

Lesson 2: Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream: God of Heaven’s Stone smashes 4-part Statue (Daniel chapter 2)

I. Chronological Matters:

- A. Daniel’s life at a glance: Birth and youth in Judah (approx.): 622?-605 B.C. →
 University years in Babylon (1:1,5): Fall 605-Spring 602 →
 Service in Babylonian royal court: Spring 602-Fall 539 →
 Service in Persian royal court (1:21): Fall 539-537 →
 Daniel’s recorded visions in Chaps. 7-12: 556-535 → _____
 Total elapsed years:

B. Timing of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in chap 2 in relation to Daniel’s university years:

- Accession Year: Sept 605 – March 604 Conclusion:
 ___ Year: April 604 – March 603
 ___ Year: April 603 – March 602 (2:1)

II. Nebuchadnezzar’s Fatal Decree concerning his Wise Men (vss 1-13)

- A. The Perplexing Dream (vs 1):
- B. Nebuchadnezzar’s Expert Advisors (vss 2-11)
1. Their specialty: to tap in to the spiritual/unseen realm through various means in order to obtain for the king hidden _____ or _____ for the purpose of gaining some sort of _____.
 2. ‘Chaldean’ limitations (vss 7, 11):

The Wise Men of Babylon: Chief Advisors to Nebuchadnezzar					
General Characteristic →					
Daniel Reference:	Diviners	Chaldeans/ Astrologers	Conjurers/ Enchanters	Sorcerers	Magicians
1:20			X		X
2:2, 4, 5, 10, 27	X	X	X	X	X
4:7	X	X	X		X
5:7, 11, 15	X	X	X		X

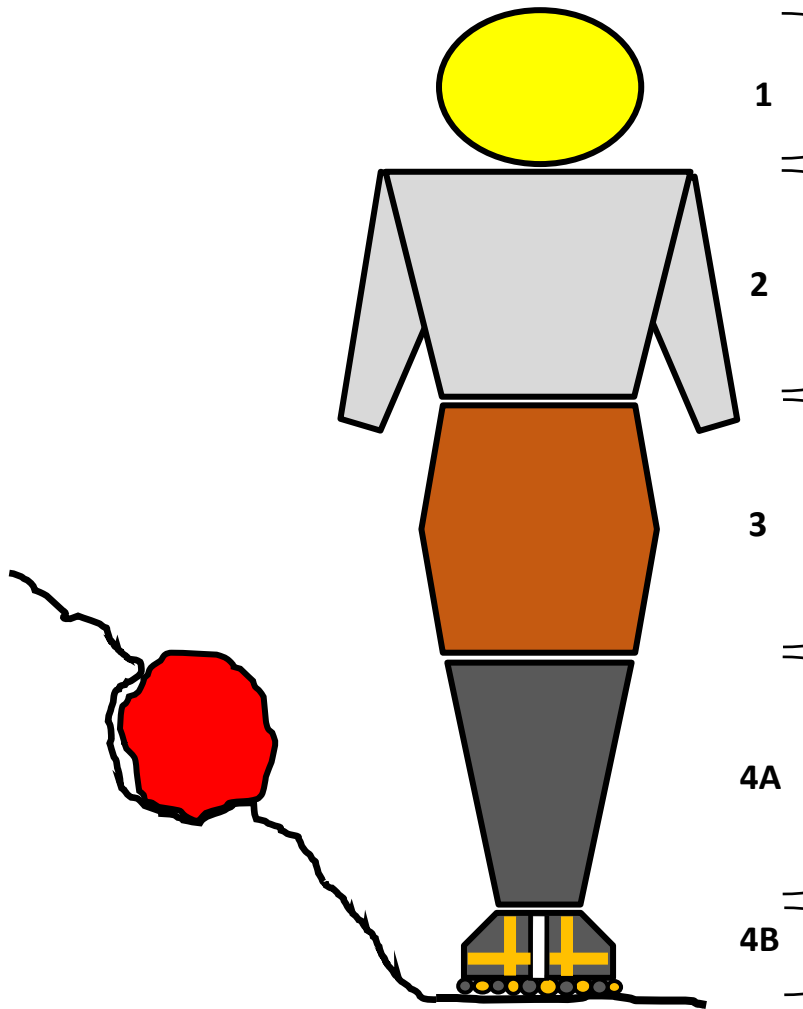
Note: In the book of Daniel, ‘wise men’ appear to be a collective term that includes any/all of the 5 categories in this table (for example - 2:12, 4:6, 5:7). Similar staff advised Egyptian pharaohs (Gen 41: 8, Ex 7:11-12). Arriving at clear definitions for these categories is difficult due to overlapping traits. The practices of these specialists within Israelite society were clearly forbidden. Israel was to only listen to and obey the Israelite prophet(s) who the LORD raised up (Dt 18:9-18).

III. Turning Point in the Crisis (vss 14-30)

- A. Daniel’s discretion (14-16)
- B. Prayer circle (17-18)
- C. Daniel’s Psalm (19-23) – to be discussed at close of class
- D. Before the king (24-30)

IV. The Statue, the Rock, and the Interpretation (vss 31-45):

General Comparison:



V. Aftermath (vss 46-49)

VI. Daniel's Psalm (vss 19-23): "It is He"

- A. His Name:
- B. He Schedules:
- C. He Gives:
- D. He Reveals:
- E. Thanks and Praise:

For Next Sunday: Please prayerfully read and ponder chapter 3 before class.