

Daniel Predicted Nations That Would Come upon the World Stage of History

Daniel Chapter 2

We see through the events of this Chapter, God uses Daniel to reveal by prophecy, those most influential world kingdoms that would rise to power over men, through the centuries of history:

In Daniel Chapter 2, verses 1 – 5 we see that Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a dream that disturbed him greatly. And he awoke out of his sleep unable to fully recall the details of what he had dreamed. Perhaps you have had a similar kind of experience where you could only recall pieces of what you dreamed. I suspect this is what happened with Nebuchadnezzar. When Nebuchadnezzar had summoned the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers and Chaldeans (the empire's wise men) he commanded that they tell him what he had dreamed, and then interpret the dream's meaning, or else they and their families would be destroyed. Daniel interpreted Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and saved the lives of all the wise men in Babylon.

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

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.

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

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.

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.

Daniel 2:1 through 2:5

It is obvious that providing the interpretation of the king's dream would be a very tall accomplishment for the wise men, but knowing what the dream was in the first place is beyond the ordinary, and is impossible with men. Who can possibly know what someone else has dreamed while asleep?

This seems to be an awfully unfair task Nebuchadnezzar has commanded of his wise men. Nebuchadnezzar is also saying, tell me what I dreamed and I will believe your interpretation. I suspect this was his way of insuring that his wise men would not give him a false interpretation. And so we read in verses 6 - 13 that these very ordinary wise men were not capable of accomplishing this task. This angered the king and he sent forth a decree to kill all the wise men of Babylon.

Because Daniel and his Hebrew friends were counted among the wise men of Babylon, this decree by definition would include them. It is at this point that Daniel enquires and learns what is going on, as can be seen in verses 14 – 16 below.

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:

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.

Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:14 through 2:16

So then, when Daniel (the man and prophet of God) learns what has been going on and why King Nebuchadnezzar is so angry, that he has ordered the death of all the wise men, Daniel along with his Hebrew companions and the very, very special council of God save the lives of all. Let's continue following these circumstances by reading Daniel 2:17 - 25.

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

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.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:

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 revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light ***(whole truth, from beginning to end)*** dwelleth with him.

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.

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.

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.

Daniel 2:17 through 2:25

As we continue this narrative we shall see that the final results of Daniel's involvement with Nebuchadnezzar's dream is that Nebuchadnezzar has his dream interpreted and God reveals knowledge of what is to come in the world, which shall play out over the centuries eventually resulting the kingdom of God ruling on earth, just as in heaven. The remainder of this, Daniel Chapter 2, focuses primarily on these revelations God showed to the world through Daniel.

In verses 26 - 31 Daniel makes introductory statements and gives God praise and credit concerning the interpretation of king Nebuchadnezzar's dream. In the king's dream, Daniel says that the king saw a very large image. And as we follow Daniel's

explanation of the king's dream it becomes clear that the image is the figure of a man, perhaps eighty to ninety feet tall.

Later, in Daniel Chapter 3 verse 1 we see that Nebuchadnezzar creates an image based on this figure in his dream, and requires everyone under his rule to bow down and worship it.

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?

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;

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days (*or future*). Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

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.

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.

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 (*or very large*).

Daniel 2:26 through 2:31

Daniel, in verses 32 and 33 describe four specific attributes of the image Nebuchadnezzar saw in his dream:

(1) - The image's head was of fine gold

(2) - His breast and his arms of silver

(3) - His belly and thighs of brass

(4) - His legs of iron. And his feet a mixture: part iron, and part of clay.

And in verses 34 and 35 Daniel says to the king, this is the image you saw until a stone was cut out (but not by men, or human origin) which smote the image's feet and broke up or disintegrated the entire image.

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.

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. (*This represents Jesus coming to earth, removing the kingdoms of the world and replacing them with God's kingdom that fills the whole earth*)

Daniel 2:34 through 2:35

So, Daniel says to the king, "This is the dream, and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king":

The image represents four major world kingdoms of men, which should come upon the earth. During the time of the kings in the fourth kingdom the stone cut out without hands (Jesus Christ) came and opened the way to his kingdom, "The Kingdom Of God and of Heaven". Let's continue scripture reading and analysis at Daniel 2:36.

This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

Daniel 2:36 and 2:37

Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that the image's head represents him (Nebuchadnezzar), ruler of the 1st major world kingdom.

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 (*image's*) head of gold.

Daniel 2:38

And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee (*2nd major world kingdom, breast and arms of silver*), and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. (*Each major kingdom shall bear the rule over the world during their time*).

Daniel 2:39

The 2nd world kingdom is what we know today from history to be the "Medo-Persian Empire", which Cyrus the Great began; and it was later conquered by Alexander the Great (ruler of the 3rd world kingdom).

The 4th world kingdom began as the Roman Empire. During the time of this kingdom, and the kings of this kingdom, Jesus (the stone that was cut out without hands) smote the image or world kingdoms as verse 34 talks about. Therefore, let's focus more closely on the 4th world kingdom.

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.

Daniel 2:40

This 4th world wide kingdom will have the following attributes: division, but there shall also be in it elements of the iron; partly strong and partly broken; every nationality from the seed of men.

This suggests that even though the initial characteristics of this 4th kingdom (legs of iron) will later be infiltrated (or diluted) with attributes of clay, there will continue to be iron throughout its duration. In other words the influences of this 4th world kingdom will continue throughout the ages until God replaces it with His kingdom. When we look at the history of the Roman Empire, we can see that this is precisely what happened. The Roman Empire kind of just became diluted among all the other civilizations (cultures) of the world. And as one would continue studying later Chapters in Daniel, we would see other ruling powers (ten horns and one little horn) emerged

out of this world kingdom, at the end of kingdoms by men. The image's ten toes represent the ten horns described in these later Chapters.

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

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.

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.

Daniel 2:41 through 2:43

During the time of the kings of this 4th world wide kingdom, the God of heaven shall set up a kingdom, His Son Christ Jesus, which shall not be passed through human inheritance, from parent to offspring, or political party to political party. Each person must choose to be part of this kingdom for him or herself.

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. (***This is the kingdom, which Jesus spoke of saying, "repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand"; Jesus initiated the takeover of earthly kingdoms for rule by the kingdom of heaven upon the earth***)

Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, (***not man's doing***) 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. (***No one can stop the kingdom of heaven from taking over the earth. It does not matter how slowly it may seem to be progressing for those of us that desire for it to be completed: all earthly kingdoms shall be removed and replaced with the kingdom of God according to the time table of God.***)

Nebuchadnezzar honors Daniel and his GOD!

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

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.

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.

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 2:44 through 2:49

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