

- I) V1-3 INTRO: Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had
- II) The second chapter of Daniel is one of the most famous chapters in the Bible
It records the most thorough picture of world history from 600 BC to the 2nd Coming
- III) H.A. Ironside, Lectures on Daniel: I suppose it contains the most complete, and yet the most simple prophetic picture that we have in all the Word of God
- IV) This period in world history is referred to as the times of the Gentiles
This is a time that the Gentiles dominate Israel
- V) Jesus spoke of this when He taught His disciples about the last times
Lu 21:24 Jerusalem will be *trampled by Gentiles* until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled
- VI) QUOTE: The times of the Gentiles includes all of the 70 weeks (490 years) of Daniel's prophecy (Dan 9:24-27) as well as the Church age (from Pentecost until the Rapture), the seven year tribulation (Daniel's 70th week) predicted in Dan 9:27 and explained in Rev ch 6-19
- VII) In this chapter we have two questions answered
What does the future hold for the nation of Israel
With the destruction of the Temple, will Israel cease to exist as a nation?
- VIII) V1-3 Now in the second year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams
This occurs in the 2nd full year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign
That would be the third year of Daniel's captivity
- IX) We see Daniel now serving before the King because his three year training is over
- X) The king has been having a series of troubling dreams and is very upset and cannot sleep
His dreams were about the future (V29), and were so vivid they left him agitated
Because he is so troubled, he seeks help from his religion
- XI) V2-3 The king gave the command to call the magicians, the astrologers, the sorcerers and
This class of people come under the heading of what is called the Wise Men

- XII) V27 tells us that this class of men was divided into 4 basic categories
 Magicians (A pen) *Scholars*, learned in writings such as magic and astrology
 Astrologers: Study the stars to predict the future; a conjurer, enchanter, exorcist
 Sorcerers: Use of potions, incantations; to practice witchcraft
 Chaldeans: The priestly class; the highest level of the wise in Babylon
- I) V3 The king said to them I have had a dream and my spirit is anxious to know the dream
 This reveals why he is under such anxiety
- II) V4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king *in Aramaic*: O king, live forever! Tell your
 From this point until the end of chapter 7, the language is Aramaic
- III) The Chaldeans address the king in typical oriental courtesy: Live forever
 Tell us your dream and we will give an interpretation
- IV) V5 But the king answered and said to the Chaldeans My decision is firm: if you do not
- V) My decision is firm is a statement that has been disputed
 Some say that it is another way of saying I have forgotten the dream
- VI) Others say that he does not completely trust them and their abilities
 Tell me the dream, or you will end up dead
 Obviously doubts their accuracy: He is tired and cranky, and doubts their abilities
- VII) REMEMBER: These people were commonly recognized as experts at dream analysis
- VIII) IN THE OT: God occasionally communicated through dreams
 Nu 12:6 Then He said, Hear now My words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, make Myself known to him in a vision; I speak to him in a dream
- IX) We have incidents when God even used dreams to speak to unbelievers
 This occurred in the life of Abraham and Sarah
 Gen 20:1-3 And Abraham journeyed from there to the South, and dwelt between Kadesh and Shur, and stayed in Gerar. Now Abraham *said of Sarah* his wife, "She is my sister." And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah. But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, "Indeed you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is a man's wife."
- X) In the case of the king, God has given him a dream that has disturbed him

He calls his dream analysts to find out what it means
They do what they normally do: They ask for the dream that they might interpret it

XI) V6 However if you tell the dream and its interpretation you shall receive from me gifts

I will lavish upon you riches: all you have to do is to tell me the dream

XII) V7-9 They answered again and said Let the king tell his servants the dream
He demands the interpretation: He knows that if they can reveal the dream they can help

I) If they can't, they are proven charlatans and will be immediately executed

II) V10-13 The Chaldeans *answered the king* and said There is not a man on earth who can
They are confessing their obvious inability: They are limited and unable to do so

They are well aware of who he is and what is at stake

III) They had just told him to tell them the dream and they would give the interpretation (V4)

Now they are admitting that they can't do such a thing

This has never been requested before, and it is simply unfair

IV) V11 It is a difficult thing that the king requests and there is no other who can tell it

No human being on earth can fulfill such a request

V) Only gods can do what you are asking, and we do not have contact with them
God made it clear that He is the One determining who speaks on His behalf

Is 47:13 You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, and the monthly prognosticators stand up and save you from what shall come upon you

VI) The king is right: why would such a thing be impossible for actual Wise Men?

VII) V12-13 For this reason the king was angry and very furious and gave the command

VIII) Because they can't obey his command he begins rounding up the wise men of Babylon

They were centered in the city of Babylon

This includes Daniel and his friends: He is holding them for public

execution

IX) V14-16 Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch the captain of the king's

**Notice how Daniel answers: With counsel and wisdom
He engages him in conversation: why is the king pressing this so quickly?**

X) Instead of fearfully or angrily protesting, he spoke with respect and initiated conversation

**He used discretion and answered with a *calmness* and *wisdom*
Pr 15:11 A soft answer turns away wrath but a harsh word stirs up anger
HE ASKS FOR TIME**

XI) V17-19 Then Daniel went to his house and made the decision known to Hananiah, Mishael

Daniel calls a prayer meeting and in the meeting, God gives them an answer (Jer 33:3)

V18 Notice they sought the mercy of God: They were very specific in their prayer!

