

## Book of Daniel

### Week Two

In ancient world dreams were considered a significant medium of insight for the future. The success of a king and the welfare of his kingdom were often dependent on the correct interpretation of an unusual dream or bizarre natural event. This dream becomes the intersection of the Babylonian religion and Daniel's faith...maybe just maybe the King will listen.

1. What is the request made of the "Wisemen" in the kings' service? Why can't they do it?
  - a. No man (mortal) on earth could meet this demand.
  - b. No king has ever asked this of them (implying king is being unfair & unrealistic).
  - c. Only a god could do this and gods do not dwell with mortals. ←OOPS!!
2. God of Heaven (Divine Title)
  - a. Speaks to God's Transcendence & Supremacy
  - b. God above all that is temporal and earthbound
  - c. Genesis 14:22, 24:3, 24:7

Wisdom is not just a technical knowing or professional skill or academic learning or native ability. It is penetrating insight, God-given and God-inspired, that sees meaning in mysteries and light in darkness because it knows God is there and that God is in control.

3. God Proves Faithfulness
  - a. Daniel receives because of God's mercy and grace.
  - b. Doxology/Hymn shows Daniel's thankfulness for God hearing their prayer.
  - c. This Doxology has been a huge source of inspiration for the Hebrew people throughout history.
  - d. God keeping covenant promise "I will be your God and you will be my people".
4. Humility of Daniel (SO IMPORTANT)
  - a. King asked Daniel if he can do this and Daniel says no but that there is a God in Heaven who can.
  - b. Explicit in Daniel's testimony is the superiority of God's wisdom over all accumulated lore or learning of the "magical arts" practice by the kings Wisemen. God is greater than any earthly wisdom, earthly magic, earthly thinking!
5. The Dream

a. HEAD → GOLD	Babylon the Great (King Nebuchadnezzar II)
b. CHEST & ARMS → SILVER	Persian Empire (King Cyrus the Great)
c. BELLY & THIGHS → BRONZE	Greece (Alexander the Great)
d. LEGS & FEET → IRON/CLAY	Roman Empire
6. Interpretation
  - a. Chaff- Isaiah 41:15-16
  - b. Mountain- Isaiah 2:2-4
  - c. Stone- Isaiah 28:16 & Psalm 118:20-23
  - d. Jesus- Matthew 21:42-44
  - e. Acts 4
  - f. 1 Peter 2:3-10