



# CAPITOL COMMISSION

## Passion vs. Prudence

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*Daniel 2:1-6: And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof. They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it. The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof. The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain. Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.*

Have you ever dreamed a dream you could not remember but had a vague feeling that it was a good or bad dream?

King Nebuchadnezzar demanded the “wise”<sup>1</sup> men to tell him his dream and its meaning.

The king used his arbitrary<sup>2</sup> power to sentence them to death.

Daniel was not in the assembly called to the king, but was included in the death sentence.

In the face of certain death, Daniel calmly yet boldly requested a temporary stay.

“A soft answer turneth away wrath” *Proverbs 15:1*

Prudence - Wisdom applied to practice. Prudence implies caution in deliberating and consulting on the most suitable means to accomplish valuable purposes.<sup>3</sup>

Passion - Violent agitation or excitement of mind, particularly such as is occasioned by an offense, injury or insult; hence, violent anger.<sup>4</sup>

*How do we respond when we are seemingly mistreated or overlooked - with passion or prudence?*

<sup>1</sup> “magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers” Daniel 2:2

<sup>2</sup> Arbitrary - “Despotic; absolute in power; having no external control; as, an arbitrary prince or government. Arbitrary power is most easily established on the ruins of liberty abused to licentiousness.” Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary

<sup>3</sup> Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary

<sup>4</sup> Webster’s 1828 American Dictionary

### BIBLE STUDIES

CHAPEL SERVICES: THURSDAY @ 12:10-12:35 P.M.  
STAFF/LOBBYIST BIBLE STUDY: FRIDAY @ 12:30 P.M., CHAPEL ROOM