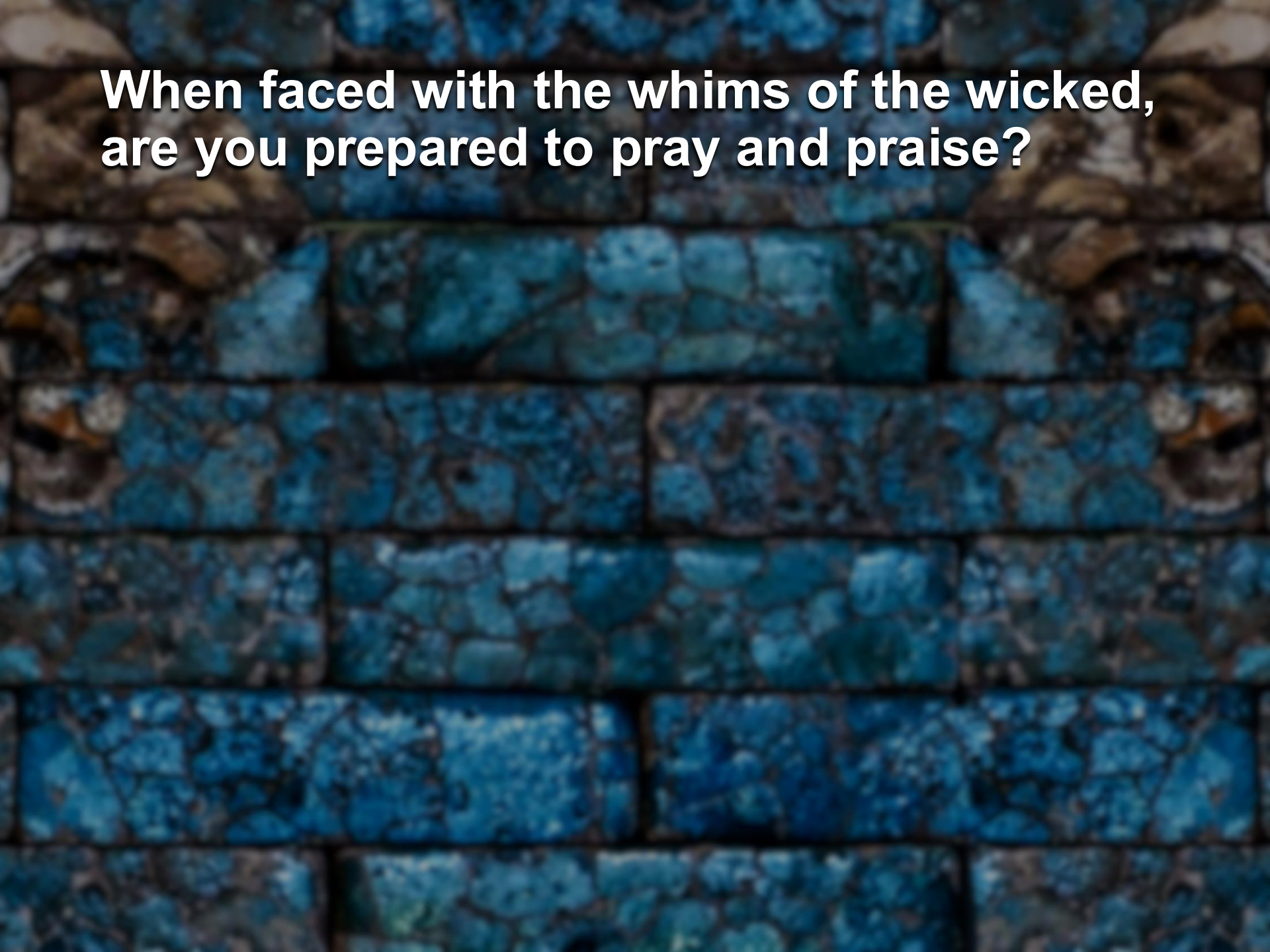


The image shows a close-up of a stone wall. The stones are rectangular and arranged in a regular pattern. They have a mottled appearance with shades of blue, teal, and tan. The surface of the stones is rough and textured, with visible cracks and crevices. In the center of the image, the title 'WHEN BEASTS REIGN' is written in large, bold, yellow 3D letters. The letters have a slight shadow, giving them a three-dimensional look as if they are floating or attached to the wall. The background is a dense, textured wall of these stones, filling the entire frame.

**WHEN
BEASTS
REIGN**

**When faced with the whims of the wicked,
are you prepared to pray and praise?**



In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanter, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king.

Daniel 2:1-2 ESV

And the king said to them, “I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.” Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation.”

Daniel 2:3-4 ESV

The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation."

Daniel 2:5-6 ESV

The king answered and said, “I know with certainty that you are trying to gain time, because you see that the word from me is firm—if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one sentence for you. You have agreed to speak lying and corrupt words before me till the times change. Therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that you can show me its interpretation.”

Daniel 2:8-9 ESV

The Chaldeans answered the king and said, **“There is not a man on earth who can meet the king’s demand,** for no great and powerful king has asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or Chaldean. The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

Daniel 2:10-11 ESV

Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.

Daniel 2:12-13 ESV

**When faced with the whims of the wicked,
are you prepared to pray and praise?**

Be prepared for conflicts to arise in a fallen
world

**When faced with the whims of the wicked,
are you prepared to pray and praise?**

Be prepared for conflicts to arise in a fallen
world... *especially when you walk faithfully*

Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

Daniel 2:14-16 ESV

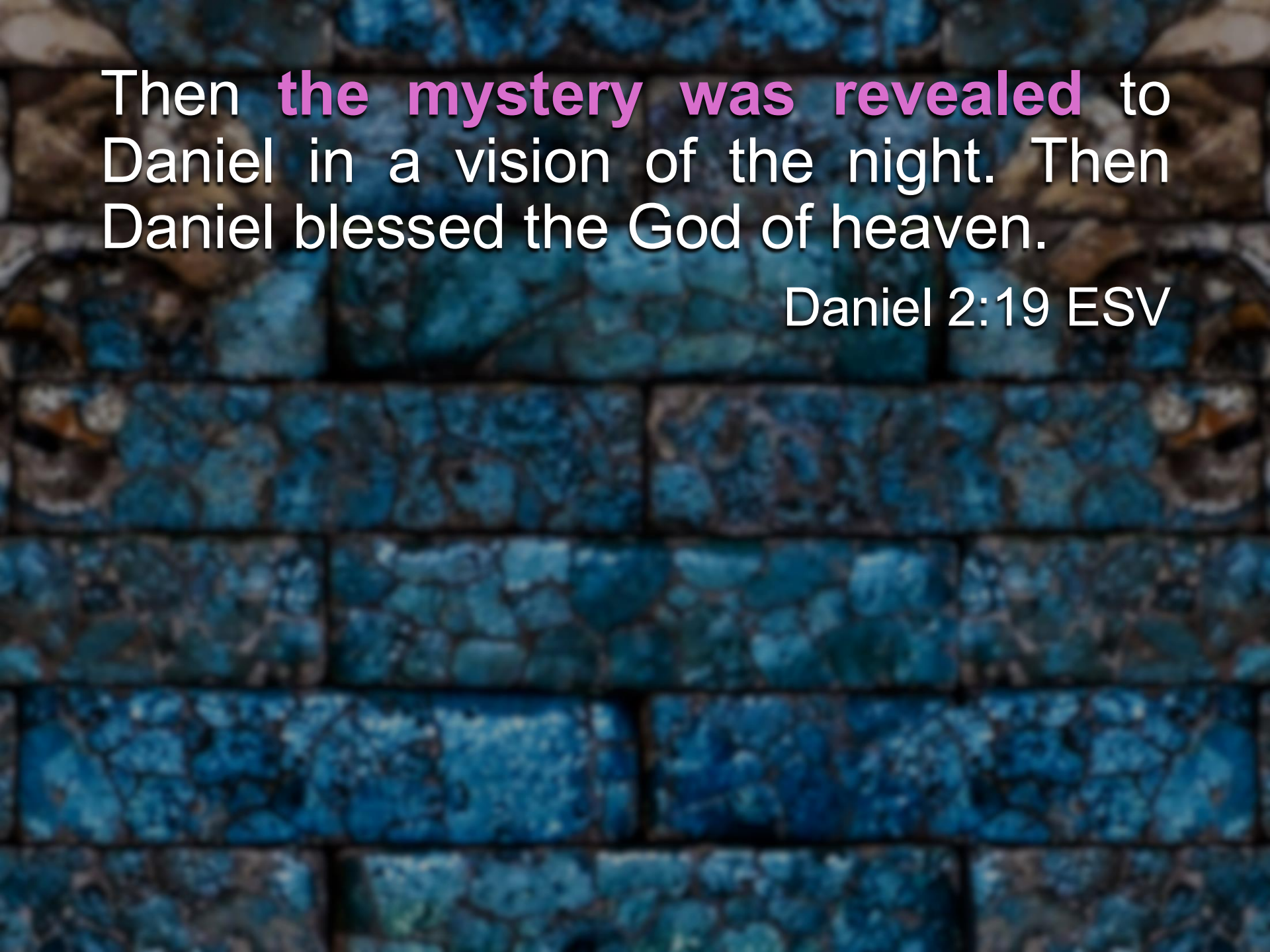
Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, and told them **to seek mercy from the God of heaven** concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:17-18 ESV

