


Gold Standard
Daniel 2:17:49

Sermon Series:
Finding True Courage



The background features a warm, golden-yellow color palette. In the top-left corner, there are two autumn leaves, one yellow and one orange-red. The right side of the image is decorated with intricate, light-colored floral and scrollwork patterns. The overall texture is soft and artistic.

Psalm 31:15 (NKJV)

- ***“My times are in your hands.”***



I. The Gold Standard

- *The real gold is the sovereignty of God.*
- Daniel 2:17-23 yields three truths about the sovereignty of God.



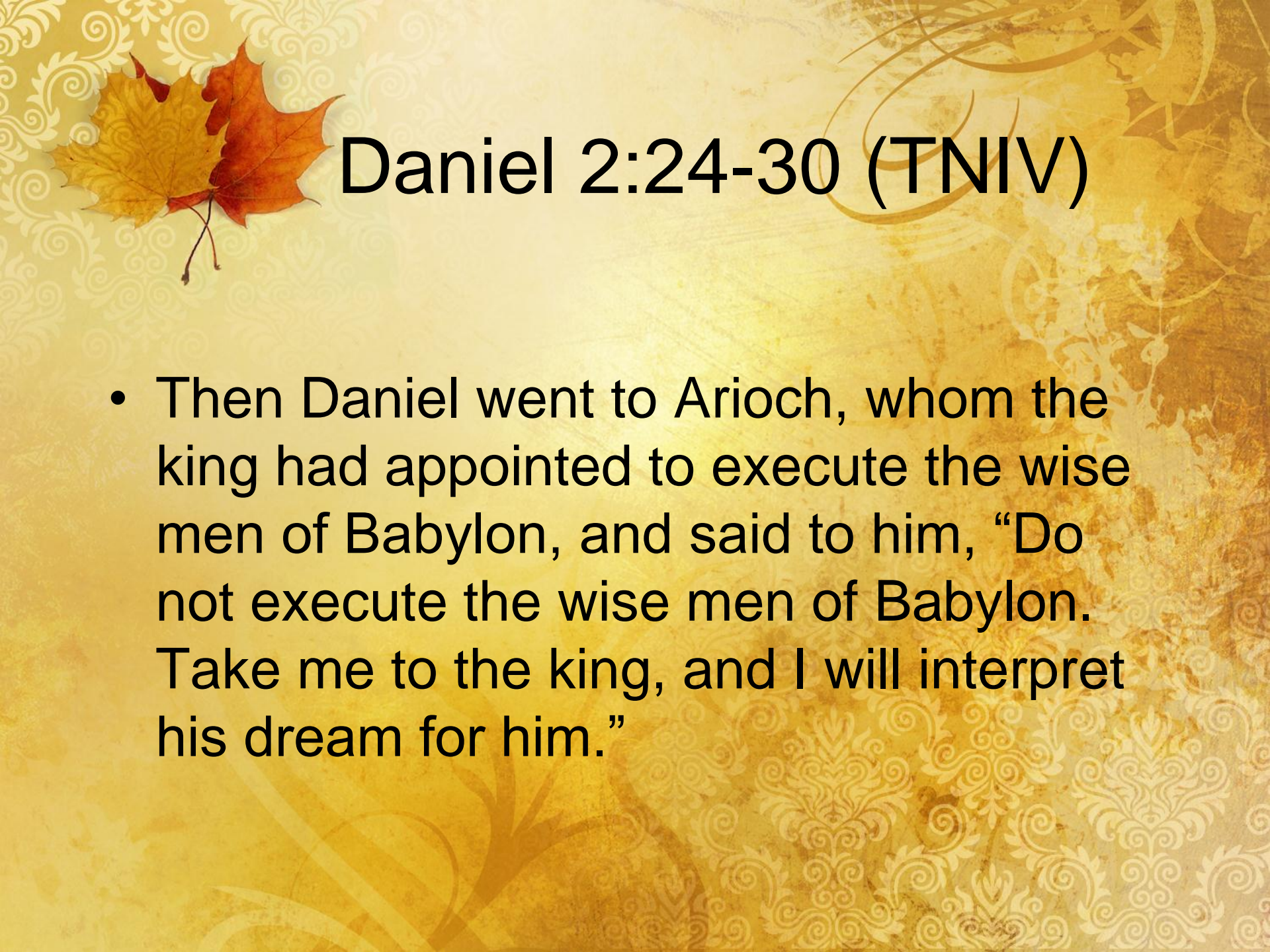
The Gold Standard (cont'd)

