

I. Intro

A. Series Overview: **Dan. 2:26-28a**

²⁶ The king declared to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?” ²⁷ Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days... (Dan. 2:26-28a)

B. Book Overview

1. The book of Daniel contains some of the great stories of the Bible.
2. The book is rich with history.
 - a. Starts in the 3rd year of Jehoiakim.
 - i. Jehoiakim was a vassal king of Egypt and then Babylon (**2 Kgs. 23:35-24**)
 - ii. Daniel was in a young lad when Nebuchadnezzar's army marched into Jerusalem to begin the exporting of captives to Babylon (605 B.C)
 - b. Daniel lived into his 80's, so he was also there to see the Babylonian empire fall to the Mede-Persian Empire.
 - c. He was there in Babylon when in his 3rd year Cyrus, the Mede-Persian king, made the decree to allow captured Israelis to return to the mother land.
3. The book is rich with prophecy.
 - a. The book contains several prophecies that were fulfilled by the time Jesus was cut off at the age of 33.

- b. The book contains several prophecies that will be fulfilled at the end of the age.

C. Theme(s)

- 1. The Sovereignty of God
- 2. The Wisdom of God
- 3. The Providence of God
 - a. To deliver the Kingdom to His Bride (the Church)

D. Main Characters

- 1. The Son of Man
- 2. The Ancient of Days
- 3. Daniel (Belteshazzar)
- 4. Hananiah (Shadrach)
- 5. Mishael (Meshach)
- 6. Azariah (Abednego)
- 7. Various Gentile Emperors
 - a. Nebuchadnezzar the Babylonian/Chaldean (**Ch. 1-4**)
 - b. Belshazzar the Babylonian/Chaldean (**Ch. 5,7-8**)
 - c. Darius the Mede (**Ch. 6,9**)
 - d. Cyrus the Persian (**Ch. 10-11**)

E. 2 Languages

- 1. Hebrew (**Ch. 1 – 2:3, 8-12**)
- 2. Aramaic (**2:4 – 7:28**)

II. Body

A. The Favor of God is Not Limited to Favorable Circumstances

- 1. Daniel watched as his homeland was captured by enemy forces.

- a. The circumstances didn't look good for his people.
- 2. **Babylonian Empire Problem:** How do you unify diverse people groups from different nations who have been conquered?
 - a. Answer: Drag a sizeable portion of that nation's ruling class, military and intellectuals into captivity forcing them to learn the Babylonian way.
- 3. Daniel and other Hebrew children Recruited to serve in the Kings Court (**Dan. 1:1-7**)

*In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it.² And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with some of the vessels of the house of God. And he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his god.³ Then the king commanded Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring some of the people of Israel, both of the royal family and of the nobility,⁴ youths without blemish, of good appearance and skillful in all wisdom, endowed with knowledge, understanding learning, and competent to stand in the king's palace, and to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans.⁵ The king assigned them a daily portion of the food that the king ate, and of the wine that he drank. They were to be educated for three years, and at the end of that time they were to stand before the king.⁶ Among these were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah of the tribe of Judah.⁷ And the chief of the eunuchs gave them names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego. (**Dan. 1:1-7**)*

- a. Learn the ways of the Chaldeans
- 4. Daniel and his friends drew a line in the sand. (**Dan. 1:8**)
 - a. Daniel requested that he and his friends resort to eating nothing but vegetables and water.
 - b. 10 Day Trial (**v. 12-13**)
 - i. Cleanse.
 - ii. Fast
 - c. The young boy's appearance (skin, physique) looked better than all their contemporaries. (**v. 15**)

5. For the 3 years of training, the 4 young Hebrew boys maintained a vegetarian diet with water.

- a. God gave them knowledge and skill

¹⁷ As for these four youths, God gave them learning and skill in all literature and wisdom, and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams. (Dan. 1:17)

- b. Critically examined by King Nebuchadnezzar.

¹⁹ And the king spoke with them, and among all of them none was found like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. Therefore they stood before the king. ²⁰ And in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king inquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters that were in all his kingdom. (Dan. 1:19-20)

- i. Ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in the Empire.

