

## **A VISION OF THE KINGDOM (Daniel 2)**

### **1.The situation (Daniel 2:1-2).**

- a.Nebuchadnezzar, a little later in his kingship, was troubled with an reoccurring dream.
  - i.The words “and his sleep brake from him” show this to be the case.
  - ii.His sleep was being continually interrupted for several nights because of this dream.
- b.It is said that the Babylonians were heavily into astrology and dreams, believing that there was great meaning in them for the leaders.
- c.No doubt having the same dream keep reoccurring would be troubling to someone who believed this way.
- d.To deal with it, the king called in his advisors in this area of his rule.
  - i.Magicians were those who claimed to be able to foretell the future.
  - ii.Astrologers were also enchanters and the word carries the idea of speaking with the dead, which is something they claimed to be able to do.
  - iii.Sorcerers were those who dealt in witchcraft (notice Ezekiel 21:18-21 for an example with Nebuchadnezzar).
  - iv.The Chaldeans taught in the temple school and consisted of those who knew astronomy, mathematics, along with ideas about astrology and divination.
- e.Nebuchadnezzar was going to have them show him his own dream and then give the interpretation of it.
  - i.There is some debate among authors if Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten his dream or was testing them.
  - ii.Either way works as we will see.
  - iii.They would have made claims that they could tell dream and their meanings so it should not have been a difficulty for them to do this.

### **2.The conversation (Daniel 2:3-7).**

- a.Nebuchadnezzar revealed the problem he had to these men and asks them to tell him the dream.
- b.Instead of doing so, they told him to tell them the dream and they would tell its meaning.
  - i.We know they could not do what they claimed to do.
  - ii.In their books, of which many had been written and still are, certain things in a dream meant certain things would happen.
  - iii.They wanted to know the dream so they could go to their books and determine what they thought the meaning was.
- c.No doubt their answer here made him a little mad.
  - i.For them to ask this after him telling them what he wanted was offensive.
  - ii.He was the king, they were the servants, so they should do what he says do.
- d.Instead of doing that, whether or not he could is up for debate, Nebuchadnezzar gave them an option:
  - i.Don't tell me the dream and be cut to pieces;
  - ii.Tell me the dream and the meaning and be rewarded.

e. Sounds fair doesn't it?

f. Again, they asked for him to tell them the dream so they could give the meaning.

i. Apparently, they did not grasp the reality of the situation.

ii. It was beyond them that the king could ask such of them so they simply ignored what he was saying and kept asking for the dream.

### **3. The confrontation (Daniel 2:8-13).**

a. The conversation between Nebuchadnezzar and the advisors quickly became a confrontation.

b. The king charged them with delaying, for one of two reasons:

i. If he knew the dream and was testing them, if they delayed him, he might forget the dream and then be done with the test.

ii. If he had forgotten the dream and wanted to know it, something else might come along and demand his attention so he would forget about it.

c. If they refused to tell him the dream, one thing and one thing only was going to happen, and that is, they would die.

d. He then accused them of lying to him and deceiving him.

i. It is possible that this is a reference to all their advice to him.

ii. It seems he realized they were frauds.

iii. Br. Turner wrote, "King Nebuchadnezzar had correctly assessed the situation. His wise men were in reality an outright farce."

e. The Chaldeans, who seemed to be the leaders of this group, spoke up and said that no other king had ever asked them to do such a thing.

i. That should not have mattered.

ii. Since they had made such claims, as history says they had, then they should have been able to back them up with action.

f. They then made a tremendous statement: only the gods could do what he wanted and they didn't dwell with flesh.

i. With whom then had they been communicating?

ii. Why couldn't these men get the information from the gods?

g. When they said they couldn't do it, and threw off on him for asking such, Nebuchadnezzar blew up.

h. He commanded that all of those considered wise men in his court be put to death and this brought Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah into the picture.

### **4. The supplication (Daniel 2:14-18).**

a. When Daniel is found by Arioch, who would have been the king's bodyguard, one of the highest offices in the land, he asked him why this was necessary.

i. The idea of the word "hasty" is really severe.

ii. Daniel wanted to know why the king was so severe in his call for action.

b. Arioch told Daniel the problem and Daniel wisely asked for time to be able to know and interpret the dream.

c. He was given such and then asked God, along with his friends, for the dream and the ability to interpret it.

### **5. The revelation (Daniel 2:19-35).**

a. God gave the dream to Daniel in a vision during that night.

b. The next day Daniel went to Arioch and told him that he had the dream.

- c. Arioch went rushing into the king claiming credit for finding one of the Jews who could interpret the dream, when the Jew had come to him.
- d. Verse 26 is interesting.
  - i. The king asks him if he can make known the dream and the interpretation.
  - ii. In essence, the king was asking if it could be done, but was asking Daniel if he was really the one who could do it.
  - iii. It seems that he didn't believe a young Jewish man could do something that all of his advisors could not do.
- e. Daniel immediately gave any credit to God.
  - i. He let Nebuchadnezzar know that there was no man on earth who could do what the king wanted.
  - ii. Daniel then let him know that only the God of heaven could do what he wanted done.
- f. What God was doing to Nebuchadnezzar was revealing secrets about what would happen in the latter days.
  - i. According to most conservative commentators, "the latter days" here is a reference to the time of Christ and the establishment of the church.
  - ii. This is definitely what fits in with the events that are mentioned.
- g. Daniel then showed great humility by saying that it was not because he was some great person that God gave him the ability to reveal and interpret but that it was from God (Daniel 2:30).
- h. Daniel then told him of the image that Nebuchadnezzar had been seeing in his dream.
  - i. It was made up of five parts:
    - i. Head of gold;
    - ii. Chest and arms of silver;
    - iii. Belly and thighs of brass;
    - iv. Legs of iron;
    - v. Feet part iron, part clay.
- j. The king had then seen a stone cut out of a mountain without hands strike the image in the feet causing the image to fall.
- k. The materials that made up the image were then turned to dust and the stone that smote the image grew into a large mountain and filled the earth.

