

DANIEL 1:17-2:6

Study by Glenn Palmer 27 Jan 13

Daniel 1:17

1. Who had the “knowledge and understanding . . . and learning”? *Four youths out of all the Jewish captives*
2. “All kinds of literature” Did they learn the Babylonian magic? *Calvin says yes, Young says no - Bible does not say.*
Cf: Acts 7:22
Cf: Deuteronomy 18:10-13
3. Did they get this wisdom from their hard studies and their intelligence?
No God gave them the wisdom
Practical Application: *When we are good at something, do we praise God for His gift to us, or do we say “I am good at it because I have worked hard.”?*
4. Literally: “the God” - emphasizes that it is the true God
5. Who could understand visions? *Just Daniel, not Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah*
6. Daniel could tell if the visions were true dreams or made up dreams. Look up Jeremiah 23:25-32.
7. Daniel could also interpret true dreams of others. Note that dreams were an important part of Babylonian culture.

Practical application: *What role do dreams have today? Think before you answer!!*

Ans. Many Muslims come to faith by dreams, but dreams do not play a role in the West.

Numbers 12:6 [God said, “Listen to my words:

“When a prophet of the Lord is among you,

I reveal myself to him in visions,

I speak to him in dreams.”

8. Because Daniel alone could interpret dreams, he knows that he is the prophet.

9. Parallel. Who is the other great leader who
 - a. Like Daniel was taken into captivity at age 17? *Ans: Genesis 32:17*
 - b. “Had knowledge and understanding . . . and learning”?
“There is no one so discerning and wise as you.” *Ans: Genesis 41:39*
 - c. Like Daniel could “understand visions and dreams of all kinds”?
Daniel interpreted two dreams of others - he interpreted four dreams of others
butler and baker, two by Pharaoh-wheat and kine (cows)
 - d. Rose to the number two position of an evil empire? Daniel 5:29 *Genesis 41:40*

Daniel 1:18-20

10. When was “At the end of the time”? Look up vs. 5 *Ans: At the end of three years*
11. Who were examined? Look up vs. 3-4 *All the Israelites who had been brought in- nobility*
12. How well did they know what they had been taught? *Ans: “none equal”*
13. Who questioned them? *Ans: The king*

Daniel 2:1

14. Second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, but he was in training for three years (1:5).
 Solution: Jews reckoned any part of a year as a full year.

<u>Year of Training</u>	<u>Nebuchadnezzar</u>
1 st year	Year of Accession
2 nd year	First Year
3 rd year	Second Year

15. "Had dreams" or "dreamed dreams" could mean
- One dream, several parts
 - Same dream numerous times
 - Different dreams with similar themes
 - Was in a state where he could dream
16. Dream was very different from all other dreams. He is agitated about it. Most of our dreams are ordinary or curious. But we don't become agitated about them.

Daniel 2:2

17. Who is who in the zoo?
 In Daniel 2 collectively this group is called the "wise men" six times
 1:20: NIV & KJV: "magicians and enchanters"

2:2:

<u>NIV</u>	<u>KJV</u>	<u>Calvin</u>
Magicians	Magicians	Soothsayers
Enchanters	Astrologers	Astrologers
Sorcerers	Sorcerers	Sorcerers
Astrologers(Chaldeans)	Chaldeans	Stargazers (Chaldeans)

Chaldeans are magicians, not those living in Chaldea.

See 2:10:
 NIV: "magician or enchanter or astrologer"
 KJV: "magician, enchanter, or Chaldean"
 See 5:11
 NIV: "magicians, enchanters, astrologers, and diviners"
 KJV: "magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers"
 ESV: "magicians, enchanters, Chaldeans, and astrologers"
 The Message: "magicians, enchanters, fortunetellers, and diviners"

18. John Calvin: "Although they were highly esteemed by their fellow countrymen, yet they are condemned by God's law, for all their pretense to science was complete imposture."

Practical Application: Is it wrong to look at the horoscope in the newspaper or on the internet? Is it wrong to buy a lottery ticket? Ans: yes. God is sovereign, not the stars. Buying a lottery ticket is based on the hope that you know the future.

19. What is King Nebuchadnezzar's request? *Ans. That they interpret his dream for him.*
20. Why is it an impossible request? *Ans. He is asking of natural men only what the supernatural can reveal*
21. Why was not Daniel called? *Ans. Daniel had not yet proven himself. Daniel was still considered a worker bee. Too personal for the king?*

Daniel 2:3

22. Unlike many of our dreams, Nebuchadnezzar had not forgotten his dream, but wants an interpretation.

Daniel 2:4

23. In which language is most of the Old Testament written? *Ans. Hebrew.*

See footnote: "The text from here through chapter 7 is Aramaic." *Thus, this section of the Daniel is available for the Babylonians to read because it affects them. Chapters 8 and on is about the Jews and does not affect the Babylonians*

24. "O king, live forever." Common Babylonian expression - used five times in Daniel; also used by Bathsheba to her husband King David and Nehemiah to Artaxerxes.

25. What do the wise men ask? *Ans: Tell us the dream, then we will interpret*

26. John Calvin: imposters "enriched the ears and emptied the purses of others."

Daniel 2:5

27. What is the punishment?

a. *Ans: cut into pieces*

b. *Ans: houses turned into ruins NIV, NKJV: ash heap; KJV: dung heap*

Daniel 2:6

28. What is the reward?

Ans: gifts and rewards and great honor.

A high stakes game!!