



**STANDING
STRONG
IN TRYING
TIMES**

The Book of Daniel

During the night the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven ²⁰ and said: “Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. ²¹He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. ²² He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him. ²³ I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You have given me wisdom and power, you have made known to me what we asked of you, you have made known to us the dream of the king.” Daniel 2:19–23

Human Wisdom & Power



A Troubling Dream

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his mind was troubled and he could not sleep. ² So the king summoned the magicians, enchanter, sorcerers and astrologers to tell him what he had dreamed. When they came in and stood before the king, ³ he said to them, “I have had a dream that troubles me and I want to know what it means.”

Daniel 2:1–3

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The Plot Thickens

Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, “O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will interpret it.”⁵ The king replied to the astrologers, “This is what I have firmly decided: If you do not tell me what my dream was and interpret it, I will have you cut into pieces and your houses turned into piles of rubble.”⁶ But if you tell me the dream and explain it, you will receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. So tell me the dream and interpret it for me.” Daniel 2:4–6

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The Limits of Human Wisdom

Once more they replied, “Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will interpret it.”⁸ Then the king answered, “I am certain that you are trying to gain time, because you realize that this is what I have firmly decided:⁹ If you do not tell me the dream, there is just one penalty for you. You have conspired to tell me misleading and wicked things, hoping the situation will change. So then, tell me the dream, and I will know that you can interpret it for me.”

Daniel 2:7–9



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The astrologers answered the king, “There is not a man on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer. ¹¹ What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men.” ¹² This made the king so angry and furious that he ordered the execution of all the wise men of Babylon. ¹³ So the decree was issued to put the wise men to death, and men were sent to look for Daniel and his friends to put them to death. (Daniel 2:10–13)

God's Wisdom & Power



Daniel's Wise, Tactful Response

When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, had gone out to put to death the wise men of Babylon, **Daniel spoke to him with wisdom and tact.** ¹⁵ He asked the king's officer, "Why did the king issue such a harsh decree?" Arioch then explained the matter to Daniel. ¹⁶ At this, Daniel went in to the king and asked for time, so that he might interpret the dream for him.

Daniel 2:14–16

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A Response of Prayer

Then Daniel returned to his house and explained the matter to his friends Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ¹⁸ **He urged them to plead for mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery**, so that he and his friends might not be executed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 2:17–18

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The Dream And Its Meaning





Head of gold

Chest and arms of silver

Belly and thighs of bronze

Legs of iron/feet of iron & clay mix

Stone cut without human hands



Nebuchadnezzar/Babylon

Medo/Persian Empire

Alexander/Greek Empire

Roman Empire

The Messiah - Jesus & His Kingdom!

In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands — a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces. The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and the interpretation is trustworthy.

Daniel 2:44–45

Nebuchadnezzar's Response

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him. ⁴⁷ The king said to Daniel, "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery." ⁴⁸ Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Daniel 2:46–48

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**APPLYING
THE
WORD**



The Right Side of History

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.”

Revelation 11:15

A black silhouette of a human head in profile, facing left, positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide. Inside the silhouette, the text "STANDING STRONG IN TRYING TIMES" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters.

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Christ - the Wisdom and Power of God!

We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:23–24



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