

Daniel 2:1-36  
SA221204

**“World Kingdoms Revealed – Part I”**

1. If you want to have a good grasp on Biblical prophecy, you must have a good grasp on Daniel Chapter 2.
  - **In** this one chapter, the history of the world is unfolded all the way until the end.
2. Last time, we left off with God having blessed and promoted Daniel and his friends due to their faith and faithfulness to Him.
  - **This** week, we will see God’s blessing continue through supernatural dreams and visions.
3. This is a good time to point out that God DOES speak through visions and dreams even still today.
  - **But** if we don’t understand some basics of interpretation, we are open to deception and being misled in this area.
4. What do I mean?
  - **God** speaks through dreams but not ALL dreams.
  - **Some** dreams are simply restless sleep.

5. And even when He speaks through dreams, you can't lay it out as a science that comes with an interpretation chart in which God uses all the same symbols and images to always mean the same thing.

- **God** is a God of variety, and you must be in tune with His voice and Spirit to gain any interpretation.

6. I say this because there are those who actually write books about what each symbol/image means in a dream, and they try to use that to interpret each dream by their chart.

- **The** problem is God doesn't use a "chart," and God's imagery in dreams is not consistent.
- **Meaning** this method is not only inaccurate, but it can also lead well-meaning Christians down the wrong road.

7. For example, in Joseph's first dream wheat represented his brothers, but in a later dream the stars did.

- **Then** in a different dream, wheat represented a famine, but the cows did as well.
- **So**, as you see it is not always consistent. Books with dream chart interpretations are flawed from the get go.

8. So how do we know if a dream is from God?
- **Firstly**, I think you can know simply in your spirit and the impact it has on your life.
  - **Secondly**, it will always line up with Scripture.
  - **And** thirdly, we see in Scripture God always confirms visions or dreams by giving a second or third confirmation.
9. For example, Nebuchadnezzar's, Joseph's, and Daniel's multiple dreams.
- **Not** to mention Peter's three confirmations with the sheet dropping in Acts.
10. Today, we will see all of these elements in play when it comes to Nebuchadnezzar's dreams and Daniel's interpretation that God gives him.
- **That is**, we will see that it so bothered Nebuchadnezzar that he simply **KNEW** this was something more than a late-night snack.
  - **Secondly**, we will see that Daniel recognized it was Scripture or God revealing the future.
  - **And** lastly, we will see he had more than one dream confirming it was God.

**v.2** 1. Notice these dreams so bothered him that he called all his “so-called” dream interpreters or “spiritual” people to help him solve it.

- **But** as we are going to see, they are of no help and have no ability to help him figure it out.

2. Why?

- **Because** while they were “spiritual,” they weren’t of “God’s Spirit” which means they had no ability to interpret it.

**v.4** 1. First note it says they answered him in Aramaic.

- **From** Daniel verses **2:4-7:8** we see the language change from Hebrew to Aramaic.
- **Why?**

2. Because it is in these chapters and verses that God deals with the future of the “gentile” world.

- **And** even as God meets everyone right where they are, speaking their own language in their hearts, He quite literally does so here.

3. Notice they say, “tell us the dream and we will give the interpretation.”

- **This** was reasonable to them as they had their “dream interpretation” method like some do today.

4. But the King wasn't having it.

- **He** wanted them to PROVE they had a greater supernatural connection.

**v.6** 1. Remember, Nebuchadnezzar was vicious and to be feared.

- **And** notice that he gave them two requirements.

2. Not only did they have to tell what the dream meant, they had to interpret it without hearing what it was!

- **The** next time someone says they can interpret your dreams ask them to tell you what it was first!

**v.15** 1. This whole interaction shows just how favored Daniel was to the Kingdom.

- **The** decision had been made and the killing had begun, but Daniel was able to reason with the King's executioner.

2. Notice first it says Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom.

- **Meaning** he had time to hear about what was happening, then seek counsel and wisdom from God and probably from Shadrach, Meshack, and Abednego.

- **And** this just accentuates how important it is that we get counsel and wisdom from God AND other godly counselors before we make big discussions.
3. And Daniel's first question is, why is this action so "urgent?"
- **In** other words, must everyone simply be killed without any further discussion from the King's other counselors?
  - **Which** again is reasonable, but we have to remember that Nebuchadnezzar is not reasonable!
4. Then Arioch tells Daniel what's happening, and he realizes the problem they face.
- **But** notice again he makes an appeal to his authority like we talked about last week.
- v.16** 1. Notice what a bold request this was of the King.
- **He** was irrational and had already made up his mind, so he could have just ordered Daniel killed on the spot.
2. However, once again we see God's favor on Daniel.
- **And** God's favor will always be on the righteous.

**v.18** 1. As we noted earlier, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego probably already knew the King was killing the wise men.

- **But** now they were told why.

2. And notice the first thing they did was take it to the Lord.

- **What** wisdom!

3. Rather than give in to fear and panic they run to God

- **And** what a great life lesson for us.

4. While others who were troubled took their problems to bed, Daniel and his friends took their problems to God.

- **And** that is often the difference between those who rise and those who sink.

- **Even** among believers.

5. And notice the result of them seeking God for answers and help.

- **The** secret was revealed.

**v.19** 1. Now we don't know if Daniel was awake or asleep for this night vision, but you can imagine what happened once it took place.

- **The** excitement among them all must have been overwhelming!

2. And notice he "blessed the God of heaven."

- **No kidding!** Their lives were just spared!

3. This is a great example of true heartfelt praise.

- **It** always comes as a natural result and response for what He has done.

**v.21** Notice Daniel points out that it is GOD who controls all times and seasons of life.

- **We** will see later in the prophecies of Daniel that Satan, trying to be God in the latter days, will try to change “times and law.”
- But Daniel points out it is GOD alone who can do this and is over all things.

**v.24** Daniel’s heart - “Don’t kill the wise men of Babylon.”

- **Even** though they were wicked, false teachers of false gods, his heart was for them to be saved as well.
- **Salvation** is for all.

**v.28** 1. Imagine the anticipation of Nebuchadnezzar as he sits forward on his throne.

- **And** now notice his humility and how he gives God ALL the glory.

2. First, he says, “I can’t reveal it but there is a God in heaven who can.”

- **And** second, he tells him what it concerns: The latter days, which refers to the time



right before the Lord's return to rule the earth.

**v.29** Notice Daniel didn't just tell him the dreams.

- **He** let him know what he was "thinking" even before the dreams took place!

**v.30** Notice he says for "our" sakes God has revealed this.

- **That is**, he also acknowledges the input of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego as prayer partners seeking God with Him.