

# Daniel Chapter 2: Back Against a Wall

Daniel 2:1-30

## The Basics

- In 604 BC, 30 year old Nebuchadnezzar has troubling dreams and can't sleep (1).
- Nebuchadnezzar demands that his "magic men" tell him his dream and its meaning (2ff).
- When they can't, Nebuchadnezzar determines to kill them all (12-13).
- Daniel buys time with Arioch, Captain of the Kingsguard (14-16).
- The Hebrew boys prayed (17-18).
- God revealed the dream and its interpretation to Daniel (19).
- Daniel praises the Lord (20-23).
- Daniel is brought before King Nebuchadnezzar (24-30).

## Let's Examine...

### Nebuchadnezzar's Fear

- It seems Nebuchadnezzar's dream made him afraid.
- One common way people react to fear is to try to take control. How did Nebuchadnezzar try to take control?
- What did Nebuchadnezzar's reaction reveal about his character?
- How does taking control in this way dishonor God?

There are five categories of "wise men" serving Nebuchadnezzar.

#### **Magician**

- The root word is "stylus." These individuals often walked about with a writing stylus in hand. They were learned in the sacred writings of their religion.
- Magicians were occultists, learned in the "dark arts" of their day.
- Magicians probably came from the ethnic Medes

#### **Enchanter**

- From the root "to breathe, to blow, to whisper."

- Enchanters attempted to speak with the dead or spirits (aka conjurers, necromancers).
- Witch of Endor (1 Samuel 28:7ff) was an enchanter.

### **Sorcerer**

- Greek translation of this Hebrew word is the root for “pharmacy.”
- Sorcerers used psychotropic drugs to connect with their “gods.”

### **Chaldean**

- Most distinguished of all Babylonian wise men. They probably were ethnic Babylonians and original to the area (as the magicians were properly the Medes)
- Chaldeans were supposed to be expert dream interpreters.

### **Astrologer (27)**

- One who professed to predict future events by the appearance and location of celestial bodies.
- These practices were strictly forbidden as abominations (Deuteronomy 18:9-14). Why did God forbid these practices?

### Faith of the Hebrew Boys

- In what ways did the Hebrew boys react?
  - How did Daniel reply to the king’s representative, Arioch (14)?
  - Who did Daniel tell (17-18)?
  - What did they do (18)?
  - To whom did Daniel give credit (27-28)?
- What does their reaction reveal about their character?
- What does Daniel’s prayer tell us?
  - About God?
  - About Daniel?

Next Week: Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream