

Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”
Isaiah 40:31*



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Demand Evidence!

God does not demand blind faith of us. On the contrary, He urges us to ask questions and push for answers. Otherwise, we become gullible victims of frauds and charlatans.

“They answered a second time and said, ‘Let the king tell the dream to his servants, and we will declare the interpretation.’ The king replied, ‘I know for certain that you are bargaining for time, For you have agreed together to speak lying and corrupt words before me until the situation is changed; therefore tell me the dream, that I may know that you can declare to me its interpretation’” (Dan. 2:7-9).

“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 Jn. 4:1).

King Nebuchadnezzar may have been a pagan and an arrogant ruler, but he was also a shrewd man who understood the dynamics of palace politics. When he consulted his wise men about the meaning of his troubling dream, he knew perfectly well that they could make up any interpretation loaded with flattery and praise, and he would have no way of disputing it. So his challenge to the wise men was simple: *first* tell him what the dream was, *then* tell him

the interpretation. If they could do that, then he could have confidence that what they said was the truth. Otherwise, they were charlatans who had no more insight into the king’s dream than the royal janitor.

The king was doing what the apostle John many centuries later counseled his readers to do: “test the spirits to see whether they are of God.” This world is loaded with frauds and hucksters who are quite good at presenting themselves as agents of God, and we are fools if we simply take them at their word and swallow their teaching unchallenged. Like good King Neb, we need to treat every “man of God” and doctrine with a strong dose of skepticism, demanding evidence that will verify their credentials.

For example, one critical test that must be passed is conformity to prior revelation. Moses warned the Israelites not to follow a prophet who encouraged them to go after other gods—even if the prophet performed signs and wonders (Deut. 13:1-5). God had already revealed Himself to His people as the true God, and that could not be altered

by later revelations. The Bereans were applying that same principle when they “searched the Scriptures daily” in response to Paul’s preaching (Ac. 17:11). In that case, their healthy skepticism was rewarded by a firm conviction that Paul was right.

This principle works in the other direction, too. When we encounter people who challenge the foundations of our faith (Is there really a God? How can we know the Bible is His word?), we cannot just blow them off as godless unbelievers unworthy of our time. Instead, we must be prepared to “give a defense (Greek: *apologia*) to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Pet. 3:15). The field of apologetics is a perfectly legitimate arena for God’s people to establish the veracity of our faith. If people demand evidence of us, we must be ready to give it.

Nebuchadnezzar’s wise men were discredited because they could not provide evidence of their claims. Daniel met the king’s challenge, and turned the king into a believer (v. 46-47). That should be our objective also.

– David King