

“NEBUCHADNEZZAR’S INSOMNIA”

1. What is one of the most memorable or unusual dreams you have ever had?

2. What kinds of dreams most disturb you: (a) Daydreams? (b) Nightmares? (c) Sleep-walking? Give examples.

3. How many ways can you think of that help people interpret their dreams?

4. What does the king ask of the astrologers (vv.1-3)? Why is he testing their competence (vv.4-13)? Why is he so firm? So angry?

5. In his fury, what does the king decide to do (vv.12-13)? How does Daniel respond to this edict?

6. Embracing the death-defying dare to interpret the dream, what role is played by Daniel's personal faith? Group prayer? God's special revelation?

7. Does Daniel’s psalm (vv.20-23) express personal faith, or corporate worship? Why do you think so?

8. What gifts does he praise God for? Why? What does that say about God? About Daniel? About intercession, thanksgiving and counting our blessings?

9. Why does Daniel particularly praise God’s "wisdom and might"? How does this relate to the king's and astrologers' claim?

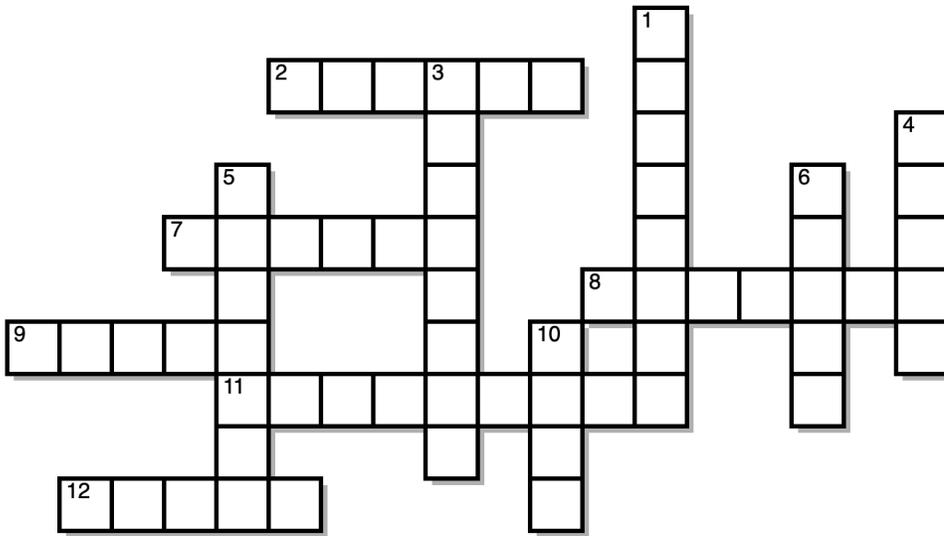
10. Compare Daniel and this king to Joseph and the Pharaoh (Ge 41): How are they alike? Not alike?

11. Who (or what) drives you up the wall with demands? How do you decide when to give in and when to say no?

12. What influences you more: Daily horoscope? Church grapevine? Editorial page? Your boss? Other:?

13. Daniel was given wisdom. Nebuchadnezzar had power. Who in your life or society claims to have wisdom or power? How do their claims compare to God's gifts to us?

14. How may your prayer life reflect Daniel’s praise and thanksgiving? And his friends' powerful intercession?



Down

1 This is a descriptive term for a special group, known for their expertise in magic lore and interpreting dreams.

3 Nebuchadnezzar threatens to dismember his wise men and make their houses a public _____.

4 The wise men tell the king that only the gods could know the answer to his dream and that their dwelling was not with _____. (v.11)

5 In what language do the dream-interpreters speak to Nebuchadnezzar? In writing the book of Daniel, Daniel here switches in verse 4b to this language and continues to use it on through 7:28.

6 According to Jewish reckoning, this was the _____ year of

Nebuchadnezzar's reign.

10 What does Daniel ask the king for that had been denied the other wise men?

Across

2 According to Babylonian reckoning (which Daniel uses), this was the _____ year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign.

7 This was the captain of the king's guard.

8 Daniel and his companions sought " _____ from the God of heaven concerning this secret". (v.18)

9 It was considered a very bad omen to forget a _____; it meant that the gods were angry with you.

11 A king's initial year was considered his "year of _____ to the throne" and was not added to the remaining years of his reign.

12 The person who keeps their mind stayed on God is promised perfect _____ in Isaiah 26:3?

WORD SEARCH:

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|----------------|----------------|
| Daniel | Butler |
| Hananiah | Baker |
| Mishael | Pharaoh |
| Azariah | Solomon |
| Babylon | Anxious |
| God | Interpretation |
| Nebuchadnezzar | Lying |
| Magicians | Corrupt |
| Astrologers | Command |
| Sorcerers | Destroy |
| Visions | Counsel |
| Dreams | Wisdom |
| Troubled | Heaven |
| Abimelech | Wisdom |
| Jacob | Might |
| Laban | Times |
| Joseph | Seasons |

L P R Z A J O S E P H W I S D O M N W D
 E D T Y D N E V A E H J N D Z J N Z J S
 A M E R M W X V R B A K E R R E Y L O M
 H I J L X M X I S C X J R W B O T R M Q
 S G K J B N P E O Y G Y T U R P C T H J
 I H R L D U A B K U P P C T R E A O M D
 M T M L L S O K X Z S H S I R Z A M R N
 S R E G O L O R T S A E N E A R A E Y M
 A M H N R Y V L T D D T R R A G A W R P
 B D S A D R E N N C E S I H I M S M J G
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