

Lesson 10 – The King’s Dream

- 1) What astounding claim does God make about Himself?

Isaiah 46:9-10 “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is _____; I am God, and there is _____ like me, Declaring the _____ from the _____, and from ancient times the things that are _____, saying, my counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”

NOTE: One of the most powerful arguments for an intellectual faith in the God of the Bible is to consider the reality of prophecy. This study will be devoted to see how God sees the things that are “not yet done.”

- 2) How does Daniel Chapter 2 begin?

Daniel 2:1 “And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar _____, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.”

NOTE: Here we have a picture of this great king of Babylon, having dreams. In fact these dreams were so troubling to him that he could not sleep after that.

- 3) Who did the king inquire of to help him understand his dream?

Daniel 2:2 “Then the king commanded to call the _____, and the _____, and the _____, and the _____, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king.”

NOTE: This process of calling upon the sorcerers, astrologers, soothsayers etc. was what ancient kings did when confronted with something they did not understand. But, this process did not die with these ancient kings. Even in our modern times these different classes of people are called upon by the most powerful people in the world for direction and guidance. A practice the Bible condemns as an abomination.

- 4) What was the punishment that Nebuchadnezzar issued to the Chaldeans?

Daniel 2:5 “The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The thing is gone from me: if ye will not make known unto me the dream, with the interpretation thereof, ye shall be _____, and your houses shall be made a dunghill.”

NOTE: Ancient kings wielded incredible authoritative power. If you did not meet the king’s expectations your life would be cut short.

5) How did the Chaldeans respond to such a hasty ultimatum?

Daniel 2:10 “The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a _____ that can shew the king' matter: _____ there is no king, lord, nor ruler, *that* asked such things at any _____, or _____, or _____.”

NOTE: The Chaldeans were those in Babylon who received the highest education, at the highest levels. And here they appeal to Nebuchadnezzar's rationality that no man can tell him the dream. In this case they were almost correct. No human being in his finiteness can know the future. One may guess and have a percentage of correctness, but only God knows the future and reveals the future to the prophets to share with the rest of humanity.

6) How did the king respond to the inability of his inner circle to tell him the dream?

Daniel 2:12 “For this cause the king was _____ and _____, and commanded to _____ all the wise *men* of Babylon.”

NOTE: A death decree was issued against all those who were deemed wise, which would have included those who were taken captive from Jerusalem. (See Daniel 1:1-3)

7) What did Daniel do in light of the hasty decree?

Daniel 2:17-18 “Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing _____ to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, _____: That they would desire _____ of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise *men* of Babylon.”

NOTE: Through the experience of Daniel and his friends we can learn three valuable lessons:

1. There is power in prayer, and even more so praying with other believers.
2. We are to see in every emergency a call to prayer.
3. We should always live our lives so close to God, that we can be confident to boldly approach Him. (See Hebrews 4:15-16)

8) Who is the only one ultimately in control of earthly events?

Daniel 2:21 “And he _____ the times and the seasons: he _____ kings, and _____ up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:”

NOTE: God is in control. Although, to our own understanding the world looks

out of control, nothing takes God by surprise. Therefore we can trust Him with every facet of our lives.

9) What did Nebuchadnezzar ask Daniel?

Daniel 2:26 “The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name *was* Belteshazzar, _____ to make known unto me the _____ which I have seen, and the _____ thereof?”

NOTE: After Daniel was brought before the King Nebuchadnezzar, he inquired of Daniel if he knew what the dream was and its interpretation.

10) Who alone is able to interpret this dream?

Daniel 2:27-28 “Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise *men*, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king; But there is a _____ that _____, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the _____. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;”

NOTE: There was only one that can interpret this dream correctly, and that one was God. Daniel was wise and humble enough to declare that God is the one who reveals secrets, and deserved all the praise and the glory, not man. It is also worthy of our attention that the meaning of this dream was not only for the Babylonian culture, but it was also reserved for the generation in which we live.

11) What was it that Nebuchadnezzar the King dreamed?

Daniel 2:31-36 “Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a _____. This great image, whose brightness *was* excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof *was* terrible.

This image' head *was* of fine _____, his breast and his arms of _____, his belly and his thighs of _____,

His legs of _____, his feet part of _____ and part of _____.

Thou sawest till that a _____ was cut out _____, which smote the image upon his feet *that were* of _____ and _____, and brake them to pieces.

Then was the _____, the _____, the _____, the _____, and the _____, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the _____ that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.”

NOTE: A very interesting dream. An image comprised of many different precious metals.

12) What does the head of gold represent?

Daniel 2:37-38 “Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. _____.”

NOTE: The head of gold represents the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar, which was Babylon. In fact, Babylon was known as the Golden Empire because of its power, riches, and grandeur. So gold was a fitting symbol depicting this mighty empire. (Babylon lasted from 605 BC to 538 BC)

13) What does the silver chest and arms represent?

Daniel 2:39 “And after thee shall arise another _____ to thee...”

NOTE: This is a shocking statement! Another kingdom would take the place of Babylon in its worldwide dominance, but it would be weaker, or inferior to Babylon. History bears witness that Nebuchadnezzar was a king that was filled with pride about the might of his nation. I am sure when he heard that his nation would fall, it filled him with anger and astonishment. Which kingdom would this be?

Daniel 5:25-28 “And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the _____ and _____.”

NOTE: Daniel, Chapter 5, is the historical account of the fall of Babylon. Since Babylon thought it was invincible, and that no nation could trouble it, the people of Babylon were given over to the party life.

One night during a huge, lewd, drunken feast, God wrote a message to the King and his people on the wall of the palace that the party was over. In fact, the saying, “The handwriting is on the wall,” finds its origin in the pages of Daniel, Chapter 5. The message, in summary, was that the Kingdom of Babylon was finished and given over to the Medes and Persians.

That very night the armies of Medo-Persia marched right into the city surprising the people and conquering Babylon.

When we look at Daniel Chapter 2 once again, it becomes apparent why the arms

and chest of silver is a symbol of Medo-Persia. The Medo-Persian empire by its very name tells us that it was a two nation coalition. This is why God described it with two arms, telling us of its very nature. The fact that the chest and arms were of silver is significant because of the silver currency that was used by Medo-Persia. So we see that Medo-Persia truly was an inferior kingdom taking Babylon, a stronger empire. (Medo-Persia lasted from 538 BC to 331 BC)

14) What was the name of the Medo-Persian who led out in the attack of Babylon?

Isaiah 45:1 “Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to _____, whose right hand I have holden, to _____ before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be _____;”

NOTE: This is a remarkable prophecy! Approximately, 150 years before the birth of Cyrus his name is mentioned in the book of Isaiah and what he would do in overthrowing the most powerful empire on the planet at that time.

15) What does the brass midsection represent?

Daniel 2:39 “And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another _____ of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.”

NOTE: From this verse, we don't know which nation conquered Medo-Persia, but if we turn to Daniel Chapter 8, we will see who this kingdom is.

**Daniel 8:20-21 “The ram which thou sawest having *two* horns *are* the kings of _____ and _____.
And the rough goat *is* the king of _____: and the great horn that *is* between his eyes *is* the first king.”**

NOTE: In Daniel Chapter 8, a ferocious battle is described. The combatants are the ram and the he-goat. (You can read about in Daniel 8:1-7) At the end of this battle the he-goat is victorious and walks upon the body of the ram. The ram is described as Medo-Persia, and the he-goat is the nation of Greece. Therefore, Greece is the brass midsection of the image in Daniel Chapter 2, because it is the nation that overthrew the Medo-Persian empire.

Does history confirm this prediction? Yes, indeed. The Grecian empire skyrocketed to power in a very short time, spearheaded by what many consider to be the single greatest military strategist of all time, Alexander the Great.

Another interesting nugget of history is, that the weaponry that was used by Greece was bronze. Hence the brass midsection of Daniel Chapter 2. God is interested in the minute details of predicting the future, He is also interested in the minute details of your life.

(See Matthew 10:30)

16) What do the Iron legs represent?

Daniel 2:40 > “And the fourth kingdom shall be _____ as _____: forasmuch as _____ breaketh in pieces and subdueth all *things* : and as _____ that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.”

