

## (8-11-24) DANIEL 2- THE KING DISTURBED - DANIEL'S DELIVERY .

**Intro:** Daniel 1- Judah taken, Daniel (friends) trained, God blessed with wisdom, the 4 chosen to serve the king.

As we continue our look at Daniel 2, this chapter tells us about a crisis that arose with the king of Babylon, as God gave him dreams and visions, and 1 dream terrified him.

\* When the wisemen could not tell the king the dream, he ordered all of them executed, but God moved and caused Daniel to intervene, and persuade the king to give him a little time.

\* Daniel called his 3 friends to prayer, and God graciously answered them, revealing the king's dream and its interpretation to Daniel. **From there, we were exploring --**

### III. DANIEL'S PRESENTATION BEFORE THE KING. (24-30)

\* As the king had been thinking about how his Empire would progress, Daniel informed him that with his dream, God was showing the king how the coming world Empires would progress, as time went on.

\* From there, in vs 31-35 we began to explore --

### IV. DANIEL'S REVELATION OF THE DREAM. (31-35)

\* The dream centered on 2 main objects. There is a statue and there is a stone.  
( ( We've given a **drawing** illustrating what the king saw and how Daniel explained it ) ).

#### **A. THE KING SAW AN "ENORMOUS, DAZZLING, AWESOME" STATUE (31-33) --**

It's made of 5 materials. Its head was of **gold**, Chest and Arms of **silver**,  
stomach and thighs of **bronze**, lower legs of **Iron**,  
and feet, partly of **iron and partly baked clay**.

\* We noted that the elements have decreasing worth, weight, and decrease in direction.

\* And because the statue represents the world's major kingdoms as history progresses,

-- this shows that although mankind see's their history as advancing and progressing upward,  
**God sees** man's history as declining, deteriorating and self-destructing  
with no spiritual or eternal worth.

## B. NEXT-- THE KING SAW AN OVERPOWERING STONE. (34-35 - read)

\* And in the king's dream, this Stone accomplishes something far greater than the statue that represents the world's kingdoms. (note 5 things)

**1. It's a Stone. (34)** It has physical substance. It's something mankind can see.

- It's an earthly form that is recognizable on earth, and it interacts with the earthly statue.

**2. The Stone is not cut out (formed) with hands. (34)**

- To those ancient middle-eastern societies, this was a very common picture.

- The land there has much rock, and everything was built out of masonry stone.

- Every culture had stone cutters to produce blocks for constructing their buildings.

- This stone has real earthly physical substance, but it's not made by men's hands.

- This made sense to the Babylonians, who believed heavily in the spiritual world, and to them, this would picture that this stone came from deity, from the gods.

- Although they believed in multiple gods, this picture was of 1 Stone, which was God showing Nebuchadnezzar there is only one true God. (He shows him more of this in Ch. 3-4)

**3. This Stone struck the feet of the image, and shattered them. (34)**

- This perfectly pictures what bible prophecy later tells us, that this is the Lord Jesus Christ, who comes in the future to destroy the final form of world government. (Rev 19)

**4. The whole statue crumbled into DUST, and was swept away by the wind. (35a)**

- When Christ comes, all of earth's kingdoms, their pride, power, greatness, influence, and accomplishments, will be completely gone, showing they had no eternal value.

- This is a familiar picture in prophecy. ( **Isa. 40: 21-25, 41:1-2, Matt 3:11-12** )

**5. This massive Stone then fills the whole earth as a mountain. (35b)**

- This pictures Christ's worldwide, fully powerful kingdom, that He sets up, as He returns to earth in His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, which will last for 1000 years.

- In the end, His kingdom is all that will be left standing on the earth He created, as He rules with full power, authority, and perfection. (Rev 19:11ff - 20:1-6) (more later)

## **V. DANIEL'S INTERPRETATION OF THE DREAM. (36-45)**

\* As we begin exploring the interpretation, we need to point some important details.

**@ First, Notice 2 practical things in vs 36 - read.**

### **1. The king is silent between the telling of the dream and its interpretation.**

- He doesn't interrupt Daniel, because what Daniel described is perfectly true to what the king had seen in his dream, and his eyes and mouth were probably wide open.

### **2. Daniel says "WE" will interpret the dream. (36)**

- The "we" may refer to his 3 friends (who may have been present) or to God, or both.
- But whatever the case, Daniel humbly gave credit to his source of knowledge, which was God, and he honored his friends, who helped him gain understanding through prayer.