## **6. The interpretation (Daniel 2:36-45).**

- a. Daniel let Nebuchadnezzar know that was the dream and that since he could reveal the dream it should be known that the interpretation was sure, or going to happen.
- b. Daniel let him know that he was a great king, which history reveals was true, and that God had given to him the kingdom, power, and glory he had.
  - i. Later, we will see that Nebuchadnezzar struggled with this.
  - ii. He felt he had done it himself.
  - iii. He was the head of gold.
- c. The next part of the image, chest and arms of silver, was another kingdom, which history reveals was the Medo-Persian empire.
- d. The next part, the belly and thighs of brass, was the Grecian empire.
- e. The final two parts were one nation, that was far more terrible in strength than the others but would become weak, was the Roman empire

- i. The weakness came from the feet of iron and brass.
  - ii. In the rush to conquer, many of those conquered were slaves and poor that the city of Rome tried to sustain.
  - iii. They were not loyal Romans and many would later rise up against Rome and cause great conflict.
- f. Daniel then revealed to Nebuchadnezzar what the stone was.
  - i. In the days of the Roman kings, God would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed but would destroy all the nations that had been.
  - ii. None could take it, because it belonged to God.
  - iii. This kingdom would be above all, but since it was cut out without hands, it is seen to be a spiritual kingdom, coming from God.
- g. The revelation and interpretation were sure.

### **7. The coronation (Daniel 2:46-49).**

- a. The king fell down at Daniel's feet and worshiped Daniel and commanded oblations or offerings and incense be burned for him.
  - i. More than likely, the word worship simply means homage.
  - ii. No king would fall down at the feet of a teenager and worship him.
  - iii. It was a sign of respect not worship.
  - iv. There is no doubt the king respected Daniel.
- b. Besides this, Daniel throughout the event gave all the glory to God.
  - i. He never took any credit.
  - ii. He knew and stated that God was the One who allowed him the ability to reveal and interpret the dream.
- c. Nebuchadnezzar appointed Daniel over the province of Babylon and over all the wise men of Babylon.
- d. Daniel then sought places of importance for his three friends.
- e. God, providentially, had allowed four young Jewish men to find positions of prominence in the country in which God's people had been exiled.

### **8. Application.**

- a. Some wonder why God would give such a vision to a Gentile king.
  - i. God has always wanted all men to be saved.
  - ii. In the promise given to Abraham, all men were involved.
  - iii. Throughout the prophets, God revealed that He was one day going to bring in the Gentiles in order for them to be saved.
  - iv. This was a way for God to show His interest in Gentiles.
- b. We continue to see the faith of Daniel.
  - i. Daniel did not get frightened when Arioch came for him.
  - ii. He simply spoke wisely and cautiously and asked God to help him.
  - iii. He may have been scared to death but we don't see it if he was.
  - iv. He never acted like a man scared.
  - v. Instead, he never questioned God and went straight to the king with a sure revelation and interpretation of the dream.
- c. We see some things about God in this chapter.
  - i. He works in ways different from ours.
    - (1) He gave a dream and a vision in this chapter.
    - (2) He used that dream to show the ineptness of the false advisors of Nebuchadnezzar and the power of a man of God.

- ii. God answers prayer - He did for the four friends.
- iii. God controls the future - He had given power to Nebuchadnezzar and told him three nations would rise up after his.
- iv. God has His own kingdom that is spiritual in nature.

### **9. Demonstration.**

- a. Sadly, many take the prophecies of Daniel and make them some future event that they are not.
- b. Let me demonstrate this for you when it comes to premillennialism and this chapter with some material from br. Turner.
- c. They teach that Jesus came to establish an earthly kingdom to rule over the whole earth from Jerusalem.
  - i. We have studied this before.
  - ii. We know Jesus came to set up a spiritual kingdom.
  - iii. He was to be a priest and a king but could not be either here on earth because He was not from the right tribe and no king could reign and prosper in Jerusalem descending from Coniah.
- d. They teach that national Israel rejected Jesus postponing the kingdom.
  - i. Jesus and His apostles preached the kingdom was at hand.
  - ii. The Hebrews writer tells us that we have received a kingdom (12:28).
- e. They teach the church was an accident, which we know from our study this morning was not the case.
- f. To the idea of postponing the kingdom, there are some necessary consequences to such thinking.
  - i. If God's plan failed once, it could fail again.
  - ii. Daniel missed the date since he said the kingdom would be established during the days of the Romans.
  - iii. Jesus missed the date since He said it was at hand.
  - iv. The Jews all have to go to Jerusalem and the Roman Empire has to be established again.