

## **Nebuchadnezzar's Dream**

**Dan. 2**

**4/7/21**

V1. Nebuchadnezzar's vision was from God and constitutes, when interpreted by the prophet of God, the most important single prophecy in the Bible concerning Gentile nations. As such, it proves the supernatural ability of God to reveal history in advance.

V2-13 We are looking at a king that has come into power of the known world. He is dealing with that truth and now something has brought a big snag into his moving ahead. He has a dream that troubles him greatly and the problem is he has forgotten it. Jer. 27:4-8 Rd. It is noteworthy to know that this Book of Daniel has a change from the Hebrew language to the Aramaic (the language of the Gentiles and of the world). This language would be used from verse 4 in this chapter to the 28<sup>th</sup> verse of chapter 7. This denotes that God is now speaking to the whole world and not just Israel. The nation of Israel had rebelled against God and was beginning 70 years of captivity. God has taken the scepter out of the line of David and placed it in Gentile hands. This power of Gentile nations is the meaning of this image of this dream. God is showing exactly how long and which empire would rule the world until the line of David would resume control. The power will come at the end of the Tribulation Period at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus to establish His 1,000 reign. In verse 9 we are shown the relationship between King Nebuchadnezzar and his court of 'wise' men. He has a distrust in them being honest with him. In verse 11 these men show they have no communication to anyone above themselves opening the door for Daniel to come into prominence.

V14-18 Daniel, upon finding out the order of the king, asked for time to know the answer. Daniel and his three friends were men of prayer knowing God was in heaven and not in a tent or anything on this earth so they sought for mercy from Him. We have no right to think we have anything to do to expect God to move on prayers based on us but rather on His mercy.

When the king gave Daniel time to find the answer, Daniel and his three friends begin to pray. Prayer is always more effective than panic. Panic only confirms hopelessness: prayer confirms hope in God. Daniel's trust in God would be rewarded in that He, his three friends, and all the other 'wise' men would be spared death.

V19-23 After Daniel asked God to reveal Nebuchadnezzar's dream to him, he saw a vision of the dream. His prayer was answered. Before rushing to Arioch with the news, Daniel took time to give God credit for all wisdom and power, thanking him for answering his request. God will always answer our sincere prayers. The result will be to His glory as to how He answers. How do you feel when your prayers are answered? Excited, surprised, relieved? There are times when we seek God in prayer, and, after having been answered, dash off in our excitement, forgetting to give God credit for the answer. Match your persistence in prayer with gratitude when your requests are answered.

When we see evil leaders who live long and good leaders who die young, we may wonder if God controls world events. Daniel saw evil rulers with almost limitless power, but he knew and proclaimed that God controls everything that happens. The world is moving according to God's purposes and toward His specified end. Let this knowledge give you confidence and peace no matter what happens.

V24-49 The large statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represented the four kingdoms that would dominate as world powers. We recognize these as the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Grecian Empire, and the Roman Empire. All of these will be crushed and brought to an end by the Kingdom of God, which will continue forever.

Head	Gold	Babylonian	606 B. C. –539 B. C.
Chest and Arms	Silver	Medo-Persian	539 B. C. –331 B. C.
Belly and Thighs	Bronze	Grecian	331 B. C. – 146 B.C.
Legs and Feet	Iron and Clay	Roman	145 B. C. –A. D. 476

The feet and toes of clay and iron represented the breakup of the Roman Empire, when the territory Rome ruled divided into a mixture of strong and weak nations. The type of metal in part depicted the strength of the political power it represented. The Rock cut from the mountain depicted God's Kingdom which would be ruled eternally by the Messiah, the King of kings. Daniel revealed his God as the power behind all earthly kingdoms.

Nebuchadnezzar honored Daniel and Daniel's God. If Daniel had taken the credit himself, the king would have honored only Daniel. Because Daniel gave God the credit, the king honored both of them. Part of our mission in this world is to show nonbelievers what God is like. We can do that by acts of love and compassion, and if we give God credit for our actions, they will want to know more about Him. Give thanks to God for what He is doing in and through you.

After being named ruler over the whole providence of Babylon and chief over the wise men, Daniel requested that his companions, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, be appointed his assistants. Daniel knew he could not handle such an enormous responsibility without capable assistants, so he chose the best men he knew—his three Hebrew companions. A competent leader never does all the work alone, he knows how to delegate and supervise. Moses Israel's greatest leader, shared his burden of administration with dozens of assistants. (Exod. 18:13-27).

In this chapter we are seeing the rest of man's existence until Jesus returns. Mankind somehow has too high a regard of himself. This world we are in has already been judged. Jesus came not to judge us but rather to prepare a way for us to be redeemed. The image represents the rule of this world which we label "The Time of the Gentiles". We find Jesus teaching us this in Luke 21:24. There He teaches that Jerusalem will be trodden of the Gentile until the 'Times of the Gentiles' be fulfilled. Hosea 3:4-5 tells us 'Israel shall remain many days without a king'.

The 'Time of the Gentiles' did not begin at the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, but at the time when Daniel was carried captive to Babylon in B.C.606, and will continue until Christ comes back and sets up His Millennial or 'Stone Kingdom' represented by the 'stone' cut out of the mountain in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

God has a program that will be completed exactly as He has declared. Acts 15:13-17 teaches us this very truth.