**@ Second, Notice 2 prophetic truths about this interpretation.**

### **1. This passage is one of the most fundamental prophecies in the Bible.**

- If we understand the basic prophetic truths taught here, it opens our understanding to most of the rest of prophecy, especially in the NT.
- Theologians say Daniel is the ABC's of prophecy, and Revelation is the XYZ's of prophecy.

## **2. This passage describes the start of a new prophetic time period in world history.**

- Early on, God built the nation of Israel through Abraham, to be His messenger to the world, for them to obey God, flourish with His blessing, dominate the nations, demonstrate God's righteousness, and motivate the world to come to God.
- But Israel miserably failed and disobeyed God through 840 years of history, from when they left Egypt in 1446 BC, until God used Babylon to conquer Judah in 605 BC.
- They were to be God's funnel of truth and righteousness to the world, but because they terribly failed, God temporarily set them aside and started a period of history called "the times of the Gentiles".
  
- **When Judah was conquered**, God was setting this time period in full motion, where He gave the Gentile nations the dominion and power He had intended for Israel.
- This time period will last until Jesus returns to earth to set up His kingdom, where Israel is restored by Christ, to their place of ruling the earth under Christ's authority. (Mat 19:28)
- Since that time Israel has not possessed their full inheritance, and has been dominated by Gentile nations. (Israel today is only a fraction of their God-given land)
- But in 1948, Israel was reestablished as a sovereign nation in their own land, and with this, God began the final steps of prophecy leading up to Christ's return.
  
- **Since Judah was taken**, Israel has never known peace, and will not until Jesus returns.
- Jesus described this time period of time in **Luke 21:24--**
  - "They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."
- On Palm Monday Jesus entered Jerusalem and formally presented Himself to Israel as their true Messiah. (on the very day Daniel prophesied it would happen).
- And in that event, Christ was fully rejected by the nation's religious leaders, and only seen as a great prophet by the common people. (Mat 21:10-11, Lk 7:16)
- **From that time**, Christ taught that because Israel grossly disobeyed God in the OT, and finally rejected their true Messiah at this time, Israel was being temporarily set aside as God's tool to show God to the world. ( Hosea 3:4-5, **Matt. 23:37-39** )

**@ Now Daniel interprets THE STATUE and THE STONE.**



- His son **Evil-Merodach** reigned 2 years, and was assassinated by his brother in law **Neri-glissar**, who ruled 4 years, and was killed in battle.
- His son- **Laboro** (Soarched), reigned 9 months and was beaten to death. Then---
- Neb's son in law, **Nabonidus** seized the throne and ruled in weakness for 17 years, as the nation was constantly attacked;
- And while away at war, his weak-willed wicked son, **Belshazzar** was left in charge as the 2<sup>nd</sup> ruler, and this is when Babylon was taken by Persia.

**Sum-** The point is- Nebuchadnezzar was described as ruling with “dominion, power, might and glory” because he ruled as no other leader, with absolute power and authority.

\* Humanly speaking, in ancient times, Neb. turned out to be was “a king of kings”.

## **B. NEXT-- DANIEL TOLD THE KING OF THE SIZE OF HIS RULE. (38a)**

- \* Daniel describes this by exaggerating. He said - ‘God placed mankind and the beasts of the field and birds of the air in your hands. Wherever they live, he made you ruler over them all.’
- \* Under Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon took over the largest area ever ruled by 1 man, to that time. (Egypt, Israel, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Quate, part of Turkey, part of Iran and Saudi Arabia)  
(It was half the size of America, but far larger than any Empire before him)

## **C. FINALLY-- DANIEL SPOKE OF THE SIGNATURE METAL OF HIS REGIME. (38b)**

- \* Daniel says- “you are that head of **gold**”. This part of the dream fits perfectly, because Gold was the signature metal that represented Babylon.
- \* Their main god was Marduk- the god of gold.
- \* Babylon used gold extensively in its buildings, shrines, and even in various utensils.
- \* 90 years after Neb. The Greek historian Herodotus visited there and said 22 tons of gold was used to overlay its buildings. He said it was everywhere you looked.

**SUM-** The dream was accurate, Babylon was known for Nebuchadnezzar’s great rulership, its great size, and its great amount of gold.

- \* And remember, Daniel is saying this, only 3 years into Nebuchadnezzar’s rulership, and history shows that all of it came true.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> PART - THE CHEST AND ARMS OF SILVER. (39a, 32b) (MEDO - PERSIA- 539 - 331)**

- \* In history, Medo- Persia was the world empire that followed Babylon.
- \* This event takes place in the book of Daniel, and Daniel was also a leader in this Empire.
- \* Notice 4 details about Daniel's interpretation of this Empire.