XII) V19 Then the secret was revealed to Daniel in a night vision

I) God gives him a night vision (A supernatural revelation)

Job 33:14-16 For God may speak in one way, or in another, yet man does not perceive it. In a dream, in a vision of the night, when deep sleep falls upon men, while slumbering on their beds, then He opens the ears of men, and seals their instruction.

This clarifies what the king was requesting

**II) V20-23 Daniel answered and said Blessed be the name of God forever and ever
He gives praise to God for answering him and giving him the dream and understanding**

The Wise Men were not able to know such things, but God granted that he would

III) V21 He changes the times and the season He removes kings and raises up kings

**He is in charge of history, and in charge of who has authority
He acknowledges the Sovereignty of God, Who is greater than any King**

IV) V24-28 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise

Daniel knows that God has given him the dream and interpretation

V) V25 Arioch wants to take credit, but Daniel gives glory to God

This is so very common with politicians!

VI) V26 The king answered and said to Daniel whose name was Belteshazar Are you able

This gives Daniel and opportunity of stealing glory and taking credit, which he refuses

VII) V27-28 Daniel answered in the presence of the king and said The secret which the king

This knowledge does not come in natural ways: it is knowledge that is revealed by God

VIII) V28 It pertains to what occurs in the latter days

This pertains to what happens when the God of Israel establishes His future kingdom

IX) V29-35 As for you O king thoughts came to your mind while on your bed

X) In your dream, God has made known what will be (V29)

This understanding was given because of God's mercy, not his own efforts (V30)

1 Co 1:29 no flesh should glory in His presence.

XI) V31-35 You O king were watching and behold a great image This great image He reveals a panorama of history through an image made of various metals

The metals are progressively inferior, revealing the quality of man's kingdoms

XII) The metals will be revealed as empires that will arise

These ruling nations will be more clearly revealed in chapters 7, 8, 11

I) V36-45 THIS IS THE DREAM: Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king

This is a revelation of the times of the Gentiles: 4 human kingdoms are described

II) We are being introduced to these kingdoms and will later receive more detail The image is that of a man, and it is top heavy with weak feet

III) V37-38 Babylon is the head of gold: Ruling from 605-538 BC: Absolute authority

V39a Medo-Persia is the chest and arms of silver: 538-330 BC: Bound by law

V39b Greece: Bronze: 330-30 BC Conquers Medo-Persia under Alexander:

Military aristocracy

V40 Rome: Legs of iron, feet mixture of iron and clay: 30 BC

Rome was an empire that was bound by law, and practiced Caesar worship

Military strength was famous for its ability to crush all resistance with an iron heel

IV) V41-43 Whereas you saw the feet and toes partly of potter's clay and partly of iron

This kingdom will be a mixture of strength and weakness

V) V43 The final form of the kingdom will include diverse elements, possibly race, political parties, sectional interests, and cultural diversities and *will prevent* the final form of the kingdom from having unity

VI) The 10 toes represent a prophetic overview:

The *last form* of the Roman Empire will have 10 nations

VII) This is the last days kingdom that will be destroyed by Jesus when He returns

Dan 7:7-8 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, *a fourth beast*, dreadful and terrible, exceedingly strong. It had huge iron teeth; it was devouring, breaking in pieces, and trampling the residue with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. I was considering the horns, and there was another horn, a little one, coming up among them, before whom three of the first horns were plucked out by the roots. And there, in this horn, were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking pompous words.

Dan 7:23-24 Thus he said: `The fourth beast shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all other kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, trample it and break it in pieces. The ten horns are ten kings who shall arise from this kingdom. And another shall rise after them; He shall be different from the first ones, and shall subdue three kings

Rev 17: 12-13 The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority *to the beast*

VIII) V44-45 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall

This is the Second Advent of Jesus: The final defeat of the Gentile world power

I) This is the kingdom of God and His Christ

**It is Jesus that will be the stone that crushes all opposition to God's rule
Lu 20:17-18 Then He looked at them and said, "What then is this that is written: `The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone'?
Whoever falls on that stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.**

2) Rev 19:11- gives the the Second Coming of Jesus

II) V46-47 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face prostrate before Daniel

By this he recognized that Daniel's God was great and he was a true representative

III) V48-49 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts and he made him

Daniel did not seek this position or attempt to become such a prominent man

He did not seek glory from man or a position to exalt himself

IV) He was placed there by God, who would use him for the good of his people

Ps 75:6-7 No one from the east or the west or from the desert can exalt themselves. It is God who judges: He brings one down, he exalts another.

V) He did not forget his three friends who had joined him in prayer, seeking mercy (V18)

They were not stepping-stones to position, but were fellow servants

Daniel was made a servant of the court, serving with authority and counsel to the king