

(8-25-24) DANIEL 2- THE KING DISTURBED - DANIEL'S DELIVERY .

Intro: We are at the end of Daniel 2, and finishing the story where God had given king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon a dream that troubled him greatly, and God used Daniel to know the dream, and understand what it meant.

- * As Daniel spoke to the king, he revealed that God was using the dream to show the king how the future world Empires would progress through time.
- * **The king's dream centered on 2 main objects.** One was an enormous statue, and the other was a large Stone.
- * **The statue** had a head of gold-- representing the king and his Empire of Babylon, then there was the Chest and Arms of silver-- picturing Medo-Persia, next, the stomach and thighs of were bronze-- depicting the Empire of Greece,
- * **And last of all,** the statue had lower legs of Iron, and feet and toes of iron and clay, portraying the Roman Empire, that would actually rule twice, at 2 different time periods.
- * The legs were the original Roman Empire that ruled when Christ came the 1st time to die for sin.
- * But the feet and toes show that this empire will revive in the last days, when Christ comes again, to judge the world and set up His own everlasting kingdom. (more in Dan 7)

(Vs 44 hints at this, saying- Christ comes in "the time of those kings".

Daniel only spoke of 1 king in his interpretation, Nebuchadnezzar; So who are these kings?

They're the 10 kings represented by the 10 toes in the last empire, who rule with antichrist. (Dan 7, Rev 13, 17)

AFTER REVEALING DETAILS ABOUT THESE COMING WORLD KINGDOMS, DANIEL INTERPRETS---

THE FINAL OBJECT OF THE DREAM - THE OVERPOWERING STONE. (44-45- READ)

- * **The king saw a large Rock,** that had earthly physical substance that interacted with the statue, but it had not been formed by human hands.
- * This Stone struck the feet of the image, shattered them, causing the whole statue to crumble into DUST, and be swept away. The Stone then filled the whole earth as a mountain.
- * Daniel then reveals that this Stone is God coming to set up **HIS** kingdom on earth.
- * **There are 2 areas to explore,** The **traits** of this kingdom, and the **Ruler** of this kingdom.

A. THE TRAITS OF THIS KINGDOM. (Notice 3 traits)

1. This is a literal physical kingdom. Vs 35d says this stone “filled the.. **EARTH**”.

- Just as the parts of the statue were literal kingdoms on earth, existing at specific times in history, with real earthly borders, and real capital cities, so the kingdom of Christ will come to earth as a real kingdom, and rule literally and physically.
- **Today, about 80% of Jews** don't look for a literal Messiah, but only a period of peace.
- But prophecy shows- when the tribulation begins, antichrist will rise to protect Israel from their enemies, and they will believe he and his time of peace, are their Messiah.
- But that won't last, because at the 3 ½ year mark, as he gains full control of the world, he will break his agreement with Israel, turn on them, and try to destroy them.
- Then, 3 ½ years later, The Lord Jesus will return bodily with the church-age saints, and the remaining Jews will embrace Christ as they “look on him who they have pierced, and mourn and grieve for him”, as it says in Zech. 12:10.

- **The NT Jews** looked for a real Messiah to bring in their literal kingdom, and Jesus was mainly rejected because He would not give them their kingdom, at His first coming.
- In Acts 1 the disciples asked Jesus- "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" Jesus said- 'It's not for you to know the times the Father has authorized.'
- Then, as Jesus ascended back to heaven it says- “They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them, saying
"why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

- * **At this time**, all the saved are in God's spiritual kingdom, but Christ's literal kingdom will come, when He returns bodily, to our **real** earth, to have a **real** kingdom.

- * **Bible prophecy clearly shows this**, but some Christians deny it, and believe this 5th and final kingdom is the church age, saying we are in Christ's promised kingdom now, as He rules in the hearts of believers all over the world.

- **This is replacement theology** which says- because Israel rejected Christ, God permanently abandoned them, and will not keep his unconditional promises to Abraham and David and their descendants, to give them their promised earthly kingdom led by their Messiah.
- To believe this, they have to deny the literal interpretation of many OT and NT passages, and spiritualize them into figurative language that makes no sense for believers today.
- There are many reasons to reject this, but 1 obvious 1 from the text is- when this Rock comes it destroys all the Gentile kingdoms. Is this the mandate of the church?
- We're called to live in, love the world, preach the gospel, and seek to bring them to Christ.
- Also in the dream, the Rock conquers immediately, before its kingdom is set up.
(We're 2000 years into the church age, but haven't conquered the world)
- Also, in Christ's 1000 yr reign, nature's curse is lifted, weapons are destroyed, no more war.

