

Daniel 2 –19 June 2025

“How Much Greater A Kingdom”

Introduction

*Book’s Theme: “God’s power to bring Israel thru the kingdoms of this world to exaltation”

*Book’s Outline: 2 halves (historical chronology chap 1-6 & a is more detailed prophetic visions chap 7-12)

*Chap 1 – Believer in an unbelieving world living an undefiled life

*Chap 2 – All world empires ended by the Kingdom

*Chap 3 – Believer raptured while Israel goes thru the Tribulation

*Chap 4 – King of Babylon as Satan is bound

*Chap 5 – Earth’s ruler gathers for a last battle but is overthrow

*Chap 6 – New world-ruling kingdom w/ unchanging laws is established

*Dan 2 shows us such a difference in how he lives as a true believer vs. how this world’s kingdoms endure

Today, we’ll see 3 contrasts between this world’s kingdoms & God’s Kingdom

#1 – They have worldly wisdom; we have godly wisdom (Vs 1-16) [The Dream]

Read Vs 1-2

1. 4 types of worldly wisdom
 - a. Magicians – drawing magical lines, a horoscope, looking to the stars
 - b. Conjurers – to practice enchantments, or conjure up the dead [Satanic]
 - c. Sorcerers – to whisper a spell, a sorcerer
 - d. Chaldeans – seed of Kessed, ancient ones
2. This is same place man's efforts take us today
 - a. Men look to the powers of creation
 - i. Stars, demons, drugs, men (heavens, hell, hallucination or heathen)
 - b. Instead of the Creator

Read Vs 3-4

1. There's 2 large sections of the OT that weren't written in Hebrew but Aramaic
 - a. Dan 2:4b-7:28 – shifts when the Chaldeans begin speaking
 - b. Most of Ezra 4:8-7:26 – Official letters

- c. Shows that these words were received from eyewitness sources in the present day
- 2. Classic politicians here; always trying to butter people up to maintain their position

Read Vs 5-9

- 1. In 2 ways the king declares the importance of receiving a true interpretation of this dream
 - a. There's great reward & consequences
 - b. King won't tell the dream so he's sure to receive a supernatural response not just politics

Read Vs 10-11

- 1. These are chances for servants of the true God to shine – when situations is humanly impossible
 - a. Read Gen 41:15-16 – Joseph, “It's not in me, but God”
- 2. Interesting that their *gods don't dwell with flesh* b/c our God, Jesus came to dwell among us

Read Vs 12-16

- 1. This isn't just a new king's way of purging the political establishment, b/c he himself was responsible for the position of these young men

2. For his part, Daniel already has his life on the line, so to go before the king wasn't like Esther
 - a. However notice the calm wisdom with which Daniel speaks to Arioch
 - b. He proves the expression "the heat doesn't make the man, but the heat reveals the man"

#2 – They trust in themselves; we trust in God (Vs 17-30) [The Revelation]

Read Vs 17-18

1. Bringing the crisis to God & the godly
 - a. When situations are impossible for man, God can receive the most glory
 - b. We simply need to ask Him to act
2. Notice their posture before God; humility

Read Vs 19

1. See, Daniel did nothing, it was revealed to him
 - a. Religion is what we can do
 - b. Christianity depends on God to move

2. Notice, even in a time-sensitive situation,
Daniel still remains to bless & thank God
 - a. There's always time to thank God (see vs 25)
 - b. Read Luke 17:15-19 – 1 of 10 lepers

Read Vs 20-23

1. What does Daniel thank God for?
 - a. God *changes & removes* – praising God for His sovereignty & power
 - b. God *gives & reveals* – praising God for His help to the faithful
 - c. God *knows* – praising God for His control & peace given in hard times
2. Even before going to the king, Daniel's been given great confidence that he knows the dream
 - a. Whether road ahead is hard or easy, when you've heard from God, nothing can stop you
3. I believe God would respond to Daniel as He did to the leper, "Stand up & go, your faith has saved you"

Read Vs 24-30

1. So Daniel makes 2 things clear
 - a. Source of this info isn't from man but God
 - i. Side effect – You must deal w/ God above
 - b. Daniel himself adds nothing to the revelation of this true information to the king
 - i. Side effect – I'm nothing, God is everything
2. This should be our position as servants; we're to simply be a conduit of God's truth to others
 - a. B/c, as God wanted the king to know, God wants the unbelieving world around us to know

#3 – They choose harmful friends; we choose helpful friends (Vs 31-49) [The Interpretation]

Read Vs 31-35

1. We'll immediately get the interpretation but there's 2 important things here
 - a. From top down, image descends in value
 - b. Stone, which is all that matters in the end, strikes at the feet or final part of the image
2. Remember vs 29—this will *happen in the future*

Read Vs 36-40

1. There previously were great empires, but none that ruled the world
2. So these four world-ruling kingdoms are
 - a. Babylon (626-539BC) – single head of gold
 - b. Medo-Persian (539-336BC) – two silver arms for the Medes & the Persians
 - c. Greeks (336-146BC) – core of bronze
 - d. Romans (146-476BC) – iron legs (E & W)
3. Notice the succeeding kingdoms are called inferior to the previous ones
 - a. What's this speaking of? Form of govt
 - b. Babylon was absolute dictatorship
 - c. Medo-Persians had diversity of thought & customs
 - d. Greeks decentralized power after Alexander
 - e. Romans had many tetrarchies

Read Vs 41-44a

1. This is the 5th world-ruling kingdom
 - a. Has iron (Roman), but also common man

2. Gives 3 attributes of a revived Roman empire
 - a. It's divided (vs 41)
 - b. It's partly strong & partly weak (vs 42)
 - c. The two parts don't stick together
3. Notice 'they' are braiding themselves w/ the *seed* or offspring of men
 - a. Happened before in Gen 6, seems to happen again - There's Biblical reason to believe this
 - i. Read Matt 24:37-39
 - b. This mingling of iron & clay may just represent a form of democracy though
4. 10 toes represent 10 sub-kingdoms
 - a. Rev 13:1 (ie Rev 17) shows the 10 horned Anti-Christ
 - b. Many attempts since the 1948 to unite the world into 10 regions, most notably the Club of Rome's 'Ten Regions' Model of 1973

Read Vs 44-45

1. Stone cut without hands is the Kingdom of God that it says will stand forever
 - a. Therefore, there will only ever be 5 world-ruling empires

2. The prayer's always been "Thy kingdom come"
 - a. Read Act 1:6, Act 15:16

Read Vs 46-49

1. Daniel didn't forget his friends that had been thru purification (Chap 1) & prayer (Chap 2) w/ him
 - a. Unlike the Butler in Joseph's days in Egypt

Conclusion

So God is working His plan to bring about His Kingdom, but as we interact with this world's kingdoms, let us recognize the differences

1. **They have worldly wisdom; we have godly wisdom**
 - a. We don't draw from created powers but the Creator's power
2. **They trust in themselves; we trust in God**
 - a. We depend on God to act & lead us
3. **They choose harmful friends; we choose helpful friends**
 - a. We recognize the multiplicity of church