NOTE: The kingdom that followed in the footsteps of Greece, a kingdom that borrowed much of Grecian culture, was none other than the Iron Monarchy of Rome.

Rome was known for the cruelty in which she treated those who opposed her, both within and without. Criminals were executed in a very cruel way; they were executed by what they called “crucifixion”. Rome was the empire that was in control when Jesus was crucified. He was crucified by Roman soldiers and a seal from a Roman King adorned his tomb. Rome was also the empire that taxed the whole then known world in the times of Jesus (See Luke 2:1).

Iron was a fitting symbol of this great empire because of its use in armor and weaponry for the soldiers of Rome, in the same manner that bronze was used for the armor and weaponry of Greece. (Rome ruled from 168 BC to 476 AD) Notice these fascinating statements from the pages of history:

“On June 22, 168 B.C. at the Battle of Pydna, Perseus, king of Macedonia, was completely crushed by the armies of Rome, and on this day, “perished the empire of Alexander the Great which had subdued and Hellenized the East, one hundred and forty-four years after his death.” Theodor Mommsen, History of Rome, bk. 3, ch. 10

The famous historian, Edward Gibbon, says, “The images of gold, or silver, or brass, that might serve to represent the nations and their kings were successively broken by the IRON MONARCHY OF ROME.” The History and Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, Vol. 3, p. 634

In the second century, Hippolytus wrote of Rome: “Rejoice blessed Daniel! Thou hast not been in error. ALREADY THE IRON RULES.” Ante-Nicene Fathers, Vol. 5, p. 210

17) What does the iron and clay in the feet and toes represent?

Daniel 2:41-43 > “And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

And as the toes of the feet *were* part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly _____, and partly _____.

And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall _____ themselves with the seed of men: but they _____ one to

another, even as iron is not _____ with clay.”

NOTE: The iron is still present even in the toes of this image, which means that Rome will continue to be prominent even when it appears that it has gone off the scene as a powerful empire.

For many years, and even now in our present time there has been a tremendous push for the unity of all nations, and when an objective study of history has been done one will find that Rome was not conquered by one empire, but that it was divided into ten parts. This is the precise reason why the toes are significant. There are ten toes, and Rome was divided into ten parts. Those ten parts were actually ten tribes, and those tribes are what modern Europe today is based on.

There has been tremendous clamoring to bring Europe to the point of oneness or unity. This has been attempted by numerous personalities throughout the history of that continent. But, the word of God says that they will mingle themselves with the seed of men, but they will not cleave one to another. What does this mean? For centuries European leaders intermarried for the sole purpose of unifying Europe, but God said categorically that they will not cleave together. Below is a list of those ten tribes, and what the remnants of those tribes were later called:

TRIBE	NATIONALITY
Alemanni	Germans
Burgundians	Swiss
Franks	French
Lombards	Italians
Anglo-Saxon	English
Suevi	Portuguese
Visigoths	Spanish
Heruli	Extinct
Vandals	Extinct
Ostrogoths	Extinct

18) Who will set up the final kingdom?

Daniel 2:44 > “And in the days of these kings shall the ___ of _____ set up a kingdom, which shall never be _____: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume _____ kingdoms, and it shall stand _____.”

NOTE: The message that is being trumpeted in this world is that there will one day be a unity of all nations and peace will reign on this earth. But the Bible says that God will bring an end to all these kingdoms and set up His Kingdom which will be eternal in nature, with no more death, pain, or crying. This Kingdom will begin when Jesus comes the second time with power and great glory, in the clouds of heaven. (See Matthew 24:30, Revelation 1:7; John 14:1-3)

19) How reliable is this prophecy?

Daniel 2:45 > “Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is _____, and the _____ thereof _____.”

NOTE: This prophecy is rock solid. It is certain. It is sure. History bears witness to its accuracy. This prophecy shows that we can trust God’s Word and lean on it wholeheartedly. If we give our lives unreservedly to Jesus Christ we can be a part of the next great kingdom to come. The next climatic event to happen in the sequence of the image, is the coming of Jesus.

IS IT YOUR DESIRE...

Seeing that He is in control would you like to invite Him to come into your life, and grant you His peace? Yes or No