- **1. *God's sovereignty magnifies His power and wisdom in my mind.***
- Power without wisdom can lead to great abuse and chaos. But our great God's power is always used in conjunction with His wisdom.



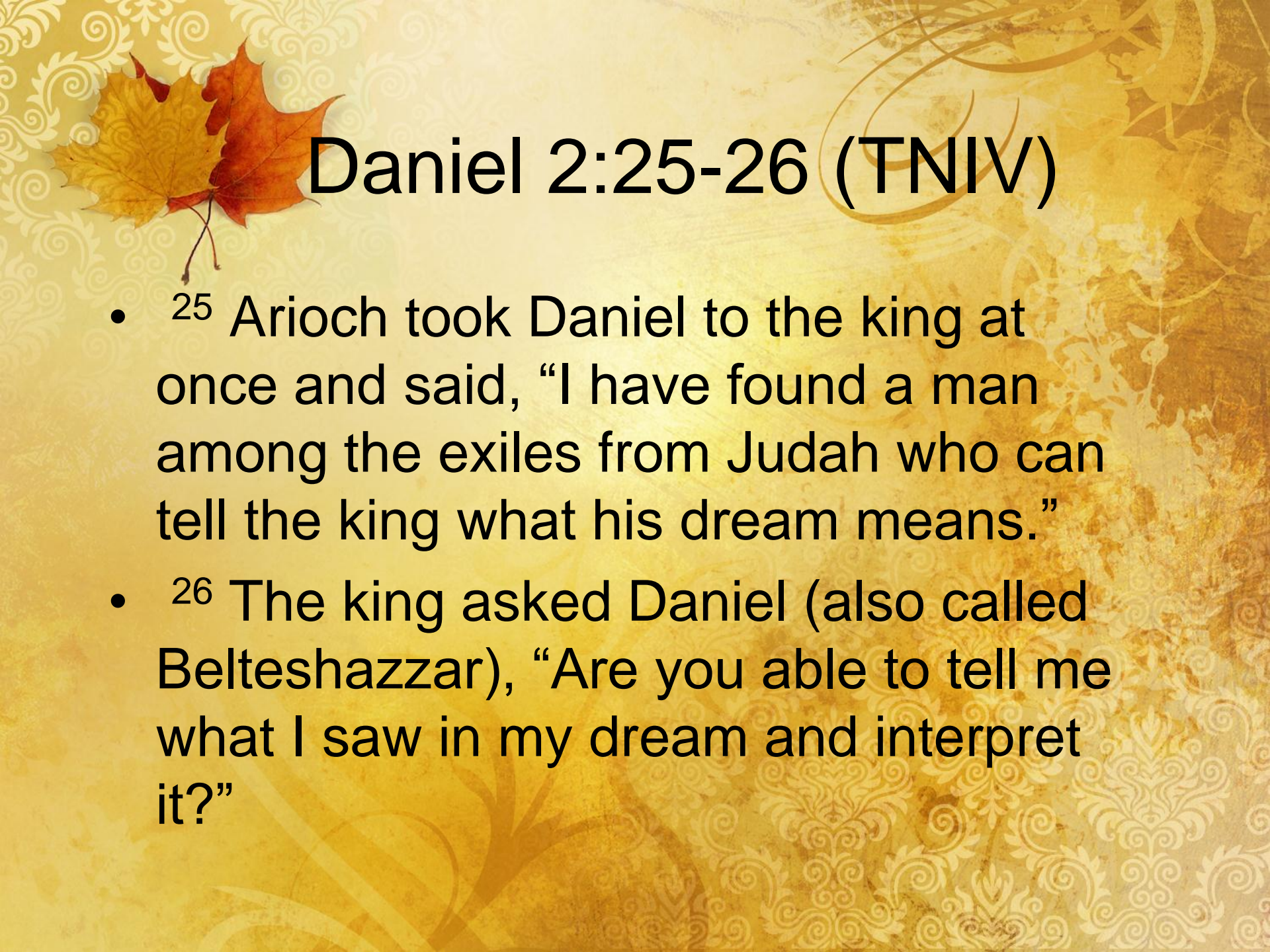
The Gold Standard (cont'd)

- ***2. God's sovereignty maintains His peace in my heart and mind.***
- Notice what Daniel does after praying and honoring God for His sovereignty and power: he immediately asks to see the king.



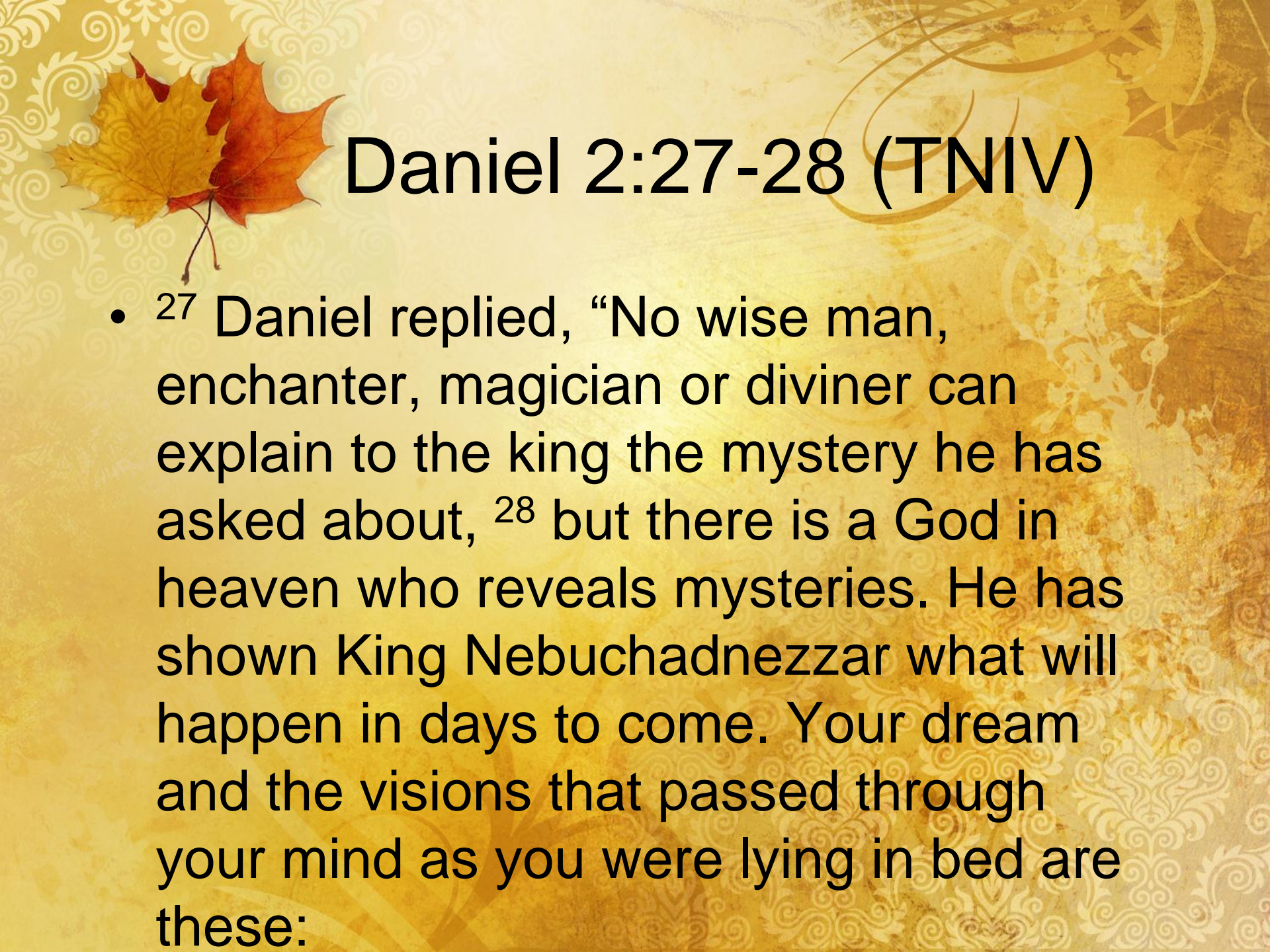
Daniel 2:24-30 (TNIV)

- Then Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men of Babylon, and said to him, “Do not execute the wise men of Babylon. Take me to the king, and I will interpret his dream for him.”



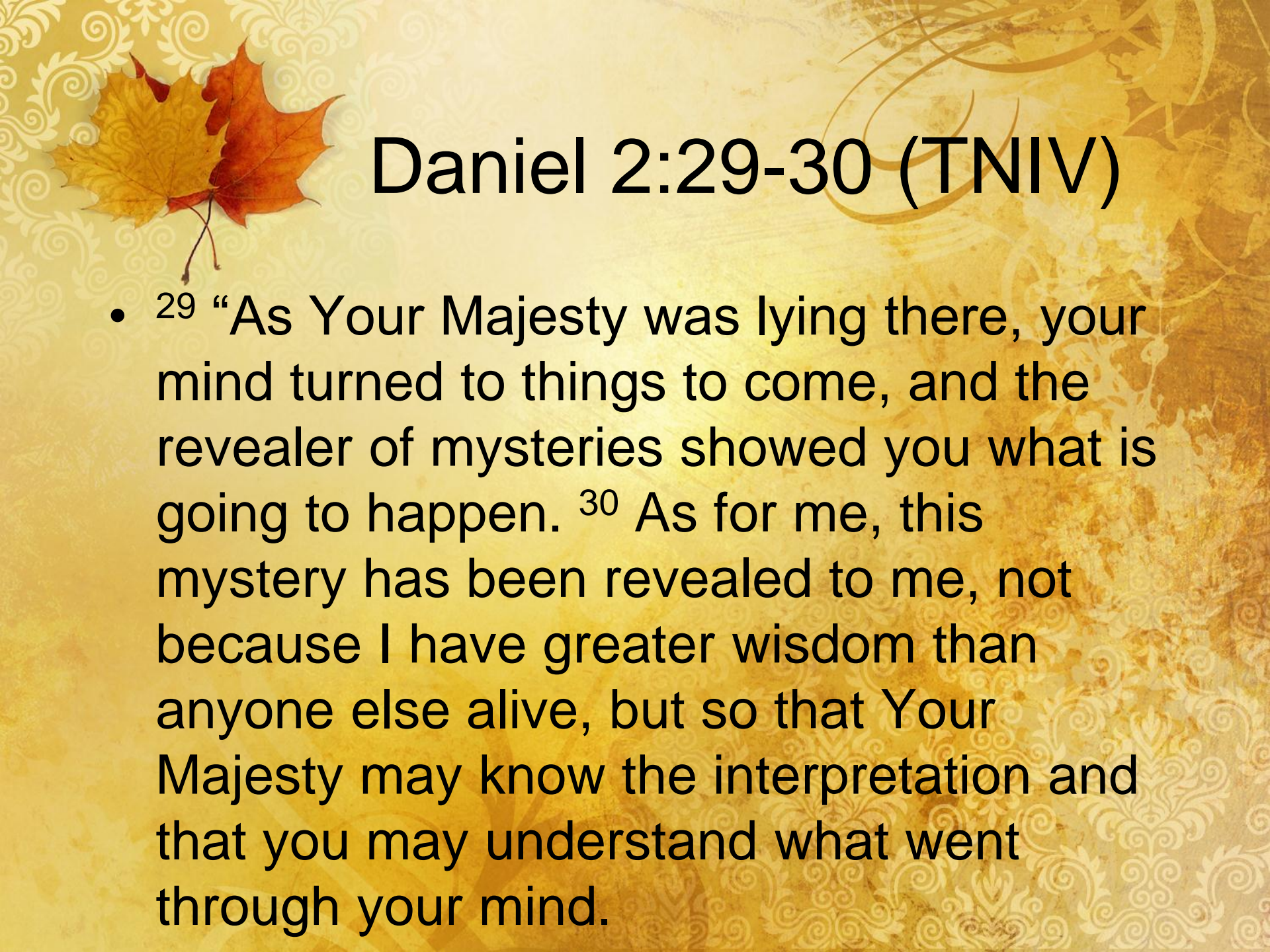
Daniel 2:25-26 (TNIV)

- ²⁵ Arioch took Daniel to the king at once and said, “I have found a man among the exiles from Judah who can tell the king what his dream means.”
- ²⁶ The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”



Daniel 2:27-28 (TNIV)

- ²⁷ Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:



Daniel 2:29-30 (TNIV)

- ²⁹ “As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. ³⁰ As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind.




The Gold Standard (cont'd)

- **3. *God's sovereignty masters the perspective of my heart and mind.***
- Our God owns history, and He owns the future.




The Gold Standard (cont'd)

- Psalm 31:15 (NKJV) says, “*My times are in your hands.*”
- Daniel lived under the peace of knowing that God ruled his life and his circumstances.




II. Neb's Dream

- ***Daniel 2:31-33 (TNIV):***
- “Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. ³² The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.



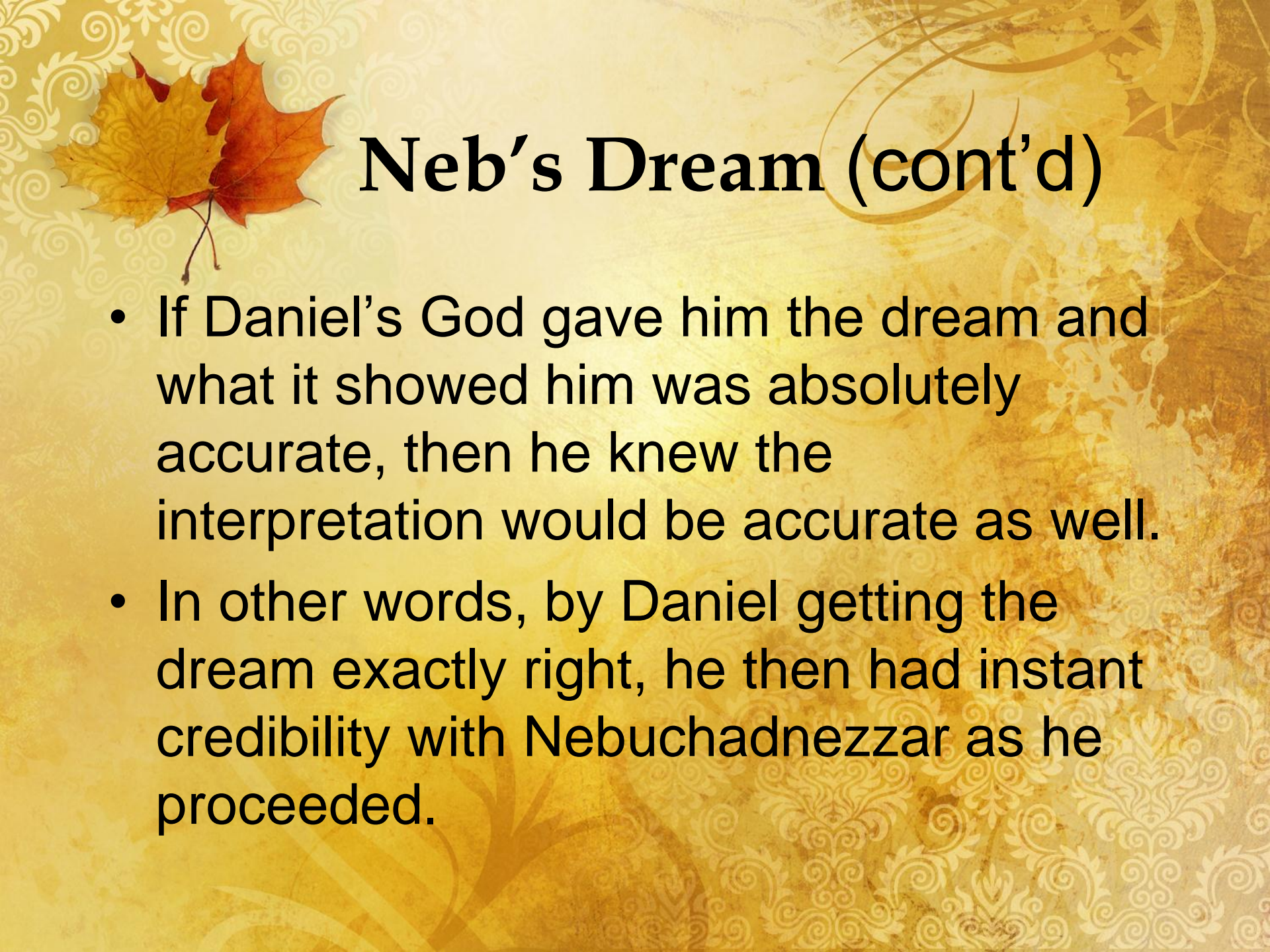
Daniel 2:34-35 (TNIV)

