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## The Demand of Nebuchadnezzar 2: 1-35

**ADONAI** begins to reveal to **Dani’el** the initial revelation regarding the **Times of the Gentiles** (see [Ao](#) - **The Times of the Gentiles**). He provides an initial overview of the four empires that will govern this period. As the book progresses, God’s revelation becomes increasingly specific, reaching their climax in **Chapter 12**.



The genre of **Chapter Two** is correctly identified as a “court tale of conquest,” a contest between **Dani’el** and **the Babylonian magi** (Hebrew: *chartom*, refers to a *magician or wise man*). A conflict was initiated when **King Nebuchadnezzar** dreamed **a dream (2:1)**. In the ancient world, such **dreams** were thought to be shadows that the future cast in front of itself, tipping its hand to show what lay ahead. The interpretation of **the dream** was therefore important, in order that **the king** might take whatever steps necessary to counteract the events **the dream** anticipated, or at least be ready for **them**. In preparation for such eventualities, many **kings** of the ancient Near East

had special **dream interpreters** in **their** royal court, and **Nebuchadnezzar** was no exception. **He** employed a staff of **magi** whose job it was to interpret the significance of such **dreams**.<sup>40</sup> However, the tension in this section results from the fact **the magi** were unable to perform **their** duties. Thus, opening the door for **Dani'el** to come forward and not only interpret **the king's dream**, but to give all the glory to **ADONAI**.

This **chapter, verses 1** through **35** can be broken down in chiasmic fashion, resulting in a mirror effect as the ideas are “reflected” back in the passage: **A** to **A**, **B** to **B**, with **C being the climax of the chiasm**.

**A. The Challenge to the Magi - 2:1-13 (As)**

**B. Dani'el's Plea - 2:14-16 (At)**

**C. Dani'el's Prayer - 2:17-23 (Au)**

**B. Dani'el's Witness - 2:24-30 (Av)**

**A. The King's Dream - 2:31-35 (Aw)**