

Dan03 - **The History of the World - Pt 1- Dan 2:1-49**

In our Last msg - Dan Ch 1 - We talked about the circumstances Daniel & His friends were in - when they made their ALL-IN Commitment to Serve God ALONE - No Matter what

& at the END of Ch 1 - Daniel & the boys had entered the Kings Service as a Type of MAGI - as they were called in Babylon

These were the Wise Men, Astrologers, Magicians, etc in the service of King Nebuchadnezzar

Daniel & his friends were the rookies - the newbies
But that was about to change in a hurry

Remember - Book of Daniel has a double personality –
History & Prophecy

& we can learn MUCH from the **HISTORY** side of Dan Ch 2 -
about how Daniel handles a very difficult situation

& we can learn so much from the **PROPHETIC** side of Dan Ch 2 -

About the History of the WORLD

& about God's **Sovereign CONTROL**

& His **Sovereign REIGN** over History – both past & Present

But I felt like I had to CHOOSE ONE to focus on –
So . . . I chose the PROPHECY Side

I'll mention some of the great lessons from the Historical Side

But I really want us to get a big OVERVIEW of this Ch
on the PROPHECY Side

Many prophecy scholars say that Daniel Ch's 2 & 7 - are KEY Ch's to ALL of Bible Prophecy ALL of Bible Prophecy

That makes this Ch pretty crucial in the Prophecy area –
After all - it is about the History of the World

Let's Pray

So - Daniel & his friends having Graduated from “Wise-Man” School –
but they're still “Jr Wise-Men”

But God is about to change all that

Because Nebuchadnezzar is about to have a DREAM - that outlines
the HISTORY of the Ruler-Ship of the World – in ONE Dream!!

Daniel 2:1-3 (nlt) - One night during the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar had such disturbing dreams that he couldn't sleep. 2 He called in his magicians, enchanters, sorcerers, and astrologers, and he demanded that they tell him what he had dreamed. As they stood before the king, 3 he said, “I have had a dream that deeply troubles me, and I must know what it means.”

God is doing something really BIG Here
& **OL' KING NEB** can sense it

He has a dream that FREAKS him out - & gives him INSOMNIA -
& he Demands that His Wise Men - tell him what the dream means

Daniel 2:4 (nlt) - Then the astrologers answered the king in Aramaic, “Long live the king! Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.”

It's very interesting - that **DANIEL** goes from being written in Hebrew **Right HERE** - to being written in ARAMAIC - Thru Ch 7

Maybe we'll talk more about that Next Week

Anyway - this Dream Telling is nothing new to the Wise Men -

These MAGI learned a long time ago they could interpret ANY dream – using the principals in their official **dream interpretation book**

The problem is - this time around the King demands they tell him **WHAT** he had actually dreamed - & **THEN** tell him what it means

Daniel 2:5 (nlt) - But the king said to the astrologers, “I am serious about this. If you don’t tell me what my dream was and what it means, you will be torn limb from limb, and your houses will be turned into heaps of rubble!

God had seriously rattled Nebuchadnezzar with this dream – & he didn't want the MAGI messin with him

So he uses the basic **King of Babylon motivation** -

Tear you Limb from Limb & Turn your house into (LIT) a **DUNG HILL**

But then (in an unusual move), Nebuchadnezzar adds some POSITIVE Motivation – which God would use to Raise Daniel up

Daniel 2:6 (nlt) - But if you tell me what I dreamed and what the dream means, I will give you many wonderful gifts and honors. Just tell me the dream and what it means!”

Something serious has gone down here & Nebuchadnezzar wants to know what it means

& it IS serious - Because it is the ALL-Encompassing HISTORY
of the Gentile Ruler-ship of the World

& God has LAID it out like a BIG TRANSFORMER for the KING
You know - a “Transformer”

But first God needs to get Daniel front & center

Daniel 2:7-11 (nlt) - (So) They (the astrologers) said again, “Please, Your Majesty. Tell us the dream, and we will tell you what it means.” 8 The king replied, “I know what you are doing! You’re stalling for time because you know I am serious when I say, 9 ‘If you don’t tell me the dream, you are doomed.’ So you have conspired to tell me lies, hoping I will change my mind. But tell me the dream, and then I’ll know that you can tell me what it means.”

10 The astrologers replied to the king, “No one on earth can tell the king his dream! (how true) And no king, however great and powerful, has ever asked such a thing of any magician, enchanter, or astrologer! 11 The king’s demand is impossible. No one except the gods can tell you your dream, and they do not live here among people.”

