

## *Daniel 2:27-49 - A Dream for the Ages*

Intro - 2600 years ago a great king had an amazing dream. The dream intrigued him & troubled him. Dreams are often shared in my family (good, bad, scary). My wife hears mine *"does this have any bearing on me or my sleep?"* Neb's dream relevant - it was no ordinary dream. It pertained to him...his future....and OUR future. His dream outlined world history. This dream is recorded for us in Dan 2 and elaborated on in later chapters. From our perspective much of this dream has already transpired in history but some is yet to come. Its precision in predicting what is past (to us) is solid ground to believe what is says about what is future to us. It's so spot on correct... skeptics reject. This dream tells us that history is on a collision course with destiny. The Eternal Creator has orchestrated all events in time to correspond with His eternal plan. God has told us in advance, and it is written in black & white. Application - We can have a calm assurance in our crazy time because our times are in His hand. *Review / In View / Preview*

### REVIEW

- Daniel (as a royal youth) caught up in first deportation from Jerusalem -Babylonian captivity
  - Forced assimilation and re-education into *"wise men"* magic arts/ sorcery/astrology
- King Neb had a dream and demanded of the wisemen to disclose it & interpret it
  - Upon pain of death - 2:5 (wise men object to such a demand - objection overruled - life over)
- Executioners sent to Daniels house (Arioch - the chief of the slaughterers)
  - *"4 ropes attached to 4 horses pointed in 4 different directions - one for each appendage"*
- Daniel is shocked but handles the tyrannical unjust decree with tact and wisdom
  - Awesome response to deadly threat - asks to time.... in faith he promises to tell
  - God answers Daniels prayer. Daniel praises God and approaches king

### IN VIEW

- As Daniel approaches the king, he is clear to say that all this is God's doing...not mans
  - 2:27-28
  - Divine origin of dream...Divine revelation of the dream...Divine interpretation
- In 2:31-35 Daniel discloses and reveals the dream to Neb
  - Neb must have been thinking *"this dude actually knows what I dreamed!"*
  - Daniel has the king's full attention.
- The Dream
  - One Statue Great & awesome statue. Statue of a man
  - Statue made of five different materials.
    - Lessening value but increasing strength. Ending mixed, brittle & broken
  - A Stone (cut out without hands) strikes the statue - crushes it to fine dust.
    - The Stone turns into a huge mountain that fills the whole earth.
- Interpretation of the dream is in 2:36-45 Statue = Governments/kingdoms/rulers/ "man in charge"
  - General observations - *One Statue* - there is a similarity between all empires
    - Psalm 146:3 Psalm 118:8-9

- *Awesome statue* – 2:31                      this is a picture of man (man's kingdom) at his best
- *Differing materials* of devaluing metals but stronger metals – gold, silver, bronze, iron
  - Man is devolving in majesty but increasing in intensity of strength
  - Man/governments are becoming less noble but more powerful
  - As history progresses humanity regresses.      Downward trajectory to history
  - Less majesty and more tragedy. (20<sup>th</sup> century bloodiest century)
  - Humanity is getting stronger, but it is also getting “*wronger*”      degeneration
  - We're not getting better just more brutal.
- Precise interpretation IN VIEW                      Four successive world empires  
 (further details are revealed later on in Daniel about the identity/activity of these four kingdoms)
  - Head of gold = Babylon                      2:37-38
    - Babylon was man at his most majestic                      Tower of Babel
  - Arms and chest of silver = Medo-Persian empire
  - Belly and thighs of bronze = Greece - Alexander the Great      (2:39; 8:20-21)
  - Legs of iron = Rome
- Predictive prophecy is an amazing feature of the Bible.      (no other equivalent in all of literature)
  - 2000+ prophecies in OT already fulfilled!      (DJ Kennedy)
    - 100+ specific prophecies about Babylon      (greatest kingdom to be reduced to dust)
  - Cyrus the Persian mentioned by name 200+ years before rule - (Is. 44:28-45:7)
    - This is not Nostradamus or Aztec calendar predictions
  - Is. 46:8-11                      Is. 25:1-2                      Is. 37:26
- The flow of history flows through Gods hand                      Acts 4:27-28      Rom. 11:36      Eph. 1:11
  - Kings heart (dream/destiny/longevity) in the hand of the Lord.      Prov. 21:1
  - Geo-political movements of nations can be hairy and scar...but rest in Gods sovereignty.
    - John 19:11

### *PREVIEW*

- The part of the dream that is still future describes two last kingdoms.
  - The final kingdom of man and the eternal kingdom of Christ
- Man's last kingdom      *feet and toes of iron and clay*      Describes last world empire.
  - 10 nation/region union or confederacy
  - Mixed with the seed of men                      multi-national/multi-cultural/multi-spiritual
  - Strong/brittle/not sustainable                      no cohesion                      2:42-43
- Eternal Kingdom                      2:44-45
  - The eternal kingdom comes to bear without human effort - “*without hands*”
  - THAT ROCK IS CHRIST!      (1 Cor. 10:4)
    - Is. 44:8                      Ps. 118:22-24                      Rom. 9:33                      Matt. 21:42-44
  - The final government of this earth will be destroyed by the eternal government of Christ on the earth.                      Christ's reign will fill the earth.
    - Isaiah 9:6-7                      Rev. 11:15
- Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
  - This is the summary of the gospel message                      Matt. 4:17
  - Read Ps. 2 as a warning and invitation to the nations.
  - “*Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen!*”