**When faced with the whims of the wicked,
are you prepared to pray and praise?**

Be prepared for conflicts to arise in a fallen
world... *especially when you walk faithfully*

Meet earthly conflicts with prayers for mercy
from the one seated on the throne in heaven



Then **the mystery was revealed** to
Daniel in a vision of the night. Then
Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:19 ESV

Chiasms in the book of Daniel

- Symmetrical literary device used to structure a passage

A B C D C' B' A'



A: Nebuchadnezzar has a disturbing dream (1)

B: Magicians fail to recount and explain the dream (2-13)

C: Daniel goes to king with proposal (14-16)

D: God reveals and explains dream to Daniel! (17-23)

C': Daniel goes to king with answer (24-25)

B' Daniel succeeds; he recounts and explains the king's dream (26-45)

A' Nebuchadnezzar glorifies God and promotes Daniel (46-49)

Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*

Chiasms in the book of Daniel

- Symmetrical literary device used to structure a passage
- Very common in the ancient world and often found in the Old Testament
 - Psalm 19
 - The book of Esther
 - Daniel 2-7 (The Aaramaic portion of Daniel)
- The “climactic moment” of chiastic structures is most often found in the center of the chiasm...*unlike in modern storytelling*

A: Nebuchadnezzar has a disturbing dream (1)

B: Magicians fail to recount and explain the dream (2-13)

C: Daniel goes to king with proposal (14-16)

