

## Daniel—Daniel 2

### Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

#### I. Additional Scriptures...

1. The Eternal Kingdom--“a kingdom which shall never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44; Mt 16:16-18; Mark 9:1; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4; Col 1:13; 1 Th 2:12; Heb 12:28; 2 Pet 1:10-11; Rev 1:9).
2. “God of gods and Lord of kings” ( Daniel 2:47; 1 Tim 6:14-15).

#### II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: The 11<sup>th</sup> period, **Babylonian Captivity.**

#### III. Summary.

The king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar, dreamed a dream that troubled him. He commanded the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers, and Chaldeans to tell him the dream and the interpretation of it. His magicians were dumfounded at such a request. They asked the king to tell them the dream and then they could give him an interpretation. There was a wisdom about Nebuchadnezzar in that he understood that there would be one sure way to know if they were giving a true interpretation and that would be requiring them first to tell him what he had dreamed. He was angered when the magicians were unable to help him and ordered them all destroyed. Daniel and his three friends would be among the number.

Daniel spoke up and wanted opportunity to give the king what he had requested. He first went to his house and told his companions, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, about the unusual demand and the seriousness of their situation. These four men sought the mercies of the God of heaven and Daniel was blessed with the secret information in a night vision. Daniel thanked God and his prayer of thanksgiving is a very beautiful one.

Daniel requested to see the king and was quickly brought to him. Daniel told the king that “there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets.” Daniel told the king that God would reveal to him things that would come to pass hereafter.

Daniel told the king about the great image he had seen in his dream. This image had a head of gold, a breast and arms of silver, a belly and thighs of brass, and with legs of iron and feet of iron and clay. Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that this image represented four world kingdoms. The head of gold was the Babylonian Empire of which he was king. Daniel told of three other kingdoms which, in turn, would succeed the domination of Babylon. Verse 44 tells that in the days of the fourth kingdom God would set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed by Daniel's ability to tell him what he had dreamed that he worshipped Daniel and told him that his God is God of gods. Daniel was given many great gifts and made ruler over the province of Babylon. Daniel was able to place Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the affairs of the province and he sat in the gate of the king.

#### IV. Outline.

1. Nebuchadnezzar dreamed a dream and demanded the wise men to tell him the dream and its interpretation or else be killed (1-12).

2. When the magicians of Babylon were unable to tell what the king had dreamed, the decree to slay them all included Daniel and his companions (13).
3. Daniel told his companions about the situation and after they sought the mercy of God, Daniel was given the needed information in a night vision (14-19).
4. Daniel's beautiful prayer of praise to God (20-23).
5. Daniel seeks and is given audience with Nebuchadnezzar (24-30).
6. Daniel tells the king what he had dreamed and the interpretation of it, including the establishment of a kingdom which would never be destroyed (31-45).
7. Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed by what Daniel had done that he exalted him and praised his God as God of gods (46-47).
8. Daniel and his companions are given great power in Babylon (48-49).

## V. Questions.

### WHO AM I--Who Did it/Who Said it?

01. \_\_\_\_\_ "It is a rare thing that the king requireth."
02. \_\_\_\_\_ Worshipped Daniel.
03. \_\_\_\_\_ Sat in the gate of the king.
04. \_\_\_\_\_ Captain of the king's guard.
05. \_\_\_\_\_ Revealer of secrets.

### Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. \_\_\_\_\_ The decree went forth that the wise men should be: (a) deported; (b) rewarded; (c) slain.
07. \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel went in before King Nebuchadnezzar and desired that he would give him: (a) a certain food; (b) time; (c) a position in the gate.
08. \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar that God had told him what shall be in: (a) the latter days; (b) his heart; (c) the hearts of his enemies.
09. \_\_\_\_\_ The image the king had seen was excellent in: (a) height; (b) brightness; (c) beauty.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon was: (a) Arioch; (b) Azariah; (c) Daniel.

### Fill in the Blanks

11. "This image's head was of \_\_\_\_\_."
12. "And in the days of \_\_\_\_\_ shall the God of heaven set up a \_\_\_\_\_."
13. "... there is not a man upon the earth that can \_\_\_\_\_ the kings' \_\_\_\_\_..."
14. Colossians \_\_\_\_:13... "Who hath delivered us from the power of \_\_\_\_\_, and hath translated us into the \_\_\_\_\_ of his dear Son."
15. \_\_\_\_\_ 12:28... "Wherefore we receiving a \_\_\_\_\_ which cannot be \_\_\_\_\_, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

*Each Question is worth 7 Points*

**My Score is:** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers will be given on next week's handout

**ANSWERS to Lesson 01-14...** [01—True, Gen 37:2; 50:22; 02—True, i.e., Simeon & Levi, 49:5; 03—False, 49:10; 04—False, 50:7; 05—False, 49:28; 06—c, 49:8; 07—c, 49:27; 08—b, 49:30, 50:13; 09—a, 50:3; 10—b, 49:29; 11—bury, swear, 50:6; 12—32, Joseph, Shechem; 13—fruitful, 49:22; 14—Reuben, 49:4; 15—Zebulun, 49:13.

