

**A Study of the Book of Daniel**  
*"A Strange Dream Troubles a King"*  
Chapter 2

**Introduction:** People want to know what their future holds; however, no matter how carefully we plan and prepare, no one knows for sure what will happen to us between now and bedtime! Accidents suddenly make their way into our lives. We live in a world where good news becomes bad news all too often, but central to the message of Daniel 2 is the truth about our Creator God who cares about our lives with intense interest. He knows our pain today and unfolds a future of hope and meaning for those who seek Him.

**Daniel 2:1-12**

*"And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him. Then the king commanded to call the magicians, and the astrologers, and the sorcerers, and the Chaldeans, for to shew the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king. And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream. Then spake the Chaldeans to the king in Syriack, O king, live for ever: tell thy servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation. 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 cut in pieces, and your houses shall be made a dunghill. But if ye shew the dream, and the interpretation thereof, ye shall receive of me gifts and rewards and great honour: therefore shew me the dream, and the interpretation thereof. They answered again and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will shew the interpretation of it. The king answered and said, I know of certainty that ye would gain the time, because ye see the thing is gone from me. But if ye will not make known unto me the dream, there is but one decree for you: for ye have prepared lying and corrupt words to speak before me, till the time be changed: therefore tell me the dream, and I shall know that ye can shew me the interpretation thereof. The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can shew the king's matter: therefore there is no king, lord, nor ruler, that asked such things at any magician, or astrologer, or Chaldean. And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. For this cause the king was angry and very furious, and commanded to destroy all the wise men of Babylon."*

This chapter starts out with king Nebuchadnezzar having a dream that troubled him, yet in the morning he couldn't remember what it was. So, he calls in the wise men, the magicians, astrologers, and Chaldeans. These are the men that are paid to give him wisdom. Unfortunately, they didn't know what the dream was, nor its interpretation. Notice how the wise men of the Babylonian kingdom make their god's out to be distant and unconcerned about what happens on earth. King Nebuchadnezzar gets mad and orders for all the wise men to be destroyed.

**Daniel 2:13-19**

*"And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his fellows to be slain. Then Daniel answered with counsel and wisdom to Arioch the captain of the king's guard, which was gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon: He answered and said to Arioch the king's captain, Why is the decree so hasty from the king? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel. Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.*

*Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions: That they would desire mercies 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. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.”*

### **There are Three Key Points:**

1. Daniel asks for time. Daniel enlists his friends to pray for God’s help to know the dream and understand it’s meaning. They held a little small group prayer meeting, and during the night the secret is revealed to Daniel.
2. As in Daniel 1, Daniel is given a time of testing. After the time, God provides an understanding of the vision and dream. Daniel tells us the same thing will happen at the end of time. After a “*time, times, and dividing of time*” the visions and dreams of Daniel’s prophecies will be revealed to those who truly love and obey God. (see Dan. 12:7-10)
3. Daniel blessed the God of heaven. The word “Blessed” used here is an Aramaic word that means to “Kneel” and to “Praise.” When Daniel’s prayer was answered, he kneeled, thanking and praising the God of Heaven for His loving kindness in showing him the dream.

### **Daniel 2:20-23**

*“Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.”*

Daniel says it is the God of Heaven, the True God, that “*changeth the times and the seasons.*” Compare this with Daniel 7:25, speaking about the Little Horn Power who “*thinks to change times and laws.*” The Little Horn Power (antichrist) will try to do what only God has the right to do.

### **Daniel 2:24-30**

*“Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon: he went and said thus unto him; Destroy not the wise men of Babylon: bring me in before the king, and I will shew unto the king the interpretation. Then Arioch brought in Daniel before the king in haste, and said thus unto him, I have found a man of the captives of Judah, that will make known unto the king the interpretation. The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Art thou able to make known unto me the dream which I have seen, and the interpretation thereof? 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 God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these; As for thee, O king, thy thoughts came into thy mind upon thy bed, what should come to pass hereafter: and he that revealeth secrets maketh known to thee what shall come to pass. But as for me, this secret is not revealed*

*to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart.*"

Daniel is taken to Nebuchadnezzar to interpret the dream. Contrast Arioch's statement "**I have found**" with Daniel's statement "**God has revealed.**" Notice Arioch takes the credit, while Daniel gives the credit to God.

