

GOD EMPOWERS DANIEL TO REVEAL DREAMS

(Daniel 2)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Humans great struggle in the pursuit of truth:
- B. A summary of events leading to chapter 2:

II. DANIEL'S EMPOWERED RESPONSE TO THE IMPOSSIBLE TASK: *(Daniel 2:1-49)*

- A. Human wisdom fails: *(vs. 1-13)*
 - 1. The King's impossible demand:
 - 2. His council confession of failure:
- B. Daniel's resorts to the power of prayer: *(vs. 14-23)*
 - 1. Daniel responds with wisdom instead of panic: *(v. 14)*
 - 2. Daniel seeks corporate intercession:
 - 3. Daniel's prayer is mixed with praise: *(vs. 20-23)*
 - God's absolute control over time and seasons.
 - His authority to depose kings and raise up others.
 - His statutes as the ultimate source of wisdom and light.
- C. The breakdown of divine prophecy: *(vs. 24-45)*
 - 1. Daniel points to God as the only revealer of secrets: *(v. 28)*
 - 2. The great statue with five distinct materials:
 - Head of gold: The Babylonian Empire (Nebuchadnezzar: 612-539 B.C.).
 - Chest and arms of silver: Am second empire (Medo-Persia: 539-331 B.C.).
 - Belly and thighs of bronze: A third empire ruling the earth (Greece: 331-168 B.C.).
 - Legs of iron: A fourth kingdom, breaking everything (Rome: 168 B.C.-476 A.D.).
 - Feet of iron and clay: A divided, brittle coalition of power.
 - 3. The supernatural rock: A stone is cut out, but not by human hands.
- D. The future kingdom of God: *(vs. 44-49)*
 - 1. An unshakable kingdom:
 - 2. The fulfillment in Christ: The "Stone" is Jesus Christ (the rock of ages).
 - 3. The promotion of the faithful: Nebuchadnezzar confesses Daniel's God above all Gods and promotes Daniel.

II. APPLICATIONS:

- A. When we face uncertain and impossible task we are called to make prayer our first response instead of our last resort, we must commit to prayer over panic.
- B. No matter what takes place in our nation and in our world we can trust that God is controlling all things and placing rulers in place to lead to a future event of Christ being the absolute and final ruler, and so we can rest assured that God knows exactly what he is doing and has a plan that involves our participation.

EXPLANATION

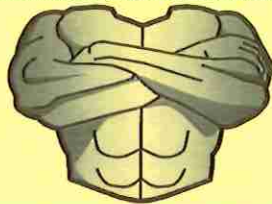
HEAD OF GOLD (2:32) - identified as the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar, namely Babylonia (2:38)



IDENTIFICATION

BABYLONIA

CHEST & ARMS OF SILVER (2:32) - identified as a second inferior kingdom after Babylonia (2:39), traditionally understood to be Medo-Persia (after 8:20)



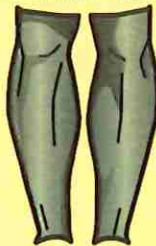
MEDO-PERSIA

BELLY & THIGHS OF BRONZE (2:32) - identified as a third kingdom, which will rule over the whole earth (2:39), traditionally understood to be Greece (after 8:21)



GREECE

LEGS OF IRON (2:33) - identified as a fourth kingdom, which will break the other kingdoms (2:40), traditionally understood to be Rome



ROME

FEET OF IRON & CLAY (2:33) - identified as the fourth kingdom divided (2:41-43)



FUTURE POWERS

A ROCK not cut by human hands (2:34-35) - identified as God's eternal kingdom, which smashes all the other kingdoms (2:44-45)



GOD'S KINGDOM