### **A. THE DETAILS OF THIS KINGDOM ARE HIDDEN. (described by only 1/2 of a verse)**

- \* God gave Daniel only 1 detail about the Persian Empire, probably because he didn't want Nebuchadnezzar identifying and destroying them, which Neb. could have done at this point.

### **B. THIS KINGDOM WOULD BE INFERIOR TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S BABYLON.**

- \* After Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon declined in strength, but at the time of this dream, Babylon was much stronger than Medo-Persia was, later when it took Babylon.
- \* It was inferior militarily because Belshazzar was weak, wicked, and a military idiot.
- \* Persia was wealthy, but it was inferior to Babylon's wealth in Nebuchadnezzar's glory days.
- \* It was also inferior in luxury, and inferior politically, because it was a 2-part Empire without the absolute political unity that Babylonian rulers had.

### **C. THIS KINGDOM HAD DIVIDED RULERSHIP. (32b)**

- \* In the dream, the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the statue is made up of 2 arms that come together in the chest.
- \* This is a perfect historical picture of Medo-Persia which was a double Empire.
- \* The Medes and Persians made an alliance in 550BC, just 11 years before taking Babylon.
- \* They were under 1 king, but both groups made up their congress.
- \* The bible and history speaks of "the law of the Medes and Persians". (United law makers)

### **D. THIS KINGDOM WAS REPRESENTED BY SILVER. (seen in v32b)**

- \* In that time, silver was the main form of currency.
- \* In Semitic languages- the 2 words silver and money, meant the same thing.
- \* Medo-Persia had a massive and efficient tax system where taxes were paid in silver.
- \* And the government was rich with silver.

### **FINAL INTERESTING NOTE-**

Isaiah prophesied that **Cyrus** would conquer Babylon- by going through open gates, he would allow Jerusalem and its temple to be rebuilt, and claim to be named by God--

7 All prophesied 100 years before Cyrus was ever born. (44:28, 45:1-4)

### **3<sup>RD</sup> PART - THE STOMACH AND THIGHS OF BRONZE. (39b, 32) (GREECE- 331 - 150 BC)**

- \* This portion of the statue describes the Greek Empire that conquered Medo-Persia in 331 BC.
- \* From Daniel's statements we can see 3 major traits of this Empire.

#### **A. THIS KINGDOM IS SAID TO RULE OVER THE WHOLE EARTH.**

- \* In that day, Alexander the Great conquered a much larger area of land than any of the previous Empires, extending through most of Europe, and from Asia minor to India.
- \* Ruling over the whole earth- is not a literal statement, but it does reflect what the people in Daniel's time would have envisioned, by their limited knowledge of geography.
- \* When Alexander the Great finished conquering the "then known world", it was believed there was nothing else worth inhabiting beyond the Greek Empire.
- \* And Alexander fulfilled this prophecy, first, because when he finished his military domination, it's said that he sat down and cried because -- "there are no more worlds to conquer".
- \* Also, after he finished his military exploits, he demanded to be called-- "Alexander- king of all the earth". This prophetic statement about Alexander's rulership fits history perfectly.

#### **B. THIS KINGDOM WAS DIVIDED AS IT PROGRESSED. (32c) (Stomach into 2 thighs)**

- \* After the Greek Empire was fully formed in 331 BC, Alexander G. ruled his completed kingdom only 8 years, and died a young man at 33 years of age in 323 BC.
- \* At that point the kingdom was divided between 4 top generals to rule Thrace, Macedonia, Syria, and Egypt, in cooperation with each other.
- \* But of those 4 parts of the Empire, only 2 came to be powerful and prominent in history. The Selucids in Syria, and the Ptolemies in Egypt.
- \* Later, Daniel's vision in ch. 8, reveals this historical truth.

#### **C. THIS KINGDOM WAS KNOWN FOR ITS BRONZE (BRASS).**

- \* Their soldiers wore brass helmets, breastplates, and carried brass shields and swords.
- \* In historical writings, the armies of Greece were referred to as-- "brass coated Greeks".
- \* Because of this, brass came to be glorified in the nation and the world at that time, as a symbol of Greek conquest and the forces of Alexander the Great.

8 @ All these prophecies of Neb's dream came to pass, down to the last detail.