- ³⁴ While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer.



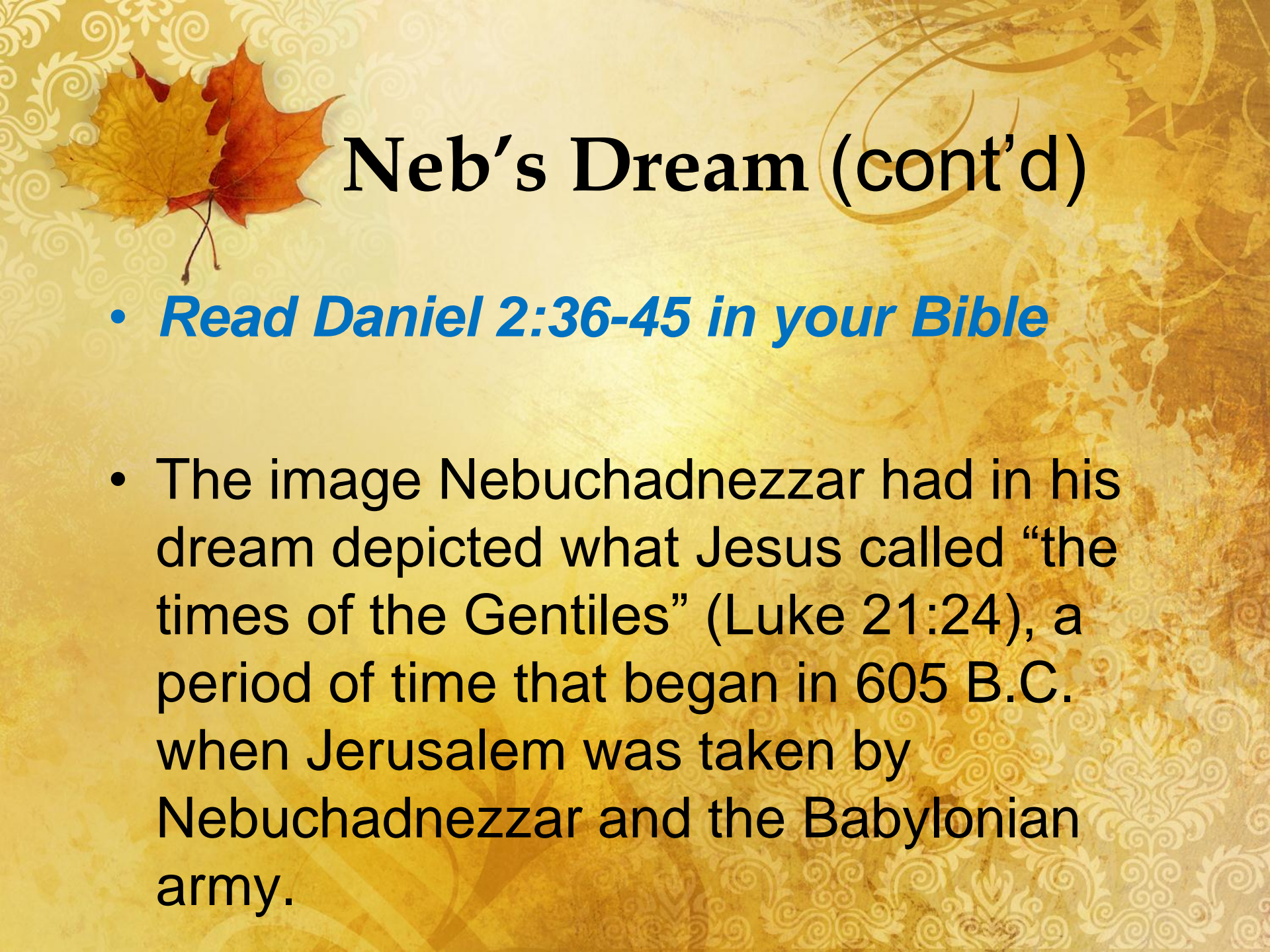
Daniel 2:35-36 (TNIV)

