

Last week we met Daniel, a prisoner in Babylon, serving in the King's court with magicians, sorcerers, astrologers and Chaldeans who also advise the King.

Day One Dan. 2:1—13. Let's take a look at the King's advisers. Definitions are given according to the Hebrew words translated here. Write out what practices, people or philosophies these would represent in our time.

magician H2748 *chartom* 10x one who draws lines or charts, a horoscopist
Moses encountered them in Pharaoh's court. Ex. 7:11, 22, 8:7,18—19 . . .

astrologer H825 *ashshaph* 2x (only in Daniel) one who casts spells, a conjurer

sorcerer H3784 *kashaph* 6x one who whispers spells, a witch or warlock

Chaldean H3778 *kasdi* 80x primarily refers to the people who live in the land of Chaldea where Babylon was the capital city. This was the land from which Abraham was called by God. Chaldea is often considered a synonym for Babylon. They were a fierce army with a prevailing religion worshipping the sun, moon and stars.

What do all of these seem to have in common? _____

What are some sources of "wisdom" or "insight" do people today consult when faced with confusion or problems? _____

Day Two Continue with v. 1—13.

What did the King's advisers expect when they stood before him?

But he had a test for them. What was it? _____

What kind of conspiracy does he suspect? _____

What would be the outcome of their failure? _____

. . . if they were successful? _____

How did they respond to his ultimatum? two points:

1. _____ 2. _____

How did the King react? _____

_____ Trouble is brewing!

So, who is in danger? _____

v. 14—19. Daniel seeks a plan.

Who might Daniel have talked with to find counsel and wisdom? _____

Next, Daniel sought information. Whom did he ask? _____

What was Daniel's question? _____

Next, Daniel went to the king with a request. What was it? _____

Next Daniel met with _____, _____ and _____
How would you describe their meeting? _____
Did Daniel know the source of his protection? _____ Who? _____
For whom did he seek protection? _____
How did Daniel receive God's answer? _____

Day Three v. 19—23 Let's look at Daniel's praise for God line by line and identify the qualities Daniel lifts up.

v. 20 _____
v. 21 _____
v. 22 _____
v. 23 _____

What is learned from concerning **worldly wisdom** from . . .

James 3:13—16 _____

1 Cor. 1:18—20 _____

1 Cor. 3:19—20 _____
2 Cor. 1:12 _____

Concerning **wisdom from above** from . . .

1 Cor. 1:23—24 _____
James 3:17—18 _____

Job. 28:12, 28 _____

Prov. 2:6—7 _____
1 Cor. 2:7—8 _____
Col. 2:2—3 _____
2 Tim. 3:14—15 _____
James 1:5 _____

Day Four v. 24—49 Daniel interprets the King's dream.

For whom does Daniel plead before Arioch? _____

When confronted by the King, who was given credit for the interpretation? _____

According to v. 28—29, what is the dream about? _____

What would the dream help the King to understand? v. 30 _____

The dream is about a statue. What is revealed about it in the following verses:

v. 31 _____
v. 32—33 head _____; breast _____
belly _____; thighs _____
legs _____; feet _____

How is the stone described? _____

What did it do? _____

Now, let's describe the kingdoms of the statue from the Scriptures, v. 36—43 (ignore commentary in your Bible).

head of gold _____
the next kingdom _____
bronze kingdom _____

iron kingdom _____

the final kingdom _____

What is Daniel's final assessment concerning the dream? _____
concerning the interpretation? _____

How did the King acknowledge the truth of Daniel's interpretation?

v. 46 _____

What does this action describe? _____

v. 47 How is God acknowledged? 1. _____

2. _____ 3. _____

Describe Daniel's new position in Babylon: v. 48 _____

What was Daniel's first act in his new position? _____

What advantage would this give Daniel? _____

Day Five Some application questions. Give brief answers.

1. What kinds of magic, myths, and mysticism compete with God's Word now as the magicians competed with Daniel in King Nebuchadnezzar's court?
2. Prayer sustained Daniel and his friends while they were exiled in Babylon. In what ways has prayer sustained you when you were in a difficult time?
3. What keeps us at times from remembering to praise God, as Daniel did, for answers to prayer?
4. If Daniel were sitting here, what reasons do you think he would give for saving the lives of the king's counselors?
5. What does it mean to you that "God is in control of history"?
6. Who do you think are the people today who have the opportunity to influence our world's leadership the way Daniel influenced the king?
7. How can we best pray for the people in our world who have opportunities like Daniel to bring glory to God?