

agency of an exalted God. He, the most powerful monarch then on earth, had seen that his throne had no stability; he had seen that God had power at his will to bring him down from his lofty seat and to transfer his authority to other hands, and he was naturally led to reflect, that the throne of God was the only one that was stable and permanent. He could not but be convinced that God reigned over all, and that His Kingdom was not subject to the vicissitudes which occur in the Kingdoms of this world.

The King was now at rest in his palace; a state of tranquility and security reigned all around. His kingdom was enjoying peace; his wars were over. He had built a magnificent capital; he had gathered around him wealth and the luxuries of the world, and he was now in a condition to pass away the remainder of his life in ease and comfort. All around him was peaceful, and from no source had he any cause of disquiet.

It was during this time that God saw fit to startle him by a second dream, to awaken him once more to a sense of God's omnipotence, for the King had entirely forgotten Him, and had sunk low in voluptuousness and dissipation. This dream, we are told, caused him much anxiety, and great fear arose up within him, evidently from the apprehension that it was designed to disclose some important and solemn event; and we read further, that this dream so troubled him that he could not rest, but immediately makes a decree, or, in other words, issues a royal order, to summons once more into his presence all who could be supposed qualified to explain the dream. Thus all the magicians, soothsayers, and other wise men, had to appear before the King, to interpret the dream. These men were presumed to be gifted with preternatural knowledge. This supernatural gift of the wise men was firmly believed in by all the nations and people then existing. This shows us what a state of ignorance then prevailed amongst all classes. Indeed, at the present time this class of men are to be found, and are undoubtedly great deceivers of mankind; and it is entirely owing to our superior education, and to the spread of God's Holy Word, that the utter fallacy of their pretended powers are made manifest. To explain remarkable occurrences, and to declare the will of heaven from portents and wonders, is impossible for any man; yet, these wise men of the East, who assembled before the King, had the audacity to pretend to be able to penetrate the hidden mysteries of the future world.

This time Nebuchadnezzar's memory did not fail him; he repeated to the Chaldeans and soothsayers the dream which disturbed his