

GOD RULES – p. 3
“A Dream That Will Come True”
Daniel 2

Seed/Harvest

One feature of Daniel’s writing is that in one story he plants a seed that is harvested in a later story.

-At the end of chapter 1, we see that Daniel and his friends are superior in wisdom to all the wise men of Babylon.

-Here’s the seed – vs. 17-20

-The harvest – Chapter 2

Daniel 2 – A Dream That Will Come True

1 – A Troubling Dream and a Mad King – vs. 1-13

Notice how King Nebuchadnezzar is effected by this dream

-v. 1 – “In the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar had dreams; his spirit was troubled, and his sleep left him.”

-Let’s make this observation – Having all the power in the world and being the richest man in the world will not make you immune to life’s issues.

-There are, no doubt, people listening to this message who are living in a delusion –

-If I only had _____, I’d be happy

This dream is troubling because it is costing the king a good night’s sleep but it’s about to cost the wise men their lives!

2 – The Lord’s Servant Gets Involved – vs. 14-23

This is where Daniel and his friends get involved because they are counted as part of the wise men.

-Daniel says to the king, give me some time and I’ll give you what you need...

Look closely at a contrast –

-The mighty king of Babylon can’t sleep...

-Then there is Daniel, child of God, who is on death row –

-This same message is told over and over and over in Daniel –

-God is better than Babylon! He is wiser, more powerful, and superior in every way!

What Daniel says about God is the most important reality in chapter 2 –

3 – The Troubling Dream Gets a Revealing Interpretation – vs. 24-45

The interpretation of the dream is both revealed by God and it reveals something about God –

-It is revealed by God

-v. 28 – “But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known...”

-v. 29 – “...he who reveals mysteries made known to you...”

-v. 30 – “...this mystery has been revealed to me...”

-It reveals something about God –

-The dream is of a giant image or statue –

-Head = gold

- Chest and arms = silver
- Middle and thighs = bronze
- Legs = iron; feet = partly iron and clay
- Then a stone that is not cut from the rock breaks the image into pieces then grows into a great mountain that fills the earth.

- These different parts represent the kingdoms of man –
- The head of gold = Babylonians
- A stone –
 - Isn't cut by human hands – It's of God!
 - It strikes the statue and smashes it to pieces.
 - Then grows into a massive mountain that fills the whole earth.

- What does it reveal?
 - That man lives in a delusion – that he is on an inevitable upward climb...
 - But God and His plan and His kingdom is ultimate!

4 – The King Gets Religion and Daniels Gets a Promotion – vs. 46-49

The Message

- There's two ways to live –
- The Babylonian way
 - God's way

Choice God –

- 1 – *Because the Babylonian way fails*
- 2 – *Because the God of Israel*

For You and Me

Today, those that hear this message may be in a place right now where faith is hanging in the balance

- You have been a Christian but something has happened (or maybe many things have happened) and you have suffered loss – and you are tempted to lose faith.
- I used to pray to God and He heard, but not now.
- You may feel very alone...

-But Daniel says, “Don't turn away – He loves his people – and He has a plan for your ultimate welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jer. 29:11)

- Then there are some who are listening to this and you are so enamored with Babylon!
 - The ways of Babylon are so cool!
 - They are so freeing –
 - You can do whatever you want to with your body!
 - You can even create your own identity!
 - It's like you are God!
- Yet Daniel would say –
 - Their ways are futile – and lead to death!

Don't forsake the God of your fathers

And the proof that He loves is the cross where His Son hung, bore your sin, removed the wrath and made a way to life everlasting!