

"Daniel Views the Future"

Daniel 2:26-45

²⁶ The king asked Daniel (also called Belteshazzar), “Are you able to tell me what I saw in my dream and interpret it?”

²⁷ Daniel replied, “No wise man, enchanter, magician, or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, ²⁸ but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come. Your dream and the visions that passed through your mind as you were lying in bed are these:

²⁹ “As Your Majesty was lying there, your mind turned to things to come, and the revealer of mysteries showed you what is going to happen. ³⁰ As for me, this mystery has been revealed to me, not because I have greater wisdom than anyone else alive, but so that Your Majesty may know the interpretation and that you may understand what went through your mind. ³¹ “Your Majesty looked, and there before you stood a large statue—an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. ³² The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly, and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay. ³⁴ While you were watching, a rock was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them. ³⁵ Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock that struck the statue became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth.

³⁶ “This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. ³⁷ Your Majesty, you are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; ³⁸ in your hands he has placed all mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds in the sky. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

³⁹ “After you, another kingdom will arise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth. ⁴⁰ Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron—for iron breaks and smashes everything—and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. ⁴¹ Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. ⁴² As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. ⁴³ And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

⁴⁴ “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵ This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands—a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold to pieces.

“The great God has shown the king what will take place in the future. The dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

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A. Importance of the Chapter

1. This chapter is fundamental to understanding God's prophetic plan.
2. It outlines a historical & prophetic path from captivity to the kingdom.
3. Daniel moves from crisis to crisis, without clear timing between events.
4. Similarly, our lives can seem crisis-driven.
5. Daniel's steadfast faith leads to divine favour & high promotion but also life-threatening challenges.
6. The key to confidence in crises is knowing that nothing is too difficult for God.

B. The King's Dream and the Crisis

1. King Nebuchadnezzar's disturbing dream caused sleeplessness.
2. He couldn't remember the dream but demanded its interpretation from his advisors.
3. The advisors, unable to describe or interpret the dream, faced the king's wrath.
4. Nebuchadnezzar ordered the execution of all wise men, including Daniel & friends.
5. Facing death, Daniel & his friends turned to prayer.

C. Daniel's Response to the Crisis (vv. 16-18)

1. Daniel assured that God would provide the interpretation.
2. He requested time & gathered his friends for prayer.
3. Their response was to seek wisdom from God, setting an example of faith over panic.

D. Prophecy as an Opportunity for Witnessing (vv. 28-29)

1. God answered their prayers that night.
2. Daniel courageously relayed & interpreted the dream to the king.
3. The dream was a prophecy about future kingdoms, gaining the king's attention & belief.
4. Daniel gave glory to God, highlighting the importance of witnessing God's work.

E. Interpretation of the Dream (vv. 19-43)

1. Daniel praised God for revealing the dream.
2. He explained the statue's parts: gold, silver, brass, iron, & iron mixed with clay, representing successive empires:
 - Gold: Babylon (Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom)
 - Silver: Medo-Persian Empire
 - Brass: Grecian Empire
 - Iron: Roman Empire
 - Iron & Clay: The final form of the Roman Empire (interpreted by some as the European Union)
3. The stone that destroys the statue symbolizes Christ's eternal kingdom.

F. Insights About Christ's Kingdom (vv. 44-45)

1. Christ is the stone cut without hands, the cornerstone.
2. His kingdom will destroy all others & endure forever.
3. This prophecy emphasizes the establishment of God's eternal kingdom.

G. Impact on King Nebuchadnezzar (vv. 46-49)

1. Nebuchadnezzar initially worshiped Daniel but ultimately acknowledged God.
2. He declared Daniel's God as supreme.
3. Daniel & his friends were promoted to high positions in Babylon.

H. The Results (vv. 46-49)

1. God was honoured, & Daniel was exalted.
2. His friends were honoured & received high positions.
3. Faithful service to God brings rewards.
4. Those who trust God find Him to be enough.

J. Praying in Faith

1. Let us pray in faith & expect God to answer.