- The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.
- ³⁶ “This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king.




Neb's Dream (cont'd)

- If Daniel's God gave him the dream and what it showed him was absolutely accurate, then he knew the interpretation would be accurate as well.
- In other words, by Daniel getting the dream exactly right, he then had instant credibility with Nebuchadnezzar as he proceeded.




Neb's Dream (cont'd)

- *Read Daniel 2:36-45 in your Bible*
- The image Nebuchadnezzar had in his dream depicted what Jesus called “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24), a period of time that began in 605 B.C. when Jerusalem was taken by Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army.




Neb's Dream (cont'd)

- This period will end when Christ returns to establish His kingdom (Luke 21:25-28).
- During the “times of the Gentiles,” there will be four successive kingdoms, climaxed by a fifth kingdom that will destroy the other four and fill the earth. The fifth kingdom is the Lord Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.




Neb's Dream (cont'd)

- Traditional commentators through the history of the church have almost universally identified the four kingdoms as:
- Babylon, Medo-Persia (established by Cyrus in 539 B.C.; specifically named in Daniel 8:20)



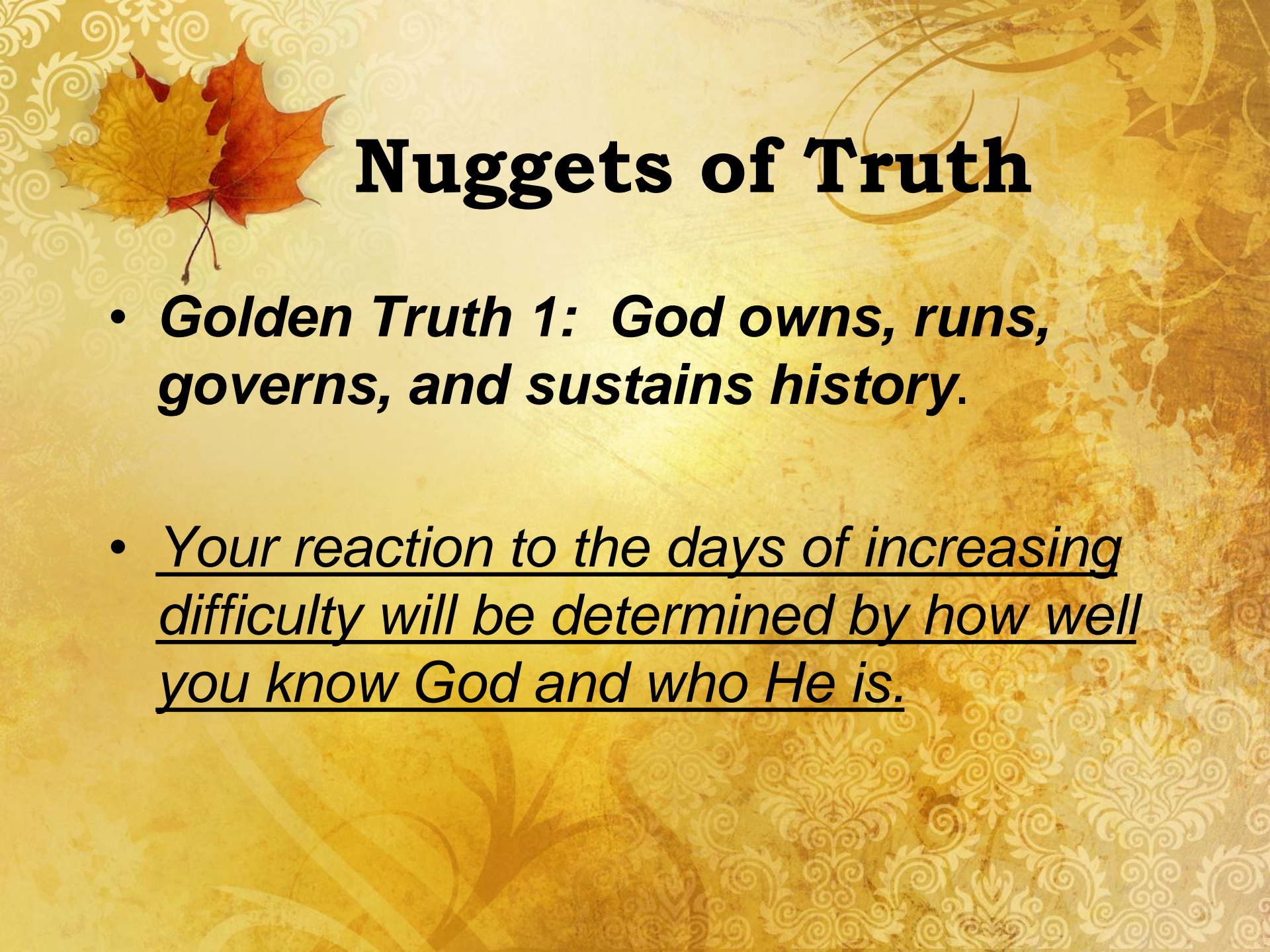