**VI. Lessons & Applications.**

1. *But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, ... for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me... therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can show me the interpretation thereof.* (Daniel 2:6). The text tells us that Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten the dream (v. 5). However, he does come up with a good way to test the magicians, astrologers, sorcerers by requiring of them to tell not just the interpretation, but also the dream itself. Having dreamed the dream, if one told it to him again, he would recall it. If he had told what the dream was, someone would easily have been able to make up some “corrupt words” and call it the interpretation. A wisdom is seen here that many need to apply to the so-called miracle workers of our day. So many otherwise intelligent people become total fools when it comes to listening to the claims of the fake miracle workers of our day. It was only by means of supernatural knowledge, given to Daniel by God, that the dream and its interpretation could be revealed (v. 30).
2. *That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret...* (Daniel 2:18). Here are four godly young men who are confronted with a life-threatening situation and because of their faith in God, they did not spend time “hand-wringing,” or any such waste, but they appealed immediately and directly to the God of heaven. What an example they are to us! We need to have the same confidence that these four had that God is in control.
3. *Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven...* (Daniel 2:19-23). The idea of BLESSED here is that of thanksgiving. This beautiful prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God is deserving of our focused attention. There are many prayers recorded in the Bible. Here is one that should cause us to include, in our own prayers to God, more praise, adoration, and thanksgiving.
4. *The secret which the king hath demanded... CANNOT the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, show unto the king; BUT THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN that revealeth secrets...* (Daniel 2:27-28). Daniel does not just march up and deliver what the king wanted (though his own life was at stake). Instead, he spent some time drawing a contrast to the failure of the king’s reliance on men and suggested that the only Source of such knowledge is the Lord. The courage and conviction of Daniel shines through as he speaks this way. In our own day-to-day lives, there will be many opportunities for us to demonstrate similar courage in standing up for the right and pointing people to the Scriptures for answer to life’s important questions.
5. *And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom,...* (Daniel 2:44). Here is a clear reference to the establishment of the church (see the Additional Scriptures above, I.1.). The Premillennialists have perverted and twisted this text to make time stretch way past the time of its actual fulfillment. They believe that the kingdom has not yet been established. They teach that the Lord came to establish the kingdom, but was rejected, and as a kind of after-thought, set up the church instead. They believe the kingdom will be set up some time in the future. Jesus said plainly that some of the ones living at the time He was walking on earth would see the kingdom come with power (Mark 9:1).
6. *Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings...* (Daniel 2:47). The testimony of all those who truly examine the evidence will be the same as the testimony of Nebuchadnezzar here. All men will one day acknowledge this truth (Ph 2:9-10). Unfortunately for some, it will be too late before they make this acknowledgement. We need to be in the business of expressing this truth in every act of our lives and with every word we speak.

## VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

P O I U Y T R E W Q K I N G D O M L N K  
 K D A Y S J H G F D S A M N B S V C E X  
 Z P O I U Y T R E W K L L K S H G F V D  
 S A M N B T N E L L E C X E V C X M E N  
 F B V C X Z P O L M K I N U J N H Y R T  
 I G H H F R V B G T Y T H N M J U D I K  
 N L K E H G F D S A H Z B E L L Y E X C  
 E B N A M L P O I G U J R H N M T S G B  
 G O L D R F V Q I A Z X A I C E R T T G  
 J K L P T O I R U J M T S G M B R R F V  
 Q A Z W S E B E D C V F S R T A G O Y H  
 N M K I O P R I K L U J M T G B G Y R F  
 P O I U Y T R R E W B Q A S D F G E H J  
 M N B V C X Z A I S D R F G H J K D L P  
 O L I S K Y R H N B R F E V E D C W S X  
 Q W G E R T Y U H N L U J A M K I O P L  
 C E I Z X W E R L F V E B N S I L V E R  
 L W R E R T Y U I E O P L K N T M H Y T  
 A T O G B N H Y U J R I K L O P M N B V  
 Y C N X Z S W D E R F V B C E R T A I N

[The words listed are words from Daniel's telling Nebuchadnezzar what his dream was and the interpretation of it. See if you can find them above.]

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|---------------|----------------|
| 01. image     | 02. brightness |
| 03. excellent | 04. terrible   |
| 05. head      | 06. fine       |
| 07. gold      | 08. breast     |
| 09. silver    | 10. belly      |
| 11. brass     | 12. legs       |
| 13. iron      | 14. clay       |
| 15. ruler     | 16. days       |
| 17. kingdom   | 18. never      |
| 19. destroyed | 20. certain    |