Well, they have a little bit of it right – but it is NOT the gods (plural)
It is ONLY the ONE TRUE GOD of Heaven that can reveal this

Daniel 2:12-13 (nlt) - The king was furious when he heard this, and he ordered that all the wise men of Babylon be executed. 13 And because of the king’s decree, men were sent to find and kill Daniel and his friends.

There’s Nothin like a kingdom wide Execution of all the Wise Men
to bring God’s chosen man to the forefront - *Right?*

Daniel 2:14 (nlt) - When Arioch, the commander of the king's guard, came to kill them, Daniel handled the situation with wisdom and discretion.

Daniel handled the situation with wisdom & discretion – PLUS - He had already built a BASE of Wise Interaction with people around him

& you can tell – by the next vs –Daniel had built a Wise Relationship with this commander who had come to execute him

Daniel 2:15-16 (nlt) - He asked Arioch, “Why has the king issued such a harsh decree?” So Arioch told him all that had happened. 16 Daniel went at once to see the king and requested more time to tell the king what the dream meant.

This is faithful confidence – Daniel believed – before he saw –
his FAITH was the evidence of what he could not see (Heb 11:1)

So Daniel asks the King for a little “Breathing Room” (Literally)

& then he DOES - the **ONLY THING** a person should do in a situation like this - He's gonna **PRAY like CRAZY**

Daniel 2:17-18 (nlt) - Then Daniel went home and told his friends Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah what had happened. 18 He urged them to ask the God of heaven to show them his mercy by telling them the secret, so they would not be executed along with the other wise men of Babylon.

What followed was a serious prayer meeting – with 4 faithful Hebrew boys beseeching the throne of God with intensity

& God responded to their faithful prayers

Daniel 2:19 (nlt) - That night the secret was revealed to Daniel in a vision. Then Daniel praised the God of heaven.

& notice - when God reveals the dream to Daniel - Daniel doesn't run off to fix the situation - He pauses to write a Psalm of PRAISE to God

& LOOK at the focus on God's Sovereignty in these next Vs's

God is **SOVEREIGN** – He **KNOWS ALL** – He **OWNS ALL**
He **CONTROLS ALL** - & He **GIVES ALL** that is given

& Guys - When we Truly Begin to understand **God's Goodness**
& **His Character** – we can **Rest Completely** in his Sovereignty

Daniel 2:20-23 (nlt) - He (Daniel) said, "Praise the name of God forever and ever, for he has all wisdom and power. 21 He controls the course of world events; he removes kings and sets up other kings. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars. 22 He reveals deep and mysterious things and (He) knows what lies hidden in darkness, though he is surrounded by light. 23 I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors, for you have given me wisdom and strength. You have told me what we asked of you and revealed to us what the king demanded."

ALL of Daniel's **Psalm of PRAISE** here
was in **RESPONSE** to **God's AWESOME SOVEREIGNTY**

& **THAT** is actually **The Biggest Lesson** in this Entire Ch

So - now that Praise to God is completed -
Daniel can go on with God's Business for him

Daniel 2:24-25 (nlt) - Then Daniel went in to see Arioch, whom the king had ordered to execute the wise men of Babylon. Daniel said to him, “Don’t kill the wise men. Take me to the king, and I will tell him the meaning of his dream.”

25 Arioch quickly took Daniel to the king and said, “I have found one of the captives from Judah who will tell the king the meaning of his dream!”

Arioch didn't get his position by being stupid

so he tries to slide some credit in for himself on this deal—
But you won't see Daniel do ANY of that

Daniel 2:26 (nlt) - The king said to Daniel (also known as Belteshazzar), “Is this true? Can you tell me what my dream was and what it means?”

This is BIG, right here – the King of Babylon says –
is this true or not? Can you tell me or NOT

& Daniel uses it to set up a huge “POINT TO GOD” moment

Daniel 2:27 (nlt) - Daniel replied, “There are no wise men, enchanters, magicians, or fortune-tellers who can reveal the king’s secret.

Daniel just told King Nebuchadnezzar – exactly what he DID NOT want to Hear - that NO ONE on earth could tell the king his dream

& just as the King was about to scream “OFF with His HEAD” –
Daniel says in v.28

Daniel 2:28 (nlt) - But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and he has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will

happen in the future. Now I will tell you your dream and the visions you saw as you lay on your bed.

