

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

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.

- Nebuchadnezzar reigned for 43 years (605-562 BC). The mightiest mortal was troubled by dreams in his second year of reign. No one can resist God's providential infusion in history, not even a king.

=====

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.

- Chaldeans (*Heb 3778*) were "astrologers (*as if proverbial of that people*)". In his derision the king calls on those who cannot help him, thus indicative of his apparent weakness in decision making. Daniel and his companions were not called since their three years of preparation were not completed (1:5).

=====

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).

=====

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.

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

=====

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" - The king was wise enough to know these so-called wise men weren't beyond making things up as they went. (v. 9) Putting them on the spot in such a way was to force them into revealing the dream quickly or lose everything.

=====

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.

=====

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 but the king was serious.
-
- till the time be changed- The king understood their stalling tactic was in hopes that he would forget the whole incident.

=====

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.

- They, like the witch of Endor (*1 Sam 28:12*), knew they were counterfeits. If they were able to do what they claimed, why weren't they king themselves since with such knowledge they would understand such mysteries and thus be able to take control?

=====

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, whose dwelling is not with flesh (*i.e., not in person*), they just exposed their fraud. If the temples of these 'gods' were among them, why couldn't they make their appeals in person? Averring the impossibility of a 'god' standing in their presence may have been a tactic to quell their present predicament. It did not.

=====

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. Even though Daniel and his three companions were proven to be above their counterparts in all knowledge and wisdom, it was not their time yet but they were to be included among those to be slain. The temperament of this self-absorbed king was so out of control that he made such a blanket decree and not one that would have been executed with precision to remove only those who were cancerous to him. The four companions of the captivity were on the executioners list. Was the king going to destroy all his advisors and start over with new ones?

=====

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 as the Chaldeans attempted to do, but to do what they could not do; reveal and interpret.

=====

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 (*1 Jn 5:15*). 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**.

Jas 5:16 ... The **effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much**.

=====

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 (*night vision, i.e., dream*). **Daniel** praises the **Source** of the revelation.

=====

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*.

=====

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:

- **He** changeth times and seasons- (*Gen 1:14*) since **God** created these components **He** can also manipulate them. (*Jos 10:12-14*)

- **He** removeth kings- This **He** did to **Nebuchadnezzar** in chapter 4.

- **He** sitteth up kings- This chapter is proof of it with **Nebuchadnezzar's** dream and after his humiliation.

- **He** giveth wisdom... **knowledge**- Here proving this with **Daniel** and his three companions.

Pro 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: **6** To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

=====

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

Psa 139:11 If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. 12 Yea, the darkness hideth not from **Thee**; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light *are* both alike *to Thee*.

=====

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.

- Daniel asked (*humbly*) and God delivered. Daniel gives credit where credit is due. God is involved in history. He understood 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.

=====

Dan 2:24 Therefore **Daniel** went in unto **Ario**ch, 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.

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

=====

Dan 2:25 Then **Ario**ch 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.

- **Ario**ch had to have had some respect for 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 as if it was he who found **Daniel** even though **Daniel** was the one who approached **Ario**ch. **Daniel** was among the captives who weren't to stand before the king before their time of purification and education in the Syrian language. But this was important in order to quell the king's anger.

=====

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?

- The king goes right to the point.

=====

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;

- in the latter days- Daniel makes a point that the bogus "spiritual" advisers to the king are just that, bogus. Many have alleged, falsely, that the phrase here concerns the last dispensation right before the end of time. Context always must be considered when making such suppositions. This is to be interpreted as the time after Nebuchadnezzar has been succeeded, his reign being the "head of gold" (v. 38) with the others following in succession.

=====

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.

- Daniel reveals and gives credit to the true God of Heaven.

- hereafter- from this time forward.

=====

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.

- 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,...

=====

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.

- "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.

=====

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.

- One image consisting of many parts/kingdoms (which Daniel expounds on in the verses following).
 1. head of fine gold- (Babylonian)
 2. breast... arms of silver- (Medo-Persian)
 3. belly... thighs of brass- (Greek)
 4. legs and feet of iron and clay- (Roman)
- a stone/without hands- "A kingdom without human origin".

Dan 8:25 And through his (*Antiochus IV Epiphanes*) 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**.

This stone represents 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** smites them. They are then as if they never existed. The stone becomes a mountain (*See notes Rev 21:10*).

Isa 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the **mountain** of the **LORD'S** house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. **3** And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the **LORD**, to the house of the **God** of **Jacob**; and **He** will teach us of **His** ways, and we will walk in **His** paths: for out of **Zion** shall go forth the law, and the word of the **LORD** from **Jerusalem**. (*Acts 2*) **4** And **He** shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Heb 12:22 But ye are come unto mount **Sion**, and unto the city of the living **God**, the heavenly **Jerusalem**, and to an innumerable company of angels, (*Rev 21*)

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.