**There are Two key points:**

1. God revealed the dream to "*Show what shall be **in the latter days.***" This vision is for the end of time.
2. God is represented by Daniel as a personal God, who cares about what happens on this earth. He knows the mysteries and troubles of our lives. He is interested in giving us peace of mind. Contrast this to the attitude expressed in verse 11 of the distant and uncaring gods of the wise men.

**Daniel 2:31 – 35**

*"Thou, O king, sawest, and **behold a great image.** This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. This image's **head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.** Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, 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 stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.**"*

**Notice the description of this image and vision.**

Head of Gold

Arms & Chest of Silver

Belly & Thighs of Brass

Legs of Iron

Feet & Toes of Iron and Clay

Then a Stone comes down and hits the image on the Feet and Toes, thus crushing it, and the wind carries it away. The Stone then becomes a great mountain, filling the whole earth.

Did you notice two significant things about the progression of the metals? **First**, the metals get stronger as they come down the image. **Second**, they are less valuable as they descend.

**Daniel 2:36 – 43**

*"This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 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. **Thou art this head of gold.** And after thee shall arise **another kingdom** inferior to thee, and **another third kingdom of brass,** which shall bear rule over all the earth. And **the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron:** forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 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 strong, and partly broken. And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: **but they shall not cleave one to another**, even as iron is not mixed with clay.”*

Daniel now gives king Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation. He sees that each one of these metals represent kingdoms. At first you might think the head of gold represents the king himself, but when we look closely at the text, we see that king Nebuchadnezzar is given a kingdom. Then after that kingdom, rises another kingdom, and then a third kingdom of brass, followed by a fourth kingdom of iron. Therefore, the text is clear that it is God is describing kingdoms, not individual kings. So, the head of gold represents the kingdom of Babylon and goes down through history to the division of the Imperial Roman empire into Ten Kingdoms. Something to remember about prophecy, is that prophecy is simply history written ahead of time. God knows the beginning to the end. Therefore, when He gives us a prophecy, you can take it to the bank, it will happen just as He says! So, as we look back at history it tells of each kingdom getting stronger and ruling a greater area. This is represented by the metals getting stronger as you come down the image. At the same time the metals get less valuable as you come down the image, showing a slide in moral values. After the metal man we see that a stone is cut out “*Without hands,*” and comes down and hits the image on the feet and toes, crumbling the whole image to powder and the wind blows it away. This stone then fills the whole earth.

**Notice how history outlines the succession of kingdoms, starting with Babylon.**

**What was the interpretation?**

<u>Feature &amp; Material</u>	<u>Kingdom</u>	<u>Period</u>
Head of <u>Gold</u>	Babylon	605 - 539 BC.
Arms & Chest of <u>Silver</u>	Medo-Persia	539 - 331 BC.
The Belly & Thighs of <u>Brass</u>	Greece	331 - 168 BC.
The Legs of <u>Iron</u>	Imperial Rome	168 BC to 476 AD.
The Feet & Toes of <u>Iron and Clay</u>	10 Kingdoms	476 AD – The End.
The Rock cut without hands	Christ’s Kingdom	

**Babylon – The Head of Gold**

Nabopolassar, Nebuchadnezzar’s father, established the Babylonian kingdom by uniting with Cyaxares the Mede to rebel against the Assyrians. In 612 BC they captured the city of Nineveh, thus he made Babylon an independent kingdom with himself as the head. In 605 BC, Nabopolassar died and was succeeded by his son Nebuchadnezzar, who became one of the most prominent monarchs of the ancient world, enjoying a long and prosperous reign of some forty-three years. As we have already established, that in the vision or dream, God was outlining the history of the world from Babylon down through the end of time. Since the dream was given to king Nebuchadnezzar, we begin with the date he started to reign, in 605 BC. Babylon ruled until their overthrow by Cyrus in 539 BC, as pictured in Daniel chapter 5.