NOW Daniel has the King's attention . . .

But he is not finished making sure Nebuchadnezzar knows that it is ONLY GOD who can Provide what he is looking for

Daniel 2:29-30 (nlt) - "While Your Majesty was sleeping, you dreamed about coming events. He who reveals secrets has shown you what is going to happen. 30 And it is not because I am wiser than anyone else that I know the secret of your dream, but because God wants you to understand what was in your heart.

ONLY God gets the Credit - OR Daniel has Failed in his duty

Before we move on - On the **HISTORICAL** Lesson Side

Let me Quote from **DAVID JEREMIAH** to **SUMMARIZE** - **ALL** we can learn from Daniel in this critical situation

David Jeremiah

***[Daniel] is composed before crisis,
courageous before the captain who is to take his life,
confident before God in prayer,
careful before his success to give praise to the Lord -
and when God answers his prayer he is contrite in his spirit***

& so now – we get to what we came to this Ch for

Daniel 2:31-33 (nlt) - "In your vision, Your Majesty, you saw standing before you a huge, shining statue of a man (a Giant Transformer). It was a frightening sight. 32 The head of the statue was made of fine gold. Its chest and arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, 33 its legs were iron, and its feet were a combination of iron and baked clay.

Let's **Review** - Because each part of this **TRANSFORMER** has **significant meaning**

Head of **GOLD**

Chest & Arms - **SILVER**

Belly & Thighs - **BRONZE**

Legs were **IRON**

Feet - a Combination of **IRON & BAKED CLAY**

A total of **FIVE PARTS** - Making Up the Giant **TRANSFORMER** in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

But Now - **LOOK** what Happens

Daniel 2:34-35 (nlt) As you watched, a rock was cut from a mountain, but not by human hands. It struck the feet of iron and clay, smashing them to bits. 35 The whole statue was crushed into small pieces of iron, clay, bronze, silver, and gold. Then the wind blew them away without a trace, like chaff on a threshing floor. But the rock that knocked the statue down became a great mountain that covered the whole earth.

That's IT – Right There

THAT is **the History of the Gentile Rule of the World**

All **wrapped up** in **ONE** incredibly **easy** to understand **STATUE**

Guys - God wants us to know He has everything under control

& God wants us to know – in the big picture
Exactly what is COMING in this world

& He wants it to be clear – so we can make a clear choice
about which SIDE we want to BE ON – when it all comes down

So . . . Here we go – The History of the World – According to GOD

Daniel 2:36 (nlt) “That was the dream. Now we will tell the king what it means.

First – the Head of Gold
represents the World-Ruling Kingdom of BABYLON

Daniel 2:37-38 (nlt) Your Majesty, you are the greatest of kings. The God of heaven has given you sovereignty, power, strength, and honor. 38 He has made you the ruler over all the inhabited world and [He] has put even the wild animals and birds under your control. You are the head of gold.

AGAIN - Daniel makes it clear to Nebuchadnezzar -
whatever he has – it has been given to him by GOD Alone

God has GIVEN you – God has MADE you –
God has PUT these things under your control –

First – God’s Sovereignty takes Center Stage
& we need to SEE God’s Sovereignty at Center Stage - in this Ch

BABYLON was the first real World-Ruling empire
& really - the **proto-type** of all World-Ruling empires to come

& so right here – at the beginning of World-Ruling empires –
God spells out the History of the World
as far as World-Ruling Empires go

Babylon has ALWAYS represented man's rule over the earth -
Which is WHY it plays such a big part in End-Times Prophecy

Remember it was here at BABEL
that mankind 1st banded together against God

So - Babylon is the 1st World-Ruling Empire
& it is the **Head of GOLD** in the Statue

Which made Nebuchadnezzar very happy

NEXT - Are the **ARMS OF SILVER**
& the 2nd **World-Ruling Empire** in the **History of the World**

***Daniel 2:39 (nlt) - "But after your kingdom comes to an end,
another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to take your place . . .***

This is the Kingdom that would **TOPPLE** Babylon
it would become known as the **MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE**

Aptly Illustrated by **TWO Arms joining** at the Chest

Which is exactly what **the Medes** & **The Persians** did
in order to create the **2nd World Ruling Empire**

We'll learn about this 2nd Empire - Because Daniel is still alive
& writing when this Next Empire Conquers Babylon

& **Notice** the **DECLINE** in the **VALUE** of the **METAL** of the statue – going from **GOLD** to **SILVER** already

So - those are the 1st two World-Ruling Empires - Not **JUST** illustrated in **Nebuchadnezzar's** Dream - But **ACTUALLY** in **HISTORY**

NEXT - we get to **THE BELLY OF BRONZE**

Daniel 2:39 (nlt) . . . After that kingdom has fallen, yet a third kingdom, represented by bronze, will rise to rule the world.

