

these so-called wise men and saying, I dreamt last night that a big horse came in riding through the main square and there was a man on it who called out certain words, and certain things happened. Now tell me what it means. And anybody could make up some idea as to what it meant and sometimes what they said would work out, it would happen that way. Other times it didn't. The king decided they were just pulling the wool over his eyes so he decided, If they really can tell what the dream means they can tell me what the dream was. I think he certainly still knew what the dream was but he was wanting real proof that these men could tell him what it meant, and they were not just making something up.

So he gave this command: You tell me, and he had decided from past experience with their imaginings and pretending to know more than they did that he wanted to be through with the whole bunch of them. So he gave command for all of them to be killed.

Daniel was considered a wise man and the command went out to get Daniel and Daniel asked him to give him time to pray. He prayed and God gave him the answer. Then we read how Daniel ~~gave~~ told the king what his dream was. The of course knew that what he told was correct therefore he was ready to believe what he said it meant.

#### B. Nebuchadnezzar's Vision, vv.31-35.

We all have dreams. The person who does not dream will not live. Dreaming is natural but for most of us it is a very good thing to forget what we dreamed. Usually it's a combination of experiences we had before it combined in a somewhat unusual way. It may have something to do with what we ate for supper last night! Most dreams have no meaning. But God can reveal something by a dream if he chooses. In this case God gave the king a specific dream in order to show his people something of what was going to happen in the future. So in this case this dream represents true events of the future. The dream is divided into two parts.

1. We have a static picture first. The king saw a statue made up of five parts: a head which was gold, breast and arms of silver. How many arms did the statue have? We're safe in saying there were two arms. And the breast (the upper half of the trunk). It's belly and thighs were of bronze. Thighs is usually interpreted as meaning from the hips to the knees. I've seen pictures that have shown the whole \_\_\_\_\_ as being the third part, but that's not what this says. The third part includes the abdomen and down to the knees. The belly and thighs were made of bronze. Then the legs (which would be from the knees down) were of iron. The feet were partly iron and partly clay. So the dream begins with a static picture.

2. It continues with a dynamic series of events. This series of events has three parts:

a. Origin of the stone. There is the stone cut without hands. b. Effect on the statue. This stone hurls through the air and hits the statue. The statue is entirely demolished.

c. Enlargement of stone. Then the stone grows until it fills the whole world. Those are the parts of the vision.