



# STANDING STRONG IN TRYING TIMES

The Book of Daniel

## The God of Wisdom and Power

### Key idea:

God is the source of wisdom and power, His kingdom is everlasting, and He will give wisdom and power to His exile people as they walk with Him.

### Key text:

Daniel 2

### Key points:

1. Nebuchadnezzar had a troubling dream, and his wise men were unable to reveal the dream and then its interpretation. When he continued to demand they do this, they declared only the gods could do this, and the gods do not dwell among humans. He then decreed all the wise men must be executed.
2. When Daniel was informed of the king's death edict, he responded with wisdom and tact so that he was given time to seek God. He turned to God in prayer and was given wisdom to know the dream and its interpretation. He immediately gave thanks to God for this in prayer.
3. The heart of Daniel's prayer refers to God's wisdom and power, both of which are seen in His ruling over human history.
4. Nebuchadnezzar's dream revealed the coming history of kingdoms ruling over that part of the world - beginning with Nebuchadnezzar himself and moving through three more kingdoms (the Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman empires).
5. The focus of the dream is on the rock cut out without hands that would come during the time of the 4th empire and strike the statue, establishing God's Kingdom which would grow and reign forever.

### Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. When I read Nebuchadnezzar's actions in this story, what words come to mind to describe him? What words would you use to describe him if you were one of his wise men?

3. The wise men tell Nebuchadnezzar that only the gods can reveal a dream, and they do not live among humans. How does this statement prepare me for the rest of the chapter? What does this statement say about the gods of Babylon? As a Christian, what would I say to someone who said this?
4. What do I learn about Daniel's character from his actions in this chapter? What words would I use to describe his character?
5. Why does the narrator take time to tell me that Daniel gathered his friends and prayed, and then why does it record his prayer of thanksgiving? What lesson does he want me to learn?
6. Why does Daniel highlight God's wisdom and power? Why is that especially important in light of the events of this chapter? Why is it especially important in light of the exile in general?
7. God will give Daniel a more detailed version of this dream in chapter 7. The vision in chapter 7 is given to Daniel many years later, near the end of his life. Why does he give this early general version of the dream to Nebuchadnezzar now? What is it meant to convey to Daniel early in the exile?
8. How does the message of the dream remind me of the message of Psalm 1 and 2?
9. In what areas am I tempted to trust in or fear the wisdom or power of the world? What practices can remind me of God's greater wisdom? What practices can remind me of God's greater power?
10. Who will I call or see to encourage this week?

**For Further Study:**

[Christ, the Church, Christians, and Culture \(series\)](#) (2010-2011)

[The Psalms As Instruction: The Lord Reigns](#) (October 27, 2003)

[Christ and the Kingship](#) (April 4, 2004)

[Lion - The True King](#) (December 9, 2018)

[Christ the Wisdom of God - Seeing Christ in Proverbs](#) (October 22, 2006)

**Preview of next week: Visiting Missionary - Lee Short**