Sum- So In the dream, this is a real earthly kingdom, and there is no evidence it's here now. Jesus taught He would return literally, and set up a real earthly kingdom. **(Mt. 24:23-27, 30)**

2. This is a world-wide kingdom.

- Again, in v35d- "the stone became a huge mountain and FILLED the WHOLE earth".
- It's interesting that the Babylonians chief god was Marduk which means "the great mountain".
- The Babylonians called the earth "mountain house".
- So God showed Nebuchadnezzar that instead of his own god,
That Daniel's God, the God of heaven, would set up this final kingdom
and become the great mountain that rules the whole earth.

3. This is an everlasting kingdom. (44)

- V44 says this kingdom will "never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people.., and it will itself endure forever".
- Throughout eternity, God through Christ, will rule His kingdom forever.
- Christ will return to rule on this present earth during His promised 1000 year kingdom.
- Then He will destroy the old creation, and create a new heaven and earth
and bring the New Jerusalem down to it, where all believers will live for all eternity.
(Isa 65:17; 66:22; 2 Pet 3:10-13; Rev 20:11; 21:1-5)

B. THE RULER OF THIS KINGDOM.

- * In Vs 34 this Kingdom is represented by a single Stone (rock), and Vs 44 says this Stone is- “the God of heaven”.
- * In the bible, any time the word “stone” is used symbolically, it always refers to Christ.
- * Scripture constantly speaks of Christ as the Stone, the Rock on which God’s kingdom is built.
- * Here are several ways the bible speaks of Christ as this Stone.

1. Jesus is the Supernatural Stone. (34-35, 45)

- The interpretation of the king’s dream teaches us about the deity of Christ.
- Daniel shows in v34-35, 45 that this stone was- “**cut out of the mountain of the earth without hands**”, to become a great mountain, who is actually “**the God of heaven**”.
- This came true when Christ was born as He was conceived in Mary by God’s Holy Spirit.
- Jesus was a human by divine origin, to be the God-man, fully human and fully God.
(Col 1:15-17, 19, 2:9-10)
- The Babylonians believed their god Marduk came from the sacred mountain of the earth so they made their temples to look like mountains.
- Again God showed the king, that it wasn’t his god that was the huge stone, but Daniel’s God that would come at the end of time, and would be both human and divine.

2. Jesus is the Stumbling Stone. (Lk 20:17, 1 Pet 2:7-8)

- Both Jesus and Peter quoted what Isa. 8:14 said of Messiah-- “To those who do not believe, He is a Stone that causes men to **stumble** and a rock that makes them fall.”
- When Jesus came, the Jews had twisted ideas of what their Messiah would be like.
- They failed to see that He would come twice, once to die, and a 2nd time to reign.
- They believed the OT Kingdom passages, but missed the lesson of the Jewish sacrifices, and failed to understand Isa 53, Ps 22, 69, which spoke of Messiah’s death for sin.
- The Jews failure to understand what the OT taught, caused them reject Jesus, so for them- He became the Stone that made them **stumble** and fall, rather than the foundation Stone they were to stand on, to receive eternal life.
- John 1 says- “He came unto His own and His own did not receive Him.” They stumbled and fell over Christ because he did not fit their twisted notions of what He would do.

3. Jesus is the Smitten Stone.

- As Israel stumbled over Christ, they rejected Him in the worst possible way by crucifying Him.
- Isa. 53- says-- “**He was smitten** (struck) by God and afflicted”.
- God pictured this when He told Moses to “smite” a large rock to get water for Israel. (wldrns)
- 1 Cor 10:v4 says- “they drank from that spiritual Rock that accompanied them, and that Rock was Christ”.
- In that event, the smitten rock and the water that came from it, was an OT picture of Christ being **smitten** and dying for sin, so He could give us the water of eternal life.

4. Jesus is the Living Stone.

- In 1 Pet. 2:4 Peter paraphrased Ps 34:8 and said to believers- “you have tasted that the Lord is good, as you come to him, **the living Stone**-- rejected by men but chosen by God.”
- After this Stone came into the world supernaturally and was rejected by His own, and crucified, He resurrected, and is forever alive, sitting at the Father’s right hand, interceding for us, and waiting for His time to return to earth.
- All other religious leaders of the world’s religions, are dead and in a grave somewhere.
- But Jesus arose and was seen by hundreds, and His enemies never found His body.
- * And the point is- only a living Lord and Savior can bring in a real earthly kingdom.