This is the world domination of the Greeks - established by **Alexander the Great** – who was a **Military Genius**

History says - when **Alexander the Great** had conquered all known empires - he **WEPT** – because there were **no more worlds** to conquer

& he **did all that** – before he was **33** – because that's when he died & he DIED - IN BABYLON

It's interesting that the Soldiers of Greece - During their World Domination - Were dressed in BRONZE - For Battle

& Historically - **GREECE** Held **Dominion of the World** after the **Medo-Persian** Empire

But - Next came **THE IRON LEGS** - Representing the **IRON RULE of ROME**

Daniel 2:40 (nlt) Following that kingdom, there will be a fourth one, as strong as iron. That kingdom will smash and crush all

previous empires, just as iron smashes and crushes everything it strikes.

In School we all learned about the **IRON LEGIONS of ROME**

Fifty years before Jesus was born,
the Roman Empire came into existence

& ROME was the 4th world dominating kingdom
Exactly as Daniel's Prophecy predicted

But - what's interesting is -
The Roman Empire was **NEVER CONQUERED**

ROME FELL FROM WITHIN - (*Which is a very interesting study*)

& WHEN ROME crumbled from within
it was **ABSORBED INTO** the Nations we know today
as the **European & Mediterranean** Nations

But - the Bible clearly teaches - Especially when you combine
Dan Ch 2 & Dan Ch 7 - along with other Prophecy . . .

That in the End times there will be a CONFEDERATION of NATIONS
that the Anti-Christ will come OUT OF - to RULE the WORLD

& Daniels interpretation of the Dream
Lays that out Perfectly

IN the Statue - The IRON LEGS of ROME - CHANGE
into something different when World History reaches the FEET

& we are LIVING in that CHANGING PICTURE - RIGHT NOW

The END of Daniel's Statue - is the **FUTURE ROMAN EMPIRE**

Daniel 2: 41 (nlt) - The feet and toes you saw were a combination of iron and baked clay, showing that this kingdom will be divided. Like iron mixed with clay, it will have some of the strength of iron. 42 But while some parts of it will be as strong as iron, other parts will be as weak as clay. 43 This mixture of iron and clay also shows that these kingdoms will try to strengthen themselves by forming alliances with each other through intermarriage. But they will not hold together, just as iron and clay do not mix.

If we were studying different VIEWS on Prophecy – I'd talk more about how others VIEW End Times Prophecy here

But instead – let me just tell you where WE stand generally -
& where most Evangelicals stand

Most Prophecy Scholars view the **FEET** and **TOES**
as a **REVIVED ROMAN Empire**

This Revived Roman Empire will be a combination
of the IRON strength of ancient Rome
mixed with the fragile clay of other weaker nations

by the way – the word for clay here -
is also used for what we would call CHINA or PORCELAIN

So - Rome will return to be a world ruling empire

but in a mixture of the **IRON FIST** that Rome once had –
along with some toes of CLAY mixed in

Especially when combined with Dan Ch 7 . . .

This is almost certainly a Confederation of Nations

With roots in Ancient ROME

Returning to join together as a World dominate Empire

Now - **Over** the past **40 years** or so

The countries of **Europe** of been **working hard**

to **“Join Together”** - & **REVIVE** the **World Power** - **Europe** once had

The **FIRST step** in this **REVIVING** of **European World Power**
was actually **WAY back** in **1958**

& this **INITIAL “Joining Together”** of the **European Nations**
Was **actually** First Called - **THE TREATY OF ROME**

Which was the **BEGINNING**

of what we now call **“The European Union”**

& **Since** the **TREATY OF ROME** - Incredible Prophetic events
have been seen - in **The European Common Market**
& what is Now - **The European Union**

Guys - We need to Understand

The **Revived Roman Empire** - is **ALIVE & WELL** - **TODAY**

& their **Actions** have **SO BLATANTLY** Fulfilled (or paved the way)
for **Biblical Prophecy** - that it is **absolutely STAGGERING**