**Medo-Persia-The Arms and Chest of Silver**

The next kingdom foretold, represented by the Arms and Chest of Silver, was the combined kingdoms of the Medes and the Persians. More than a hundred years before, the prophet Isaiah depicted Babylon’s capture when he cried out, “O Elam {Persia}: besiege, O Media.” (Isaiah 21:2) In extent the Medo-Persian Empire was the equal and even the superior of the Babylonian’s; but in glory and world influence it was “inferior.”

Yet other prophecies had foretold the coming of the Medes and Persians. Their conquering Leader, Cyrus, had even been named more than a century before his birth. *“Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut:”* Isaiah 45:1

Those gates of brass left open turned the course of the Babylonian empire. Cyrus had dug channels above the city to divert the water of the river Euphrates, which ran under the walls and through the city. As we will see in Daniel chapter 5, Cyrus marched his troops in and captured the city. Then began the rule of the Medo-Persian kingdom.

### **Greece-The Belly and Thighs of Brass**

We now turn our attention to the third kingdom of Brass. History tells us that the next kingdom to rise was Greece. The Grecian army was led by Alexander the Great, which led Greece to supremacy after defeating the Persian army at the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C. Eight years later after a drunken frenzy, he developed a violent fever, of which he died eight days later, at the age of 32, on June 13, 323 B.C. The kingdom of Greece was, after a power struggle, divided into four areas, and led by his four generals, Cassander controlled Macedonia, Lysimachus controlled Asia Minor, Seleucus controlled Syria, and Ptolemy controlled Egypt. But even this division didn't end the power struggle, as battle for control of more territory finally end with two, Seleucus on the North, and Ptolemy on the South.

### **Rome-The Legs of Iron**

*“The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: foreasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subjueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.”* How appropriately the iron of the image fits the character of the fourth great empire! Gibbon, the historian, calls it *“the iron monarchy of Rome.”* It broke in pieces the kingdoms, subduing all, just as prophecy had declared so long before. Rome defeated the Grecian armies at the battle of Pydna in 168 B.C. during the third Macedonian War. The battle saw the further ascendancy of Rome in the Hellenistic world and the end of the Antigonid line of kings, whose power traced back to Alexander the Great.

### **The Feet and Toes (The Divided Kingdom) = 10 Divisions of the Roman Empire**

Rome became a divided kingdom around 476 AD. This is symbolized by the two feet and toes of iron and clay. The iron represents strength. The clay represents weakness. The ten main divisions, corresponding to the ten toes, were the Alamanni (*Germans*), the Franks (*French*), the Burgundians (*Swiss*), the Suevi (*Portuguese*), the Saxons (*English*), the Visigoth's (*Spanish*), the Lombard's (*Italians*), the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoth's. These tribes made victorious invasions as early as 351 A.D. As they kept attacking various areas of the Imperial Roman Empire, Rome finally collapsed. Historians point us to the date of September 4, 476 A.D. as the date for the fall of the Roman Empire, when Emperor Romulus Augustulus was removed as king, by Flavius Odoacer who became Italy's first king. These kingdoms had the idea that they could rule with the same power as the Roman Empire, yet, without a dictator, or one ruler. We know these ten kingdoms today as Europe. Down through history men have tried to unite Europe into one government. Men like Wilhelm II, Napoleon, Hitler, and latest Saddam Hussein. But the Bible tells us, in Daniel 2:43 *“they shall **mingle** themselves with the seed of men: but they shall **not** cleave one to another,”* They tried to intermarry between nations to bring back the one world government, but, were never able to achieve the power and authority of the Roman Empire. We can rest assured that we don't to worry about a one world government, because the Bible tells that the next one world

government will Jesus' kingdom!

As you can see, we are living in the "Toes" era, just before the final climax of the stone coming down to crush the image and fill the earth.