THE MOST
IMPORTANT PART
OF DANIEL 2

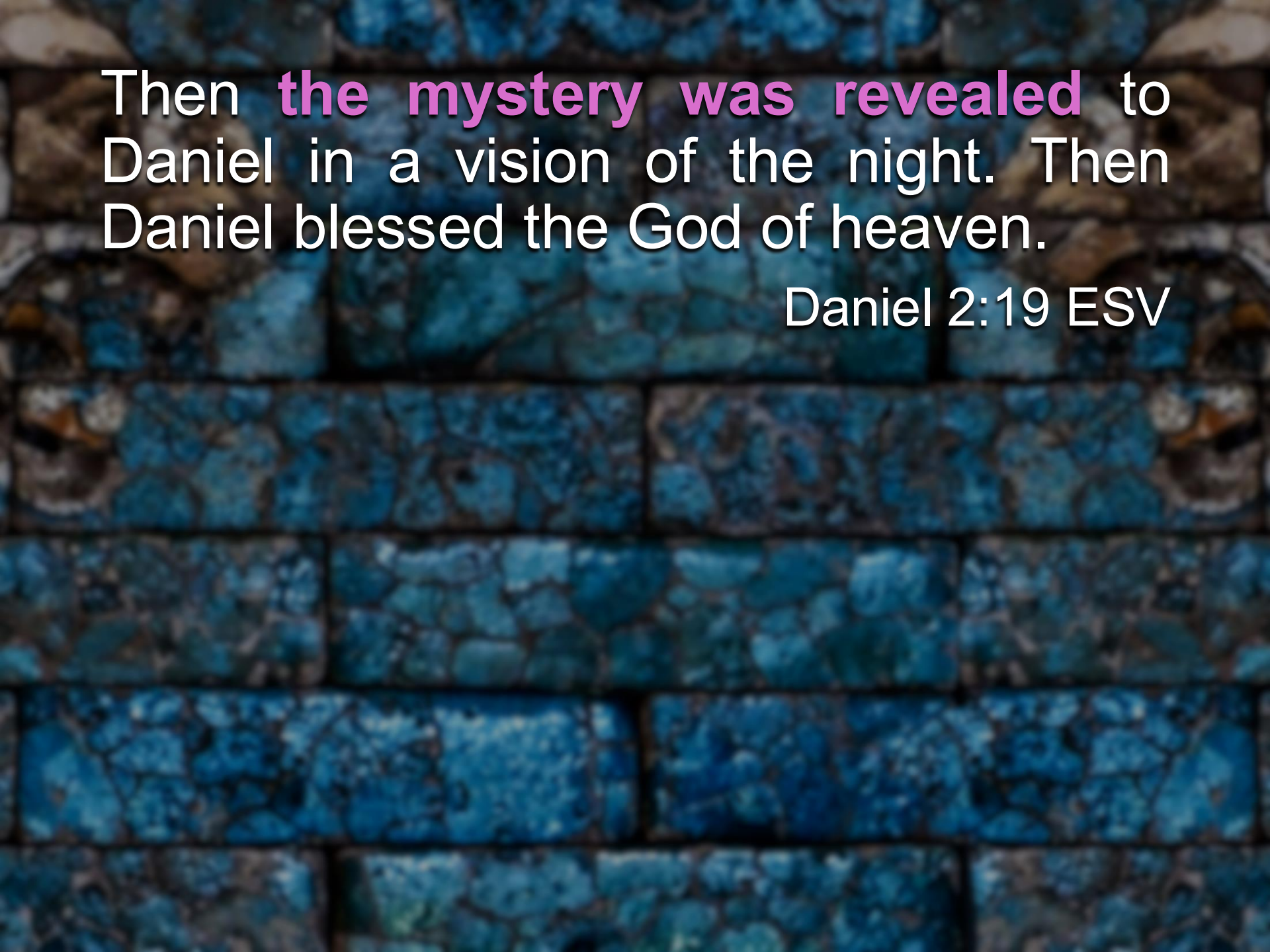
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Dorsey, *The Literary Structure of the Old Testament*



Then **the mystery was revealed** to
Daniel in a vision of the night. Then
Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:19 ESV

Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of **God** forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

He changes times and seasons;

