

Lesson 2

What is the World Coming To?

Daniel 2

Daniel 2 is a prophetic chapter and a key outline for many other Biblical prophecies. It is difficult to understand. Do not be discouraged. Answer what you can and keep focused on the sovereignty of God.

Begin today's lesson asking the Holy Spirit to illumine your mind and teach you His precepts.

Before we start our questions for the week, read through all of Daniel 2.

1. Approximately what year was Nebuchadnezzar's dream (Daniel 2:1)? Find it on the timeline on page 77 and add the details of the event.
2. What was Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to his dream? What did he request of his wise men? (Daniel 2:1-13)
3. Who is introduced in Daniel 2:14-15?
4. What two words describe Daniel's reaction to Arioch in Daniel 2:14? Look these two words up in the dictionary. What do you learn from this reaction as you approach difficult situations?
5. Daniel asked for time. According to Daniel 2:14-18, what did he do with this time? How does his model help you?

"It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men and knowledge to men of understanding."

Daniel 2:21

6. What is Daniel careful to do when God answers his prayer? What do you learn from his example in Daniel 2:19-23?

7. Write down the phrases in Daniel 2:27-45 in which Daniel gives God glory. How can you give God the glory when He answers your prayers?

8. Draw the statue. Label the materials and kingdoms with the information you get in Daniel 2 and in the paragraph below. Also take notes on the main points of Daniel's interpretation from Daniel 2:36-46.

Kingdom I: Head

Material: _____

Kingdom: _____

Notes:

Kingdom II: Chest and Arms

Material: _____

Kingdom: _____

Notes:

Kingdom III: Belly and Thighs

Material: _____

Kingdom: _____

Notes:

Kingdom IV:**Legs:**

Materials: _____

Kingdom: _____

Notes:

Feet and Toes

Materials: _____

Kingdom: _____

Notes:

The third and fourth kingdoms are not identified by Daniel. At the time of the dream, they were in the future. The consensus of Biblical scholars is that they represent Greece, under Alexander the Great, and Rome. Thus Nebuchadnezzar's dream spanned the time from his day to the day of the first coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

9. Consider the four segments of the statue. Do you see a progression of:
 - ❖ the value of the metals?

 - ❖ the hardness of the metals?

 - ❖ the weight of the metals?

10. Read Isaiah 28:16 and I Peter 2:4-8. Who do you think the stone cut out of the mountain without hands represents?

11. What observations can be made about the kingdom represented by the stone in Daniel 2:34-35 and Daniel 2:44-45?

12. What was Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to Daniel's interpretation according to Daniel 2:46-49?

13. As you look back over this lesson about Daniel 2, what do you want to remember?

14. Consider the following scriptures and meditate on them using the prayer exercise that is explained on page 81.
 - ❖ Scriptures: **Romans 16:25-27**

 - ❖ Word or phrase:

 - ❖ Amplification:

 - ❖ Invitation:

Thoughts From Martha:

The more serious side: Kathy's illustration of a glass of tea riding in a car really stuck! Boy, when I thought of that tea sloshing out on a bumpy road, it was a great picture of what happens when my life gets rough. When a crisis comes along it all too often causes what's inside me to spill out – over the top and down the sides! It can be quite a messy clean up too. Sometimes ... well, sometimes it even leaves a permanent stain on myself and others. Ouch! (Guess we can try to put on a sweet facade and maybe even convince ourselves that we contain what is sweet and good on the inside, but just give it a few shakes and see what happens!)

And who do I think I'm kidding anyway? Sure God has already done an enormous measure of exposing the dark and hidden places in my life only to do His mighty cleansing work in that area, but let's face it ... there's a fathomless pit of ugly inside this girl. Believe me I know, because I've lived through enough crises to see what can come spewing out: a putrid cesspool of bitter thoughts, rancid emotions and sour words. It is all too obvious that this cup can NEVER get clean with any of my half-hearted touchup jobs. I need to get serious and stay focused on God's way of disinfecting and deodorizing if I want to stop any impurities from spilling out.

As Kathy said, the way to keep the inside clean is by digging my well deep. I can (like Daniel) labor to be faithful and obedient in those day-to-day actions and decisions thereby tapping into God's living waters that not only help to cleanse me of the accumulation of dirt and debris, but keep me from further contamination. I will continually be welling up with the sweet, savory waters that flow from His fountain of grace, so when the road gets rough and bumpy ... when the crises hits ... I won't have to fear what may come spilling out. I will, (in Kathy's words) "only be along for the ride."

The lighter side: Well, I was totally bushwhacked by the TOE THING. You know, the part Kathy added about the disturbing image the ol' Dream King himself had ... the part about the dream's future fulfillment. (I promise I really did start out with a completely serious look at this whole thing.) I found it all very thought provoking, and Kathy's weighty question, "Where in the world are we?" as engaging, as her later response, "We are living in that 'Pause Period' between the iron legs and the ten toes." I was fascinated to hear how Rome was sacked and lay dormant, but never was conquered or taken over by another world power like the other kingdoms represented in the dream.

But that's when I lost it. (I will never do Bible Study that late at night again!) Because you know where THAT left me? That left me with ten toes that were unaccounted for! Well, THAT was just too much. I mean, I REALLY DID start out seriously considering all this. And I know this really is not a laughing matter. But think about it!! There are ten toes out there somewhere. Where are they?? Are they out lurking in the shadows? Or are they just lying around somewhere ... you know ... being dormant? And what WILL they look like when they emerge? Will we even recognize them? Will the formidable BIG toe constantly cause the pinky to toe-the-line? And how soon will it be before they can ALL get a real toehold on things?

Sorry if that was a little on the far side – I certainly don't want to step on anyone's toes (hehe), but sometimes it's fun just to have a good laugh.

Lecture Notes: