

DANIEL TWO

This chapter begins in Nebuchadnezzar's second year of reign—likely at the end of Daniel's three years of training. Daniel is among the "wise men" in the king's service.

Textual Notes

- Longest chapter in Daniel
- Four kingdom vision is repeated in chapter 7
- In verse 4 the language switches to Aramaic

- A. Nebuchadnezzar has a divine dream
- It came about as he was thinking about the future (29)
 - He is troubled about this dream
 - The dream is about God's coming kingdom

It is interesting that God sent pagan rulers divine dreams. They were interpreted by God's spokesmen

- God gave dreams to Pharaoh that Joseph interpreted
- Dreams and visions are examples of the many ways God expressed His will (Isa 1:1; Rev 1:1). Hebrews 1:1-2 reminds us that God speaks thru Jesus today

1. Nebuchadnezzar demands that his people tell what the dream was and it's meaning. The penalty of death if they cannot do this

- Daniel and his friends are sought out to be put to death
- Daniel doesn't seem to know what is going on (15)

Daniel's position with Babylon's wise men

- He is young (Boice suggests that Daniel is 18 or 19 years old)
- New at this position
- Different from the others
- Daniel would have known about Joseph and the dreams there

• Daniel and friends pray: God is the provider of wisdom and God is the supreme ruler

2. The dream coming to this world ruler shows that God is the absolute ruler of the world

- The sovereignty of God is expressed in this chapter (2:21; 1:2; 5:31)

The Interpretation

1. The materials represent four succeeding kingdoms beginning with Babylon (the toes are not a fifth kingdom, but a divided fourth kingdom)
2. The stone is God's kingdom
 - Divine (not made with hands)
 - Powerful
 - Growing (Isa 2:2-4)
 - Never to be destroyed (Heb 12:28)

Idea of the "Stone"

Mt 16:18; 21:42-44; 1 Pet 2:6-8

The Dream

A large statue made of different material

- Considered awesome & extraordinary splendor (31)
- The statue seems lifeless and immovable

Decreasing value of materials (superior to inferior: in value and strength)

Amazing strength and fragile base

- The part that supported the statue was weak (clay)

A moving stone crushed the statue and then grew into a great mountain

3. Luke 2:1 identifies the time of Christ's ministry and the establishment of the kingdom during the period of the Romans

4. Daniel attributes the understanding of the dream to God

5. Nebuchadnezzar elevates Daniel to a high position (2:47-49)
- Daniel is very similar to Joseph

Two Lessons From the Dream

- God is absolute ruler of Heaven and Earth
- God has a divine plan to establish His kingdom (Gal 4:4)

Babylon (2:38)
626-539 B.C.



Medes/Persians (5:30-31)
539-331 B.C.

Greece
331-63 B.C.

Rome
63 B.C. - A.D. 470