Neb's Dream (cont'd)

- Greece (under Alexander the Great, about 331 B.C.)
- Rome (the Roman Empire began its rule over Palestine in A.D. 63).



Neb's Dream (cont'd)

- So the head of gold, as Daniel tells it, is Nebuchadnezzar himself .
- The Medes and Persians are the chest and arms of silver.
- The kingdom of Greece is the belly and thighs of brass.
- The Roman Empire is described as the legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay.



Nuggets of Truth

- ***Golden Truth 1: God owns, runs, governs, and sustains history.***
- *Your reaction to the days of increasing difficulty will be determined by how well you know God and who He is.*



Nuggets of Truth (cont'd)

- John 17:3 (ESV), *“And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”*
- ***Golden Truth 2: God has built decay and decline into great nations.***



Nuggets of Truth (cont'd)

- ***Golden Truth 3: Christ is coming back with a kingdom that will never be destroyed.***
- ***Read Daniel 2:44-45 in your Bibles***



Nuggets of Truth (cont'd)

- History is connected. Every nation has its place, and every person has his or her place.
- Nothing is random or by chance.
- *Read Daniel 2:46-49 (TNIV) in your Bible*



Invitation

- How well are you sleeping in the midst of your difficulties and challenges?
- It all depends on your theology.
- What was the title of John Feinburg's book?
- *No One Like Him.*