5. Jesus is the salvation stone.

- No one earns salvation by works. Jesus had to die, to bear the penalty of our sin.
- Therefore, true Christianity is based on **Christ alone**. He is the only Savior for humanity.
- In Acts 4:11-12- Peter preached to the Sanhedrin and quoted Isa 28, saying-
“Christ is the cornerstone of the faith, and then said Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”
- John 1 says- “He came to his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.”
- 1 Tim 2:5- “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men.”
- Without Christ the Son of God, there is no deliverance from sin, and no legitimate Christianity.

6. Jesus is the Chief Corner Stone of all the saved.

- In the bible, God used the Temple to picture Christ as the only foundation of the church, by calling Christ the **cornerstone** (capstone) of the building that represents the saved.
- In ancient construction, the builders would cut out a large foundation stone, make it perfect in its dimensions, and lay it perfectly level and straight, on the building site.
- Then all the rest of the structure was measured and constructed to fit that perfect Stone.
- Salvation comes by submitting to the Person who alone is the start and finish of the church,
- Again, both Jesus and Peter quoted Isa. 28:16 and called Christ- “the chosen and precious cornerstone”, saying-- “the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame”.
(**Eph 2:19-22**, Ps 118:22, Mat. 21:42, 1 Pet 2:6-7)
- Any church or religious group that identifies with Christianity, but does not believe in the deity of Christ, or that salvation is in Him alone, IS PHONY.

7. Last-- Jesus is the destroying Stone. (35, 44)

- In v34-35 in the king's dream, this Rock struck the statue, and the whole thing fell and crumbled into dust, and was swept away like chaff, leaving no trace.
- In Babylonian theology, their chief god **Marduk** came to power by defeating the ‘dragon of chaos’ by blowing it away with mighty winds. They often called him- “lord of the winds.”
- So God spoke to Nebuchadnezzar in language he understood, saying that all the world empires will be blown away by the true God of heaven.
- V44 says this Stone- “will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end”. (important)
- The other kingdoms conquered various lands, and absorbed the people into their empire.
- But Christ will destroy every trace of the world's ways, and make His own righteous kingdom.
- In John 5:22-29- Jesus said that God has committed all judgment to the Son.
(**2 Thes 1:6-10**, Matt, 25:32-41, Acts 10:42, 17:31; 1 Pet. 4:5, Rom 2:8, Heb 10:27, 12:29, 2 Pet 3:7, Mat 21:44)

Sum: This stone that rules the final kingdom is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.
(Ps 2:8-12, Isa. 9:6-7, Luke 1:31-33, Rev 11:15-18, 19: 11-16.)

VI. GOD'S RECOGNITION OF DANIEL, THROUGH THE KING. (46-49- read)

- * In Vs 45 Daniel affirmed that everything he said was true and will come to pass.
- * He was confident of this because he trusted God, and he had seen God's promises come to pass on Israel, either when they obeyed or disobeyed Him.
- * And because Daniel perfectly revealed the dream, Nebuchadnezzar knew the interpretation must be true as well, ----- and over time, history has proved Daniel correct.
- * In response, The king did 2 things.

A. THE KING PRAISED DANIEL AND HIS GOD. (46-47- read)

- * When Daniel finished, the king did what kings never do. He fell face down on the floor and worshipped Daniel. This was often done to him, now he does so to Daniel.
- * Although this wasn't right, in a pagan world that often worshipped men as gods, it was the king's way of showing how much he appreciated what Daniel had done.
- * He even offered to Daniel what was offered to gods- an offering (grain), and incense, something that stemmed from what God taught, way back at the beginning.

(((Israel's Sacrifices glorified God by pointing to Christ's death.
And burning incense showed that the sacrifice was a sweet smell to God.)))
- * The king didn't realize the only reason Daniel was anything was because of God's grace, but along with praising Daniel, he also gave praise to God, saying 3 right things-
"He is the **God of gods**, and **the Lord of kings**, and **a revealer of mysteries**"
- * We can see God slowly but surely getting this king's attention, and drawing him to God.

B. THE KING ELEVATED DANIEL TO HIGH POSITION.

- * It seems God had 2 purposes in using Daniel to reveal and interpret the dream. to reveal the sovereign authority of God, and to promote Daniel, in order to help Israel.
- * God graciously rewarded humble Daniel by making him the right-hand man of the king, the leader of the wisemen, and allowing him to elevate his 3 friends as well.
- * This high position would mean a lavish place to live, and servants to attend to his needs.

Lesson-- When we are faithful to God, God will bless His own, in His way and His time.
This was Daniel's time.