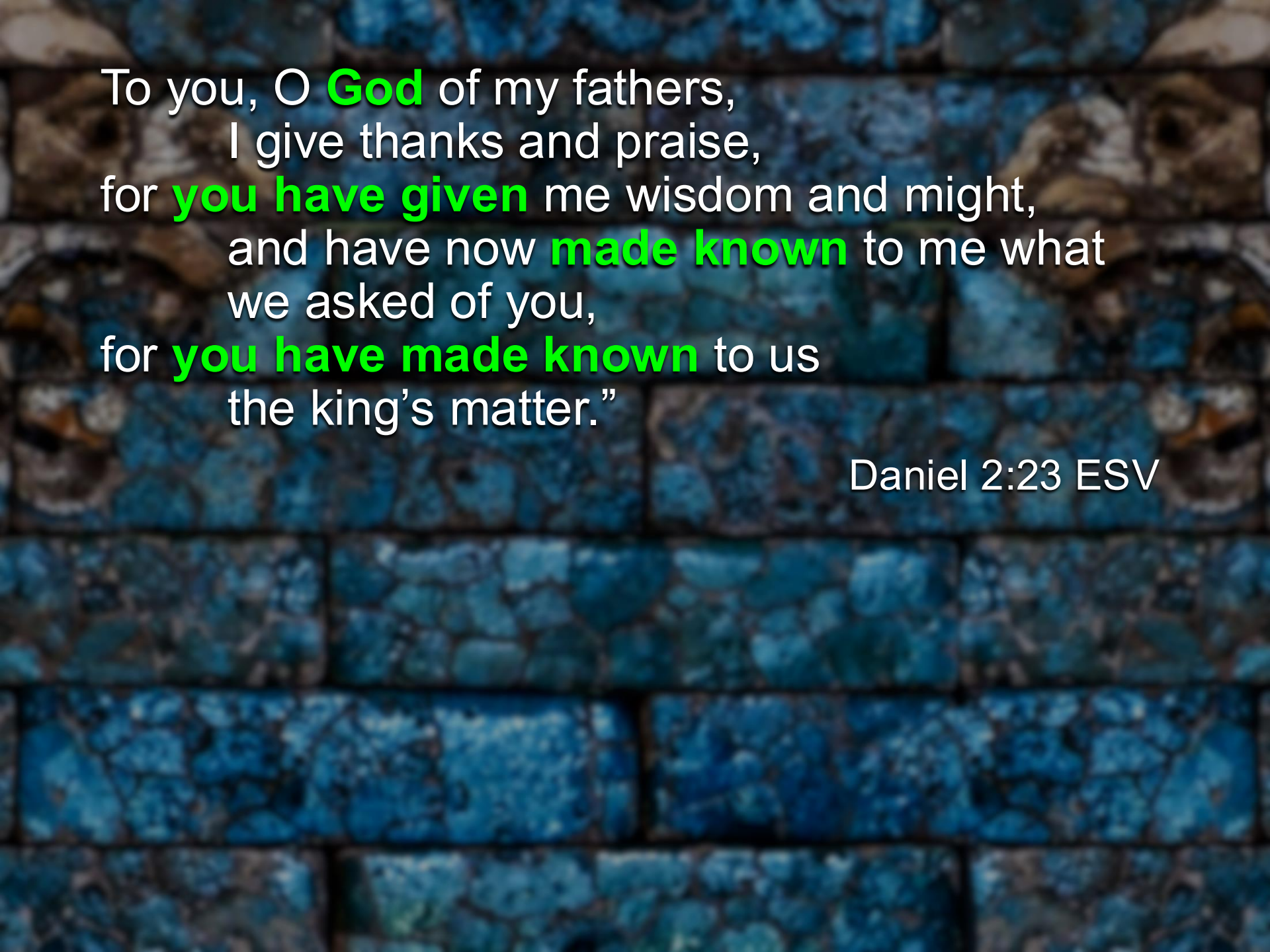
he removes kings and sets up kings;

he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to
those who have understanding;

he reveals deep and hidden things;

he knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with him.

Daniel 2:20-22 ESV



To you, O **God** of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise,
for **you have given** me wisdom and might,
and have now **made known** to me what
we asked of you,
for **you have made known** to us
the king's matter.”

Daniel 2:23 ESV

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are you prepared to pray and praise?**

Be prepared for conflicts to arise in a fallen
world... *especially when you walk faithfully*

Meet earthly conflicts with prayers for mercy
from the one seated on the throne in heaven

Expect praise from yourself and others when
God reveals his plans and purposes

Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: "Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation."

Daniel 2:24 ESV

The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?” Daniel answered the king and said, “**No wise men, enchanter, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked,** but there is a **God** in heaven **who reveals mysteries**, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.

Daniel 2:26-28a ESV

To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and **he who reveals** mysteries made known to you what is to be. But as for me, this mystery **has been revealed** to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

Daniel 2:29-30 ESV

“You saw, O king, and behold, a great image. This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness, stood before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of this image was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.

Daniel 2:31-33 ESV





As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

Daniel 2:34 ESV

Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Daniel 2:31-33 ESV



This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the **God** of heaven **has given** the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory, and into whose hand **he has given**, wherever they dwell, the children of man, **the beasts of the field, and the birds of the heavens, making you rule over them all**—you are the head of gold.

