

**Daniel:** Chapter 2  
(God- The Revealer of the future)

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Chapter 2:1-22: Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

**Dan 2:1** And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

- The mightiest mortal is troubled by dreams in his second year of reign. No one can resist God's providential infusion in history, not even a king.

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**Dan 2:2** 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.

- In his derision the king calls on those who cannot help him, thus showing his weakness in decision making.

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**Dan 2:3** And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

- spirit- Heb 7307- by resemblance spirit, but only of a rational being (including its expressions and functions).

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**Dan 2:4** 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.

- Chaldeans- Heb 3778- astrologer (as if proverbial of that people).

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- Syriack- Heb 762- *in Aramaic*:- in the Syrian language.

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**Dan 2:5** 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.

**Dan 2:6** 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.

- "The thing is gone from me"- Whether lying or telling the truth, the king knew "*the wise men weren't beyond making-up*" an "*interpretation*" if they had to have one. (v. 9) Putting them on the spot in such a way was to force them into revealing the dream of lose everything.

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**Dan 2:7** They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it.

- They can't believe the king is serious.

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**Dan 2:8** The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me.

**Dan 2:9** 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 king put them on the spot because he knew with a little time they could concoct some ruthless lie. They were stalling.
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- till the time be changed- The king understood their stalling tactic was in hopes that he would forget the whole incident.

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**Dan 2:10** 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.

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- They, like the witch of Endor (*1 Sam 28:12*), knew they were quacks. If they were able to do what they claimed, why weren't they kings themselves since with such knowledge they would be able to take over?

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**Dan 2:11** 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.

- They were witnesses against themselves. If they claimed to have an avenue to the gods, they just exposed their fraud.

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**Dan 2:12** For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.

**Dan 2:13** And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain.

- "Why have a watchdog if you have to do your own barking"? Why have these quacks on the payroll. The four companions of the captivity are on the executioners list.

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**Dan 2:14** 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:

**Dan 2:15** 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.

**Dan 2:16** Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

- Arioch doesn't slay Daniel and his friends but allows him to make an appointment with the king. Not to bide time to make up lies but to do what others could not do; reveal and interpret.

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**Dan 2:17** Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

**Dan 2:18** That they would desire mercies of the God of Heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

- Daniel has already promised the king he could reveal the dream. Now he encourages his friends to desire mercies of the only true God and revealer of secrets. They received mercies because they had faith that God would respond. It showed their dependence on Him.

Jas 4:2 Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, **because ye ask not.** (*Emp. added*)

Jas 5:16 Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The **effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.** (*Emp. added*)

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**Dan 2:19** Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of Heaven.

- One vision revealed by another. Daniel praises to the Source of the revelation.

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**Dan 2:20** Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the Name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are His:

- Name- Heb 8036 corresponding to H8034- an *appellation*, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication *honor, authority, character.*

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**Dan 2:21** And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:

**Dan 2:22** He revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him.

**Dan 2:23** I thank Thee, and praise Thee, O Thou God of my fathers, Who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of Thee: for Thou hast *now* made known unto us the king's matter.

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- I asked (humbly) and You delivered. Daniel gives credit where credit is due. God is involved in history. He saw it before it was history.

Psa 111:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do **His commandments**: His praise endureth forever. (*Emp. added*)

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**Dan 2:24** Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise *men* of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise *men* of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation.

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- Therefore- "*because God was merciful*" Daniel, with confidence, tells Arioch not to do the king's bidding because his appointment would resolve the matter.

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**Dan 2:25** Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation.

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- Arioch had to have some respect and confidence in Daniel to go against the king's decree. He also wanted to "*make himself look a little more important*" to the king. He didn't find anything because it was Daniel who approached Arioch in the first place.

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**Dan 2:26** The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof?

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- The king goes right to the point.

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**Dan 2:27** Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

**Dan 2:28** But there is a God in Heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

**Dan 2:29** As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter; and He that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass.

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- First- Daniel makes a point that the bogus "*spiritual*" advisers to the king are just that, bogus.
- Second- Daniel reveals the true God of Heaven.
- latter days- Contextual timeframe. Daniel explains, by the image, those things that would happen, in succession, after the king's reign.
- hereafter- from this time forward.

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**Dan 2:30** But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.

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- Daniel, unlike the astrologers, etc., reveals his humility. God, Daniel says, didn't reveal it to him because of his own wisdom.

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done,...

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**Dan 2:31** Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

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- "Whether the king had really forgotten the dream or not, this announcement would have staggered him". Because Daniel had the ability to reveal the "content" of the dream, the king could then trust him to give the accurate meaning of it.

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**Dan 2:32** This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

**Dan 2:33** His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

**Dan 2:34** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

**Dan 2:35** Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

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- One image consisting of many parts/kingdoms.
  1. head of gold. (Babylonian)
  2. breast and arms of silver. (Medo-Persian)
  3. belly and thighs of brass. (Greek)
  4. legs and feet of iron and clay. (Roman)

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- a stone/without hands- "A kingdom without human origin".

