

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

Devoted to the God of Wisdom

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

January 18, 2026



Where do you go for wisdom when life gets complicated?

- **Human wisdom isn't enough.**

Daniel 2:11 (NLT) "The king's command is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people."

Biblical wisdom: God-given ability to see life from God's perspective.

- **God is the source of all wisdom & power.**

Daniel 2:14-18 (NLT) When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion. ¹⁵ He asked Arioch, "Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?" So Arioch told him all that had happened. ¹⁶ Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant. ¹⁷ Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. ¹⁸ He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon.

- **God reveals His wisdom to those who seek Him.**

Daniel 2:19-23 (NLT) That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven. ²⁰ He said, "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. ²¹ He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. ²² He reveals deep and mysterious things and knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. ²³ I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."

James 1:5 (NLT) "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you."

John 14:25-25 (AMP) "I have told you these things while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you."

John 16:13

John 14:7

- **God has a wise & redemptive plan that is unfolding.**

Daniel 2:28 "there is a God in heaven, who reveals secrets..."

Daniel 2:37-40 (NLT) "The God of heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and honour... You are the head of gold. ³⁹ But after your kingdom comes to an end, another kingdom, inferior to yours, [of silver] will rise to take your place. After that kingdom has fallen, yet a third kingdom, represented by bronze, will rise to rule the world. ⁴⁰ Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron."

- **God's plan finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ.**

Daniel 2:44 (NLT) "During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. ⁴⁵ That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain."

1 Peter 2:6-10 (NLT) As the Scriptures say, "I am placing a cornerstone in Jerusalem, chosen for great honour, and anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced." ⁷ Yes, you who trust him recognize the honour God has given him. But for those who reject him, "The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone." ⁸ And, "He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them. ⁹ But you are not like that, for you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light.

As Paul says, "Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God." (1 Cor. 1:24)

Big Idea: At the end of our wisdom, we meet God's wisdom in Jesus.



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Family of Servants on Mission.**
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Devoted to the God of Wisdom
#2 of 7 - January 18, 2026**

Context

- 1) What is the situation facing Daniel and his friends in Daniel 2, and why is it so dangerous? How does this setting shape our understanding of why wisdom is so urgently needed?
- 2) How is Babylon's understanding of "wisdom" different from the kind of wisdom Daniel demonstrates? Where do you see that contrast most clearly in the chapter?

Observation

- 3) What stands out to you about Daniel's response in 2:14–18? What words would you use to describe his posture?
- 4) In Daniel's prayer of praise (2:20–23), what does he specifically say God does? Which of these statements about God strikes you most and why?

Meaning

- 5) What does this passage teach us about where true wisdom ultimately comes from?
- 6) How does this connect with James 1:5 and Jesus' teaching about the Holy Spirit in John 14–16?
- 7) What is the significance of the statue and the 'rock not cut by human hands' in Daniel 2:44–45? How does this point forward to Jesus as God's ultimate wisdom and eternal King?

Application

- 8) Where do you tend to turn first when life gets complicated—friends, Google, your own instincts, prayer, Scripture, or something else? What might it look like to more intentionally seek God's wisdom first?
- 9) What is one current situation in your life where you need God's wisdom rather than merely human wisdom? How could your IC pray for you this week to seek God like Daniel did (personally and with others)?



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