep an eye open to see how he might speak to you; you never know what he will use.

Pray:

Lord thanks for speaking to me. Please help me see how you will speak to me today. Amen.

Action:

Do you keep a diary of how God speaks to you? Maybe you might want to keep a small notepad with your Bible and just jot down the things he says. Bye.