Daniel 2:36-38 ESV



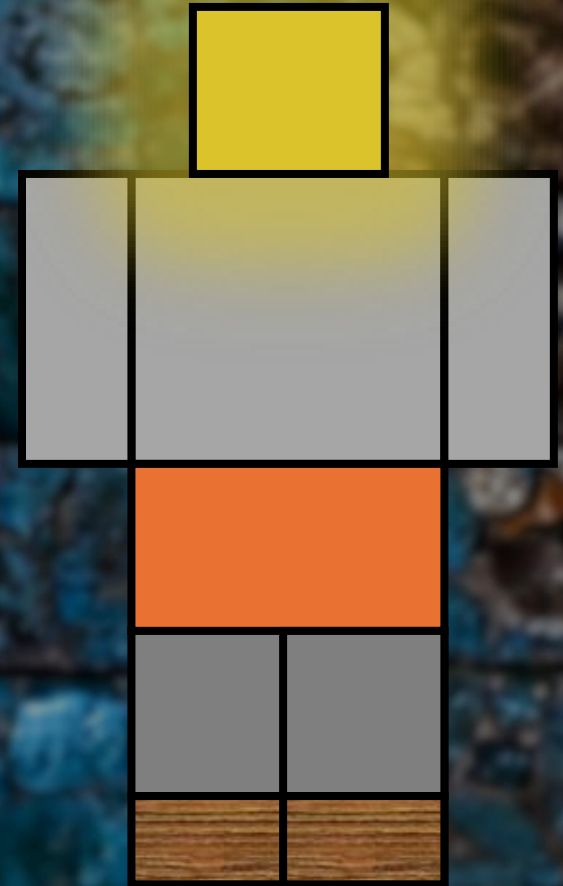
Gold – Babylonians

Silver – Persians

Bronze – Greek

Iron – Romans

Iron and Clay –



Gold – Babylonians

Silver – Persians

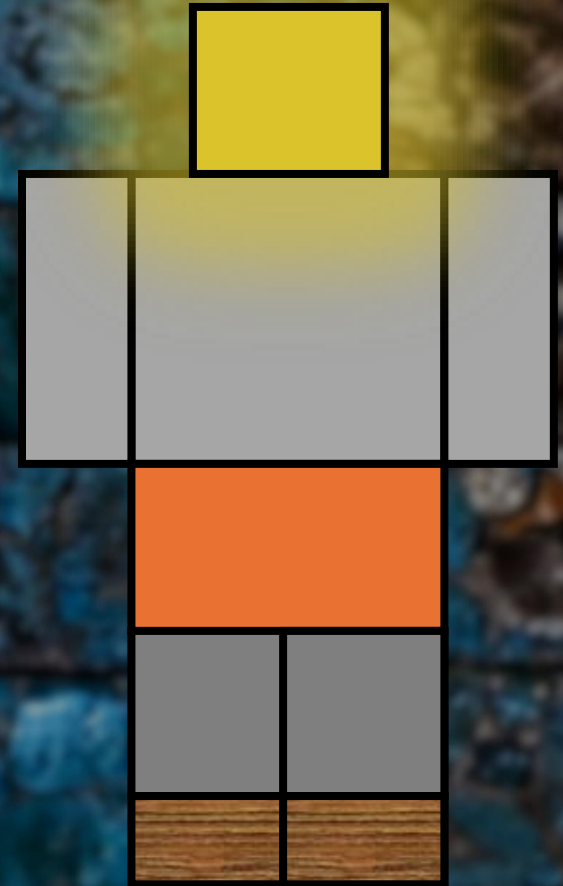
Bronze – Greek

Iron – Romans

Iron and Clay –

Roman empire over time?

Future empires?





And in the days of those
kings the God of heaven will
set up a kingdom that shall
never be destroyed, nor
shall the kingdom be left to
another people.

Daniel 2:44a ESV

It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

Daniel 2:44b-45 ESV

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your **God** is **God** of gods and **Lord** of kings, and **a revealer of mysteries**, for you have been able to **reveal this mystery**.”