This is the Confederacy of Nations -

that the Anti-Christ will almost certainly Come OUT OF

We dealt with this when we were studying Revelation

If you want to know some of the Mind-Boggling Facts of the EU –
get our msg called “Daniel in Revelation” From Word-By-Mail

So – there have been FOUR Major World Ruling Empires (*1 to come*)
It was Prophecy when Daniel wrote it
It is Historical FACT Now

& they came about JUST AS God revealed them
to Nebuchadnezzar thru Daniel

& we have GOT to see God’s Sovereignty in that -
& we have GOT to see the Assurance of God’s Word in this

in One Dream – in One Prophecy – in 600AD
God laid out **the History of the Gentile World**

4 of the 5 phases of that world History have come to pass
1 is yet to be - & it is HERE TODAY – in a mind-boggling way

& we MUST Ask ourselves – what is the probability
of the **FINAL Phase** of this World’s history coming to pass –
JUST AS God said it would

& Finally we **MUST** Ask Ourselves
WHAT should I do about it – what does this mean to **ME**

HOW should I be LIVING in LIGHT of this incredible truth
WRITTEN for us **2,600 yrs** ago
& **PROVEN** in every World phase since then

FIVE Phases of Gentile World History
4 of which have occurred like clockwork
the 5th is in place & moving ahead like clockwork

HOWEVER – that’s NOT the end of it
That’s NOT where God’s plan ends

It will be DURING the Rule of the REVIVED Roman Nations
that the story gets REALLY GOOD

Daniel 2:44-45 (nlt) - “During the reigns of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed or conquered. It will crush all these kingdoms into nothingness, and it will stand forever. [REPEAT] 45 That is the meaning of the rock cut from the mountain, though not by human hands, that crushed to pieces the statue of iron, bronze, clay, silver, and gold. The great God was showing the king what will happen in the future. The dream is true, and its meaning is certain.”

This my friends – is the return of Jesus Christ to this earth -
& the beginning of the Eternal Kingdom of Christ

The Rock – cut from the mountain – but not by human hands –
is so clearly Jesus Christ that no scholars debate it

Jesus is the ROCK in so many places in scripture - this is certain –
THIS is the coming of Jesus Christ –

& we see **CLEARLY** here the SECOND coming of Jesus Christ

Because when this rock comes - its **FIRST** action is to
CRUSH all ruling empires of this world . . .

& obliterate all signs of not only the existing Revived Roman Empire –
but also every other Gentile Kingdom SINCE BABYLON!!

& then – The Kingdom of Jesus Christ will become
a kingdom like a mountain - That will stand forever

This is Referring to BOTH the Millennial Kingdom
AND the Eternal Kingdom of God

There is SO - SO MUCH More I could say -
& So much More I WANT to say

MAYBE - We'll come back to this next week

But This is what we absolutely MUST HEAR Today

God is SOVEREIGN

Which means He has Absolute & Unlimited Power & Control over ALL
ALL of EVERYTHING - Including the History of the World

God is working out HIS PLAN - Perfectly
& He will bring it to PASS - Perfectly

EVEN when the circumstances seem contradictory to God's Plan
He is still bringing His Plan to Pass - Perfectly

& the HISTORY of the RULE of this Earth
Is going perfectly According to God's PLAN

JUST AS Daniel Wrote it in 600BC

& The History of this World will Continue to MOVE FORWARD
According to God's Plan - PERFECTLY

And it is - & Maybe we'll look more at HOW it is - Nxt Week
(& we'll FINISH the Chapter Next Week)

But for today - It is ENOUGH to RECEIVE One Great Turth from God

Maybe the GREATEST of ALL Truths . . .

God is SOVEREIGN - He is in Control
He is Bringing HIS PLAN to PASS - Perfectly . . .

& He has made a Way for YOU to RECEIVE
the Eternal Rewards of Being PART of His Plan -

For today - Just SEE that God is IN CONTROL
HE IS IN CONTROL - & HE will Continue to BE in Control

& IF GOD is IN CONTROL - YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE

You can TRUST HIM - He's GOT THIS

We just need to make sure we are WITH HIM
& NOT AGAINST HIM

The HISTORY of this World
is on God's PLAN - & God's TIMETABLE

In our Hearts - EACH of us - Need to come to the place - that we
Truly **BELIEVE** that -
Truly **TRUST** that -
& Truly **JOIN** God in What HE Has PLANNED

Let's just do THAT right now - & we'll pick up
some other things in this Msg Next Week

Let's Pray