

The Times of the Gentiles

Lesson Three: Daniel Chapter Two

Introduction:

This chapter has well been called “The A B C of prophecy”. It contains the most complete yet the simplest prophetic picture we have in Scripture. Anyone who wants to understand what the Bible teaches about the future must study this chapter. Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a huge stature of various substances that decreased in value from its head to its chest to the legs and down to the feet. This was the beginning of what Jesus designates in Luke 21:24 as the “***times of the Gentiles***”. This period will continue until all derived power is overthrown and Jesus becomes King of an everlasting kingdom.

There is a bit of irony in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream. It was actually a foretelling of his own kingdom’s destruction.

THE STORY

- A. God was please to make known to this heathen king what His plans where.
 1. The Bible reveals numerous means God has used to reveal Himself and His Word to man. (Hebrews 1:1-2)
 2. Two vehicles of revelation He has often utilized are **visions and dreams** (Numbers 12:6).
 3. God uses visions to present certain scenery or circumstances to the mind of a person while awake.
 4. Many times, God has communicated His message to people while they were asleep. (Gen. 28:10-17 and Matthew 1:19-21)
- B. So, the king gave orders to call all the wise men of his kingdom to give and to interpret the dream.
 1. Miserably charlatans that they were, they pleaded the absurdity and impossibility of this, declaring that no king had ever asked anything this difficult from wise men.
 2. The king’s response was to behead all of them, which would have included Daniel and his three friends.
- C. When Daniel heard about this bazar story through Arioch, he went in and asked for a little time to seek the face of God regarding the matter.
 1. God answered their cry and revealed the dream with its interpretation.
 2. Daniel blessed the “God of heaven”.

3. You will notice that we have three things here: First prayer: ***“They desired mercies from the God of heaven”***. Then there was divine ministry: ***“God revealed the thing to Daniel in a night vision.”*** And the result of that was worship: ***“Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.”***
4. When God is speaking it stirs the hearts of His people and leads them out in worship.

THE REVELATION

A. Daniel 2:31-35

1. If you look back in history, this dream is the sequence of the powers of the world.
2. It started when the Persian came and took Babylon out. The Greeks came and took the Medes and Persian out. The Romans came and took the Greeks out.
3. The head of this magnificent statue was composed of the finest material, but from the figure’s breast and arms down to its feet, the value of its materials decreased.

B. Furthermore, this statue was to have a limited lifetime (2;34-35).

1. The image represents the whole period of the times of the Gentiles.
2. But it must be noted that the feet of the image had been separated from the legs of iron. The reason for that is this; during the present age, while it is true that the Gentiles times are still running on, prophecy does not deal with this age but with the period that closed with the cross, and another brief season that will commence after the church has been caught up to be with the Lord.
3. Knowing this history and plan of God gives us stability in our faith and trust in times such as we live today.

THE INTERPRETATION

A. Daniel begins to tell Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of the dream.

1. He explained that the various materials and parts of the statue represented the different Gentile kingdoms that would one day be completely destroyed and replaced by the divine king.
2. He starts with the **Head of Gold**. (2:37).
3. Next, was the **Breast and Arms of Silver**. (2:38)
4. Third, was the **Thighs and Belly of Brass**. (2:39)

5. The fourth kingdom was the **Legs of Iron.** (2:40) This fourth kingdom that would come on to human history would be ***“as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things. So, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.”*** However, the Roman kingdom would never successfully unite all the people it ruled. Daniel said that it would be a ***“divided kingdom”***.
- B. After this Roman Empire we are in sort of a sandwich, because there is one more kingdom to come.
1. Daniel 2:42-43 tells there will come a time when the Roman Empire will look different than it ever was before.
 2. There never was a time in Rome’s history when they were divided into ten regions under ten kings.
 3. Because that hasn’t happened yet.
 4. Rome was never defeated by another kingdom. Rome just sort of went out of business and the Bible says there is a long period of time before it is reconstructed.
 5. This reconstructed kingdom is represented by **“Feet and Toes mixed of Iron and Clay”**. This is the fifth kingdom that shall appear on the earth. It has not yet appeared (2:41-44). Only the anti-Christ shall construct this world empire. Reference Daniel 7:7; Revelation 2:13, 17 and Revelation 17:12.
 6. The Bible says that in between the Roman Empire and the Revised Roman Empire there will be a long period of time and we are living in the time right now.
 7. So, if you have this picture, the bible says there is one more kingdom that is coming and the reason it is coming is because all the others have failed.
- C. The rest of the story is about the **Final Kingdom of Christ!**

FINAL KINGDOM OF CHRIST

- A. Daniel 2:44-45
1. Daniel described the kingdom of Christ as if it has not yet been realized and he says that this kingdom has **two things about it.**
 2. **A stone and a mountain.** Daniel is going to use this imagery of Christ’s kingdom.
- B. Let me talk about the **Stone**, first.
1. Daniel 2:44-45 ***“You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were broken in pieces.”***

2. What that means of course is that the feet of the beast aren't broken until in the future.
 3. All human governments will be destroyed by the **Kingdom of the Stone**.
 4. **This stone is Jesus**. Psalm 118:22 tells us, long before He came on the earthly scene, that He would be the stone set at naught by the builders and became the corner stone. In Isaiah 8:14 Christ is prophetically described as a Stone of stumbling and a Rock of offense. In Matthew 21:44 Jesus gives proof of this by saying "**Whoever falls on this stone shall be broken.**" He goes on to say, "**but he on whom it falls will be crushed**".
 5. When will the stone fall?
- C. **There is a mountain here!** There is a stone and there is a mountain.
1. Notice that the stone cut out without hands became a great mountain that filled all the earth from border to border and from age to age.
 2. The coming kingdom is a **supernatural kingdom**.
 3. It is also a **sudden kingdom**.
 4. It is a supernatural kingdom and a sudden kingdom and a **severe kingdom**. Daniel 2:35 says, "...". This is to convey that each of the kingdoms as they succeeded one another, managed to pick up some of the decadence of the one before, and little by little as we go down the list of kingdoms, we see this deteriorating.
 5. And the bible says that when this stone comes it is going to obliterate all of them.
 6. Then it will be a **sovereign kingdom**.
- D. Zechariah 14:9 says, "**The Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day there shall be one Lord and His name the only name.**"
1. This is why this prophecy is so important.
 2. All the other prophecies must fit into this one.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Daniel is done. He is finished.
 1. The King kind of recovered a little from the shock and Daniel says in 2:45 "..."
 2. What Nebuchadnezzar does next is just remarkable. 2:46 he praises Daniel.
- B. Next the King praise Daniel's God. He finally gets the message.

- C. Today we are living on the threshold of the age that is about to come. We should not be discouraged or depressed that the end of the earthly kingdoms will soon come.
1. When we look at culture around us, it's easy to fall into despair, but when we keep an eye peeled above, we don't have to spend our time grappling with depression.
 2. Daniel didn't lose heart. He evaluated everything with the end in mind, and he stayed calm and confident under stress.
 3. Confidence is a biblical attitude that affects all we do.
 4. Remember we do have a way to influence things through prayer.
 5. We have an awesome God and He is in control, and we can rest in the truth that we know where this is all going, and one day it's not going to be the beginning of the end. It's going to be the beginning of the beginning.