

The background of the image is a golden, hazy scene. On the left, a large, ornate golden statue of a man with a beard and a crown stands on a pedestal. In the background, a city with various buildings and spires is visible under a bright, golden sky. The overall tone is warm and ancient.

THE BOOK OF

# DANIEL

CHAPTER 2

THE POWER STONE

11 The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. 13 So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.



14 Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. 15 He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, "Why is the decree of the king so urgent?" Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. 16 And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king.

17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, 18 and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a vision of the night. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.



20 Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
to whom belong wisdom and might.

21 He changes times and seasons;  
he removes kings and sets up kings;  
he gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to those who have understanding;  
22 he reveals deep and hidden things;  
he knows what is in the darkness,  
and the light dwells with him.

23 To you, O God of my fathers,  
I give thanks and praise,  
for you have given me wisdom and might,  
and have now made known to me what we asked  
of you,  
for you have made known to us the king's matter.”



24 Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king, and I will show the king the interpretation.”

25 Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste and said thus to him: “I have found among the exiles from Judah a man who will make known to the king the interpretation.”

26 The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?”

27 Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanter, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, 28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these:



29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be. 30 But as for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind.

# Deliverance from the Dictator





# Deliverance from the Dictator

◇ Daniel stayed calm.

# Deliverance from the Dictator

- ◇ Daniel stayed calm.
- ◇ Daniel didn't handle it alone.



# Deliverance from the Dictator

- ◇ Daniel stayed calm.
- ◇ Daniel didn't handle it alone.
- ◇ Daniel prayed.

“The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.”

Daniel 2:11

“For thus says the One who is high and lifted up,  
who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell  
in the high and holy place, and also with him who is  
of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of  
the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.”

Isaiah 57:15



How do we respond to God's deliverance?

How do we respond to God's deliverance?

We worship!

20 Daniel answered and said:

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,  
to whom belong wisdom and might.

21 He changes times and seasons;  
he removes kings and sets up kings;  
he gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to those who have understanding;  
22 he reveals deep and hidden things;  
he knows what is in the darkness,  
and the light dwells with him.



23 To you, O God of my fathers,  
I give thanks and praise,  
for you have given me wisdom and might,  
and have now made known to me what we asked  
of you,  
for you have made known to us the king's matter.”

31 “You saw, O king, and behold, a great image.  
This image, mighty and of exceeding brightness,  
stood before you, and its appearance was  
frightening. 32 The head of this image was of fine  
gold, its chest and arms of silver, its middle and  
thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of  
iron and partly of clay. 34 As you looked, a stone  
was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the  
image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in  
pieces.

35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

36 “This was the dream. Now we will tell the king its interpretation. 37 You, O king, the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, and the might, and the glory,



41 And as you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it shall be a divided kingdom, but some of the firmness of iron shall be in it, just as you saw iron mixed with the soft clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were partly iron and partly clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 As you saw the iron mixed with soft clay, so they will mix with one another in marriage, but they will not hold together, just as iron does not mix with clay

# The Statue of Four Kingdoms



# The Statue of Four Kingdoms

◆ Gold Head: Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon, 605-539



# The Statue of Four Kingdoms

- ◆ Gold Head: Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon, 605-539
- ◆ Silver Chest/Arms: Cyrus the Great, Medo-Persians, 539-331

# The Statue of Four Kingdoms

- ◆ Gold Head: Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon, 605-539
- ◆ Silver Chest/Arms: Cyrus the Great, Medo-Persians, 539-331
- ◆ Bronze Middle and Thighs: Alexander the Great, Greeks, 331-63

# The Statue of Four Kingdoms

- ◆ Gold Head: Babylonians, Nebuchadnezzar, 605-539
- ◆ Silver Chest/Arms: Medo-Persians, Cyrus the Great, 539-331
- ◆ Bronze Middle and Thighs: Greeks, Alexander the Great, 331-63
- ◆ Iron Legs/Feet (with clay): Romans, Caesar, 63 BC-476 AD



44 And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

45 just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.”

THE CORNERSTONE CRUSHES  
EARTHLY POWER STONES

“But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? 18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

-Jesus, Luke 20:17-18



THE CORNERSTONE, JESUS CHRIST  
CRUSHES EARTHLY POWER STONES

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face and paid homage to Daniel, and commanded that an offering and incense be offered up to him. 47 The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.”

48 Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. 49 Daniel made a request of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province of Babylon. But Daniel remained at the king's court.



# What Daniel Did Not Do

# What Daniel and Friends Did Not Do

- ◆ They did not run away.

# What Daniel and Friends Did Not Do

- ◊ They did not run away.
- ◊ They did not physically fight.



What does Courage in Babylon look like?

# What does Courage in Babylon look like?

- ◆ We courageously trust God's sovereignty over Babylon.

# What does Courage in Babylon look like?

- ◆ We courageously trust God's sovereignty over Babylon.
- ◆ We courageously walk in holiness.



# What does Courage in Babylon look like?

- ◆ We courageously trust God's sovereignty over Babylon.
- ◆ We courageously walk in holiness.
- ◆ We courageously trust God for results.