Job 34:21 For His eyes *are* upon the ways of man, and He seeth all his goings.

Dan 8:25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify *himself* in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be **broken without hand**. (*Emp. added*)

The Messianic kingdom- kingdoms built by man (*by God's permission*) fall. The stone here breaks the image at its feet. The "anti-God" unity of these kingdoms existed until the hand of God had smitten them. They are then as if they never existed. The stone becomes a mountain. (*Isa 2:2-4; Heb 12:22; Rev 21:10*)

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**Dan 2:36** This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

**Dan 2:37** Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of Heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

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- given- it is God Who caused Pharaoh to stand and it is God Who gave the kingdom to the Babylonian.

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**Dan 2:38** And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath He given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold.

**Dan 2:39** And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

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- wheresoever the children of men dwell- "*Hyperbole used to stress the magnitude of his (Nebuchadnezzar's) authority*". (*Compares with Dan 7.*)
  1. Babylonian- (under Nebuchadnezzar who was given his reign) is the head of gold.
  2. Medo-Persian- (*chapter 8*) breast and arms of silver.
  3. Greek- (*chapter 8*) belly and thighs of brass. (*Ptolemies & Seleucids /Maccabees & Hasmoneans*)
  4. Roman- Legs of iron. (*Caesars*)

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**Dan 2:40** And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

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- The kingdom of iron (*Roman*) subdued these other kingdoms.

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**Dan 2:41** And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

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- part clay/part iron- (*Iron and clay do not mix.*) As Rome expanded her kingdom more money was needed to support her troops. Thus the "client-king" system. Client kings were allowed (*by Rome*) to rule as long as they paid taxes and kept their kingdoms from revolting. (*Lk 3:1; Act 19:35-40; Rev 6:2*)

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**Dan 2:42** And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

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- partly strong/partly broken- Due to over-extending herself, the kingdom of Rome couldn't help but weaken. Toes, being ten, were indicative of the "horns" (*powers*) that supported Rome (*see notes on Rev 17:12-13*).

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**Dan 2:43** And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

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- The client-king system didn't work. Too much diversity in customs, etc. The strongest rule is the smallest rule and Rome overextended herself thus becoming weak. (*Again, God sets up and breaks down kingdoms at and for His will.*)

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**Dan 2:44** And in the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

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- these kings- (*Roman Caesars*) See also notes on Rev 17:9-11.

1. Augustus (27 BC-14 AD) Lk 2:1
2. Tiberius (14 – 37 AD) Church of Christ established in 30 AD.
3. Caligula (37 – 41 AD)
4. Claudius (41 – 54 AD)
5. Nero (54 – 68 AD) *In 68 AD Galba, Otho and Vitellius reigned.*
6. Vespasian (69 – 79 AD) Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD.
7. Titus (79 – 81 AD) a son of Vespasian, died of a fatal fever in 81 AD.
8. Domitian (81 – 96 AD) another son of Vespasian.

God ruled Israel through the Gentiles until the Child of David (*Jesus*) assumed the throne. Acts 2:30-33

- Kingdom/church-

Mat 3:1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, 2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mar 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some *say that Thou art* John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But Whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Col 1:13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of His dear Son:

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**Dan 2:45** Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

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- The final rule on earth. The 1000 year reign of the saints; Dan 7:22; Rev 20:4-6.

Isa 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner *stone*, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Heb 12:26 Whose voice then shook the earth: but now He hath promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. 27 And this *word*, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are

made (*physical*), that those things which cannot be shaken (*spiritual*) may remain. 28 Wherefore we **receiving a kingdom** (*the church*) **which cannot be moved**, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: 29 For our God *is* a consuming fire. (*Emp. added*)

Act 2:47 ... And the Lord added to the church **daily** such as should be saved. (*Emp. added*)

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**Dan 2:46** Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him.

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- worshipped Daniel- Daniel has already made known to the king from whence his understanding came (2:30). The king acknowledges such by offering Daniel an oblation (*Heb.4061-tribute in money*) and sweet odours. The perfume offered to Daniel here is not that which would be offered to a god but that which would be offered to someone who would be set apart to serve in the presence of the king.

See Est 2:12; Exo 30:25-33.

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**Dan 2:47** The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth *it is*, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a Revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret.

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- Was the king converted? (*See next chapter*) Belief is not all that's necessary to please God.

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**Dan 2:48** Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.

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- Daniel was elevated in political position (*again, this was God's doing*). He was great because of God and not because of Nebuchadnezzar. Besides making him smell good in his presence, Nebuchadnezzar gave Daniel the wealth that would normally go along with position. If you are going to be the part, besides smelling like royalty, you might as well look distinguished.

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**Dan 2:49** Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

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- Daniel remembers his friends. His new position has not swelled his head.
- the kings gate- Daniel became part of the kings inner circle.

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Est 3:1 After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes

that *were* with him. 2 And all the king's servants, that *were* **in the king's gate**, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did *him* reverence. 3 Then the king's servants, which *were* **in the king's gate**, said unto Mordecai, Why transgressest thou the king's commandment? (*Emp. added*)

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