B. The Providence of God is not limited by Kingdoms of the World

1. Nebuchadnezzar's Troubled Dream (Dan. 2:1-6)

In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him. ² Then the king commanded that the magicians, the enchanters, the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans be summoned to tell the king his dreams. So they came in and stood before the king. ³ And the king said to them, "I had a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream." ⁴ Then the Chaldeans said to the king in Aramaic, "O king, live forever! Tell your servants the dream, and we will show the interpretation." ⁵ The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, "The word from me is firm: if you do not make known to me the dream and its interpretation, you shall be torn limb from limb, and your houses shall be laid in ruins. ⁶ But if you show the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive from me gifts and rewards and great honor. Therefore show me the dream and its interpretation." (Dan. 2:1-6)

- a. The Chaldeans complain about what appears to be impossible.

¹¹ The thing that the king asks is difficult, and no one can show it to the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh." (Dan. 2:11)

- i. Only the gods could answer such a thing.

¹² Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and commanded that all the wise men of Babylon be destroyed. (Dan. 2:12)

- b. The decree went out and the “Wise Men” of Babylon were being rounded up to be executed.
- 2. God’s Troubled Interpretation
 - a. Round-up →Execution

¹³ So the decree went out, and the wise men were about to be killed; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them. ¹⁴ Then Daniel replied with prudence and discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, who had gone out to kill the wise men of Babylon. ¹⁵ He declared to Arioch, the king's captain, “Why is the decree of the king so urgent?” Then Arioch made the matter known to Daniel. ¹⁶ And Daniel went in and requested the king to appoint him a time, that he might show the interpretation to the king. ¹⁷ Then Daniel went to his house and made the matter known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions, ¹⁸ and told them to seek mercy from the God of heaven concerning this mystery, so that Daniel and his companions might not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon. (Dan. 2:13-18)

- b. Daniel requested an opportunity to interpret the dream. (v. 16)
- c. Went into the house, shut the door, informed his friends... (v. 17)
- d. Then began to pray to the God of heaven for mercy! (v. 18)
- 3. Sometime that night, the secret dream was revealed to Daniel in an open vision. (Dan. 2:19, 31-36)
 - a. Statue of various metals.
- 4. Interpretation (Dan. 2:37-45)
 - a. Statue represents various Kings/Kingdoms (Image)
 - i. Gold – Babylonian (v.37-38)

- ii. Silver – Mede/Persians (**v. 39a**)
- iii. Brass – Greek Empire (**v. 39b**)
- iv. Iron and Clay – Roman Empire (**v. 40**)

- b. There is a Kingdom coming afterwards (image) that will never be destroyed.

*⁴⁴ And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever, ⁴⁵ just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold. A great God has made known to the king what shall be after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation sure.” (**Dan. 2:44-45**)*

- i. A rock that will break up all other Kingdoms.

III. Conclusion

A. Favor With Man Comes From God

- 1. Daniel spoke the truth to King Nebuchadnezzar (even though his words promised an ugly ending for the King).
- 2. Daniel was promoted instead of punished.

*⁴⁷ The king answered and said to Daniel, “Truly, your God is God of gods and Lord of kings, and a revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.” ⁴⁸ Then the king gave Daniel high honors and many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon. (**Dan. 2:47-48**)*

- a. Daniel became the governor over the whole province.
- b. Daniel petitioned the king to place his friends over all the affairs of the province.

B. The God of Daniel is the God of gods (**v.47**)

1. The wise men and astrologers tried their hardest (by consulting their own gods), with no success.

²⁷ Daniel answered the king and said, “No wise men, enchanters, magicians, or astrologers can show to the king the mystery that the king has asked,²⁸ but **there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries**, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: (Dan. 2:27-28)

2. Daniel’s wisdom wasn’t his own. It was the wisdom of his God.

²⁹ To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.³⁰ But as for me, **this mystery has been revealed to me, not because of any wisdom that I have** more than all the living, but in order that the interpretation may be made known to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your mind. (Dan. 2:29-30)

3. The God of Daniel is the God of the all the earth.

“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever,
to whom belong wisdom and might.

²¹ He changes times and seasons;
he removes kings and sets up kings;
he gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to those who have understanding;

²² he reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what is in the darkness,
and the light dwells with him.

²³ To you, O God of my fathers,
I give thanks and praise,
for you have given me wisdom and might,
and have now made known to me what we asked of you,
for you have made known to us the king’s matter.” (Dan. 2:20b-23)