- given- it is **God Who** caused **Pharaoh** to stand and it is **God Who** gave the kingdom to the **Babylonian**. **Daniel** is telling the king that all his strength and glory came, not by his own power, but by the will of the **God** of **Heaven** (*who used him to punish His own rebellious people*). **Nebuchadnezzar** must have had a short memory as per chapter 4:30.

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.

- wheresoever the children of men dwell- "*Hyperbole used to stress the magnitude of his (Nebuchadnezzar's) authority*".
 1. head of gold- **Babylonian with Nebuchadnezzar who was given his reign.**

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.

2. breast and arms of silver- this kingdom was to be inferior to **Babylon**; **Medo-Persian** (*chapter 8*).
3. belly and thighs of brass- **Greek-** (*chapter 8*). (*Ptolemies & Seleucids /Maccabees & Hasmoneans*)

=====

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.

4. legs of iron- Roman (*Caesars*) This was Rome in the beginning of her conquests. She was strong until she over extended herself and the nations she conquered did not fully assimilate into her culture, politics or pagan religion.

- The kingdom of iron (*Roman*) subdued the first three kingdoms. Not literally but in succession, Rome was the 'last man standing' so to speak.

=====

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.

- part clay/part iron- Iron and clay do not mix. As Rome expanded her kingdom more money was needed to support her lavish lifestyle and her military conquests (*Rev 18:3, 10-18*). Excessive taxation and conscription became necessary. Thus the "client-king" system (*example Lk 3:1*). Client kings were allowed (*by Rome- Rev 17:12*) to rule as long as they paid taxes and kept their kingdoms from revolting. (*Act2 19:35-40*)

Rev 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth **conquering, and to conquer.** (*Rome in her expansion into neighboring nations*)

Rev 17:1 And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: **2 With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication**, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. (*Here Rome "mixed" with the nations around her in order to support her lust for power and luxury. This then became her weakness and eventually her downfall. The satellite nations via their client kings saw Christians in the same light as did Rome and took part in the persecution.*)

=====

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.

- partly strong/partly broken- Due to over-extending herself with the inclusion of foreign customs (*client kingdoms for the most part did not assimilate into Rome's pagan religion or way of life*), 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*).

=====

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.

- mingle themselves with the seed of men- or those of inferior stock/lineage. The client/colonial-king system didn't work. Too much diversity in customs, religions, citizenship, etc. Paul would later show this adversity when he was taken into custody, showing the benefits between a citizen versus a non-citizen in occupied territories. The Romans treated the non-citizen with contempt.

Act 22:24 The chief captain commanded him to be brought into the castle, and bade that he should be examined by scourging; that he might know wherefore they cried so against him. **25** And as they bound him with thongs, Paul said unto the centurion that stood by, Is it lawful for you to scourge a man that is a Roman, and uncondemned? **26** When the centurion heard *that*, he went and told the chief captain, saying, Take heed what thou doest: for this man is a Roman. **27** Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea. **28** And the chief captain answered, With a great sum obtained I this freedom. And Paul said, But I was *free* born. **29** Then straightway they departed from him which should have examined him: and the chief captain also was afraid, after he knew that he was a Roman, and because he had bound him.

=====

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.

- 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) the "beast that was" (Rev 17:8, 11). In 68/69 AD Galba, Otho and Vitellius reigned for a total of five months combined.
 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

- not be left to other people- In other words, it would not be succeeded by other kingdoms like what happened to those before it since it shall never be destroyed. It is the final spiritual/dispensational kingdom that would outlast all physical kingdoms.

- Kingdom/church- (Mat 16:28; Mk 9:27) Jesus taught His disciples to pray for it to come (Lk 11:2) and it did on Pentecost (Act 2).

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.**

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

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

=====

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.

- 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. (*Foundation stone is "Jesus is the Christ"- Mat 16:13-18*)

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- Act 2:47; Rev 21:2*) **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.

=====

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.

- 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.

Est 2:12 Now when every maid's turn was come **to go in to king Ahasuerus**, after that she had been twelve months, according to the manner of the women, (for so were the **days of their purifications** accomplished, *to wit*, six months with oil of myrrh, and six months with **sweet odours**, and with *other* things for the purifying of the women;)

=====

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 couldst reveal this secret.

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

=====

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**.

- Daniel was elevated in political position (*again, this was God's doing as He did with Joseph- Gen 41:41*). 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.

=====

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.

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

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?

Updated October 28, 2019
www.truthdiscovered.net