

Chapter 3 — "Power and Wisdom" (Daniel 2:1-23)

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and deposes them." — Daniel 2:20-21

PART I: UNDERSTANDING THE CONTENT

1. An Unreasonable Request

King Nebuchadnezzar demanded that his advisors tell him both his dream and its interpretation, breaking with standard practice. Why was the king so insistent on this demand, and how did the wise men react to his request (Daniel 2:1-13)?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

2. Why the Shift to Aramaic?

Starting in Daniel 2:4b, the text unexpectedly shifts from Hebrew to Aramaic—a language change that continues through the end of Chapter 7. What was the role of Aramaic in the ancient world, and why is this shift so meaningful right here?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

3. Three Reasons Nebuchadnezzar's Decree Was Foolish

Even though Nebuchadnezzar was the most powerful king on earth, his rash decree to execute all the wise men was completely foolish. What three reasons were given to show the absurdity and foolishness of human power in this decree?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

4. Responding with Wisdom and Tact Under Pressure

When Arioch arrived with orders to execute him, Daniel didn't panic or lash out—he responded with remarkable wisdom, tact, and faith. What practical steps did Daniel take with Arioch, the king, and his prayer partners to face this crisis (Dan. 2:14-18)?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

5. Stopping to Praise God First

When God revealed the dream in a night vision, Daniel didn't immediately run off to the king—he stopped to praise and thank God. What key attributes of God's character and power does Daniel praise in his prayer (Dan. 2:19-23)?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

PART II: APPLYING THE MATERIAL

6. Finding Peace in God's Sovereign Control

Daniel 2:21 reminds us that God changes times and seasons, setting up kings and deposing them. How does anchoring your mind in God's absolute control over history bring peace when you feel anxious about current political or cultural shifts?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

7. Enlisting Help in Times of Crisis

When his life was on the line, Daniel didn't try to go it alone—he went straight home and asked his three brothers in Christ to pray with him. Who are the trusted Christian friends you turn to first when you face overwhelming troubles?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

8. Speaking with Tact in Difficult Situations

Daniel spoke to Arioch with grace, poise, and clear communication even though Arioch was sent to execute him. Is there a difficult situation in your life where you need to rely on the Holy Spirit for Daniel-like wisdom and tact?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

9. Trusting God with Hidden Things

Daniel praised God because He knows what lies in darkness and reveals deep, hidden things. What unknown or uncertain situation in your life right now do you need to surrender to God's all-knowing care and perfect timing?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS

10. Jesus: The Power and Wisdom of God

Ultimately, true wisdom and power are not found in earthly kings or human cleverness, but in Jesus Christ—the wisdom and power of God displayed at the cross (1 Cor. 1:24). How does resting in Christ's ultimate victory give you confidence as you walk with Him daily?

NOTES & REFLECTIONS