

Daniel 004 2021

11/21/21

## A Troubling Dream (Part 2)

### Daniel 2:19-49

#### I. Introduction:

##### A. Context

1. Context of this narrative is set in the Babylonian Empire around 602 B.C.
2. Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, & Azariah were 4 Hebrew young men taken captive in 605 B.C. by King Nebuchadnezzar. They then trained through 3 years of school, learning the ways of the Chaldeans, & serving in the administration of Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom.
3. God blessed them to graduate the head of their class. **(Daniel 1:17)**
4. The final exam was a personal interview with the king. **(Daniel 1:19-20)**
5. These young men were considered part of the wise men of Babylon.

##### B. The Dream

1. In the first part of this chapter, God gave King Nebuchadnezzar a dream.
2. This dream didn't come to him all at once, but was received over a period of time.
3. The dream disturbed the king and he wanted to know its meaning.
4. He was sure there was a message in this dream, he just did not know what it was.
5. The dream came from God & therefore only God could give its interpretation.

##### C. The Wise Men

1. The king called in the wise men to get an interpretation of the dream. **(Daniel 2:2-3)**
2. These wise men with their various specialties would combine their knowledge & mystical arts to give the best interpretation of the dream.
3. All they needed was for the king to tell them the dream so they could go to work.

##### D. The King's Requirement

1. Apparently the king didn't trust his wise men to properly interpret the dream.
2. The king demanded they tell him the dream & its interpretation. **(Daniel 2:5)**
3. He thought if they told him the dream, without him sharing it, then their interpretation was much more trustworthy. And if they failed, he would have them all executed!

##### E. Daniel's Intervention

1. The wise men confessed they lacked ability to determine the dream & interpretation.
2. They pleaded for the king to share the dream, but he, being furious, refused & commanded all the wise men in the land of Babylon be executed. In comes Daniel.
3. When the executioner led Daniel & his friends to their deaths, Daniel asked why.
4. Executioner, Arioch, explained wise men failed to provide that which the king asked.
5. Daniel requested an audience with the king which was granted. **(Daniel 2:16)**
6. A reprieve was granted. Daniel shared this with his friends asking them to pray for God's intervention. They immediately had a prayer meeting.

#### II. Answered Prayer (Daniel 2:19-23)

##### A. Dream Revealed

1. As Daniel & his friends prayed, God heard their prayers & answered their request.
2. They prayed for God to be merciful, & reveal the dream & its interpretation. God did.
3. In **"a night vision,"** which is different from a dream, the dream & its meaning were given by God to Daniel. All four engaged in prayer throughout the night. None slept.
4. Application: Effective, fervent prayer is one offered with a pure heart desiring God's will in a matter. We should often engage in such a powerful endeavor as prayer.

## B. A Prayer of Thanks

1. If we were telling this story we would probably jump right to the interpretation.
2. But Daniel recounts how he paused giving thanks for God's response to their prayer.
3. There are three parts to Daniel's prayer of thanks.
  - (1)– Praise for God's wisdom
    - a. Answered prayer should always elicit praise.
    - b. Daniel first praised God for His wisdom. All wisdom belongs to God.
    - c. Daniel lived in the land of the Chaldeans, a fountain of human wisdom.
    - d. But Daniel knew true wisdom comes from God.
    - e. What the greatest minds of the Babylonian Empire could not discern, God revealed in a vision to Daniel. God is still the source of all wisdom.
    - f. Man's wisdom is empty compared to the wisdom we have in Jesus.
  - (2) – Praise for God's power
    - a. This dream is about the sovereignty of God over the kings & nations of the world.
    - b. Nebuchadnezzar thought he was a great king, in charge of his nation.
    - c. But God would reveal that He is the one who rules over kingdoms of this world.
  - (3)– That God Shared His Wisdom
    - a. Daniel praised God for giving him the dream and understanding of the dream.
    - b. God removes sin's blinders & enables understanding deep things hidden in Christ.
    - c. Daniel praised God for His goodness in revealing such things to him.

## III. Daniel Brought to the King (Daniel 2:24-28)

### A. Daniel Before the King

1. – Daniel is quickly brought to the king.
  - a. Life and death hung in the balance. There was an urgency for all involved.
  - b. Emotions were running high and Arioch did not want to waste any time.
2. – Arioch took credit.
  - a. “I have found a man of the captives of Judah” That certainly was not true!
  - b. He simply sought to ingratiate himself to the king.
3. – God glorified.
  - a. Daniel was careful to give Jehovah God all credit for the upcoming revelation.
  - b. Highlighting God's wisdom & power, Daniel reminded the king how the wise men of Babylon were powerless to reveal or discern the dream.
  - c. There is a true & living God in heaven, unique from all the other deities of Babylon, who reveals secrets. (Daniel 2:28a)

## IV. The Dream and the Interpretation (Daniel 2:29-45)

### A. Kingdoms

- *This prophesy reveals earthly kingdoms that will rule through the end of the tribulation.*
  1. – Head of Gold = Babylon
    - a. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was the 1<sup>st</sup> & greatest. He's represented by head of gold.
  2. – Arms and Chest of Silver = Medo Persian Empire
    - a. Persian Empire followed Babylonian Empire but was less than the 1<sup>st</sup>, thus the silver
  3. – Belly and Thighs of Bronze = Macedonian (Greek) Empire
    - a. This is Alexander the Great. This kingdom was less grand than the 1<sup>st</sup> two, thus brass
  4. – Legs of Iron = Roman Empire
    - a. Rome would be the most powerful of them all; however, less grand than the 1<sup>st</sup> three, thus made of iron.

5. – Feet of Iron mixed with Clay = Revived Roman Empire

- a. This is the kingdom of Antichrist during the tribulation. The nations that comprised the old Roman Empire will be reunited under the Antichrist during the tribulation.

**B. Kingdom of Christ**

1. Notice once more the final kingdom that which God will bring. (**Daniel 2:44-45**)
2. At the end of the tribulation, at the battle of Armageddon, Jesus will return in great power and glory. He will but speak and the armies of antichrist will be destroyed.
3. Jesus is the stone cut out without hands that will crush the kingdoms of this world.

**C. Panoramic View**

1. This is a panoramic view of how human history as we know it will end.
2. When Daniel received the interpretation of this dream, it was all prophesy from his vantage point. Today all's been fulfilled, exactly as God said, except the final kingdom.
3. The only thing that remains is the rapture of the church, the tribulation kingdom of antichrist, and the return of Jesus to establish His eternal kingdom.
4. All has transpired in world history thus far just as God revealed to Daniel in this dream

**V. Nebuchadnezzar's Response (Daniel 2:46-49)**

**A. The King Amazed!**

- *Nebuchadnezzar's response is as expected.*

1. – Fell before Daniel

- a. This would be a pagan response. He did know better. Daniel certainly did not receive worship of any kind, he continued to give all glory to God.
- b. The evidence of that is even Nebuchadnezzar gives the credit to God.

2. – Daniel promoted.

- a. Daniel became the prime minister of all Babylon. He was placed in charge of all the wise men of Babylon. He asked if his 3 friends could be promoted as well.