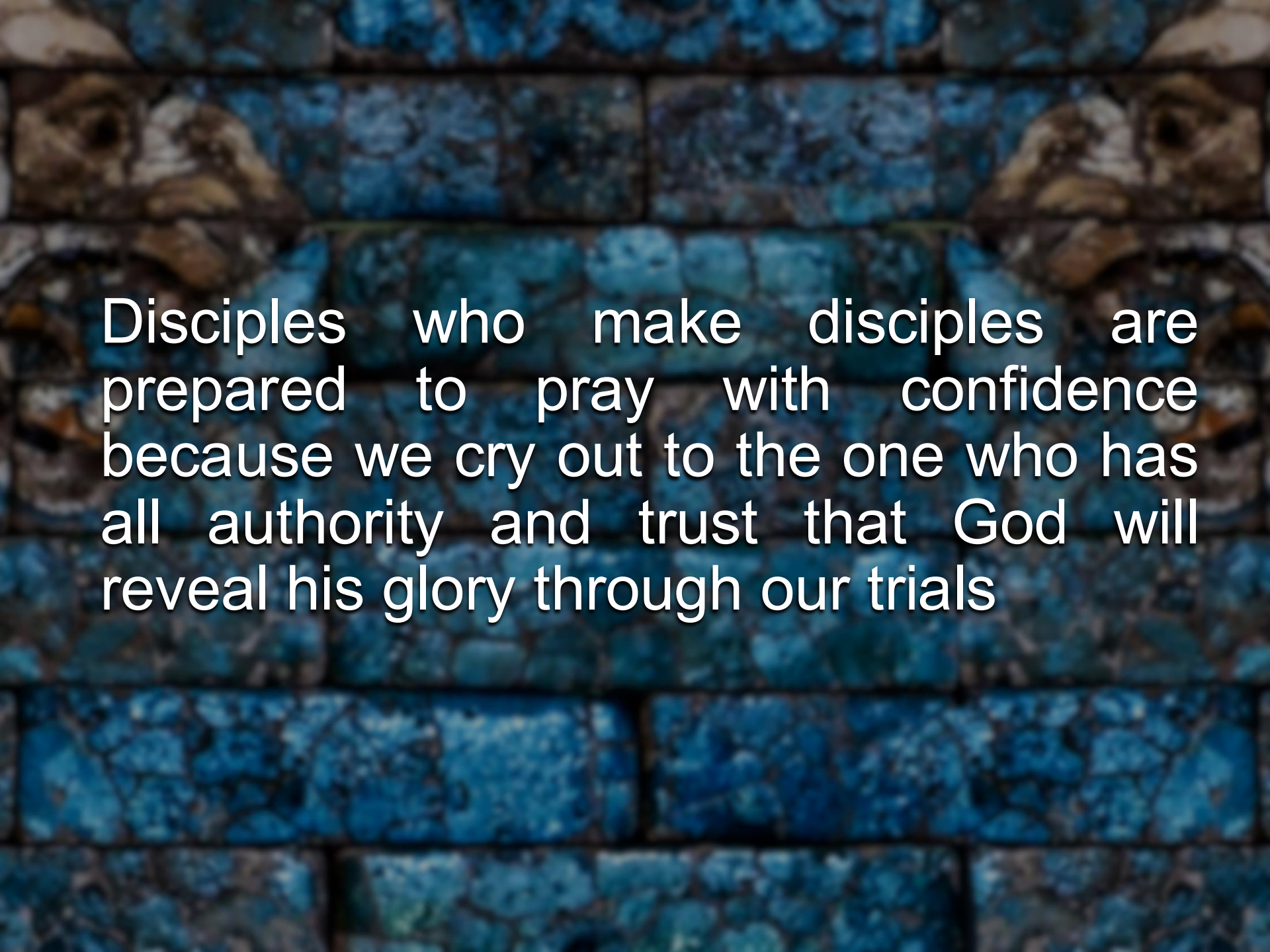
Daniel 2:46-47 ESV

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Disciples who make disciples are
prepared to pray with confidence
because we cry out to the one who has
all authority and trust that God will
reveal his glory through our trials

Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of **God** forever and ever,
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He changes times and seasons;

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Daniel 2:20-22 ESV