### **Daniel 2:44-45**

*"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. 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 certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."*

### **Identifying the Stone:**

1 Peter 2:6-8 *"The Chief Corner Stone;"* Isaiah 28:16 *"A Foundation (Corner) Stone;"* 1 Cor. 10:4 – *The Rock is Christ.* As we can see from these scriptures, the stone in this prophecy is none other than Jesus Christ. When does He come to claim the world as His own? At His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming!

### **Daniel 2:46 – 49**

*"Then the king Nebuchadnezzar fell upon his face, and worshipped Daniel, and commanded that they should offer an oblation and sweet odours unto him. The king answered unto Daniel, and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods, and a Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, seeing thou couldest reveal this secret. Then the king made Daniel a great man, and gave him many great gifts, and made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon. Then Daniel requested of the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king."*

Because of Daniel's faithfulness to the True God of Heaven, He was blessed with honor, gifts and a promotion *"to ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon."*

### **Here are Some Key Points**

1. The Image makes you think of an Idol.
2. The world kingdoms are linked to Idolatry (paganism and false worship).
3. World kingdoms are destroyed (the false worship destroyed).
4. Christ's kingdom takes the place of the great world empires.

Since this chapter takes us to the greatest event in history, the second coming of Christ, let's see how the Bible describes His coming.

### **Acts 1:8-11**

*"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus,*

*which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*”

What does the Bible say about how Jesus is going to come?

The Bible says that Jesus was taken up in a cloud. The angel said that Jesus would return in like manner. Let's look at another text that helps us understand how Jesus will come the second time.

**Matthew 24:30**

*“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*

Did you notice this passage tells us, once again, that Jesus is coming in the clouds but continues to let us know it will be with power and great glory! Jesus is coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has purchased us with His own blood, on Calvary's tree, and longs to receive us into His kingdom. Notice how verses 25 - 27 describe His second coming.

**Matthew 24:25-27**

*“Behold, I have told you before. Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”*

Did you see what Jesus was saying? If you hear it on CNN, or see it in Time Magazine, don't believe it! And don't go! The second coming of Jesus will be **VISIBLE** to everyone! Just like lightning! In our next passage of Scripture, we continue to see just how visible His coming will be.

**Revelation 1:7**

*“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”*

It will be very visible. How many eyes will see it? Every eye will see Jesus come! This includes you and me! Jesus' coming will be very visible! Today, some believe that Jesus is going to come quietly and secretly take away His people but notice how the Bible describes this event.

**Psalms 50:3**

*“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him.”*

Are we catching a picture yet? **As Lightning, Every Eye shall See Him, God will not keep Silent!** What does this tell us about the return of our Lord? That it will not only be visible, but **AUDIBLE!**

When Jesus came the first time, Satan had everyone looking for a king, with all its pomp and circumstance. But Jesus came humbly at His first Advent and was born in a humble manger, living a self-sacrificing life, and died as our Savior.

Now when Jesus is going to return the second time, Satan wants everyone to think it's going to be quiet and secret. Yet the Bible says that it will be an event that no one can miss! Jesus will not secretly steal away some of His people, but instead He will receive all His people as their KING!

Notice, our next passage of Scripture tells us who Jesus will take home to Heaven.

**1Thessalonians 4:16-18**

*“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven **with a shout**, with **the voice of the archangel**, and **with the trump of God**: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first**: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*

Jesus is coming to get all His people, at the same time: Both the righteous dead whom He will resurrect, and the righteous living! He will come and take all His people at the same time! When Jesus comes, there will be two groups of people, the saved and the lost. Let’s look at them, starting with the wicked.

**Revelation 6:14-17**

*“And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, **Hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne**, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?”*

The wicked are trying to hide from, “*the Face of Him that sitteth on the throne,*” and from His glory. The Apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:29, “*Our God is a consuming fire.*” Sin cannot stand in the presence of a Holy God. Now, let’s look at the righteous.

**Isaiah 25:9**

*“And it shall be said in that day, Lo, **this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us**: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”*

Jesus’ second coming as King of kings and Lord of lords is very near. The Bible plainly tells us His coming will not be secret or silent! Every eye shall see, and every ear shall hear Him. Do you want to decide today, to make sure that you are ready for this great event?