

Part 6 — “The God Who Reveals Mysteries” — 3 July 2022

Introduction: What things concern you about the future of this country?

The changes in American culture? The economy? Your kids' and grandkids' futures? Your retirement? The place of the church in society?

Dan. 2:20b-22—“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. ²¹ He changes times and seasons; he removes kings and sets up kings; he gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding; ²² he reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what is in the darkness, and the light dwells with him.”

Main Point: The God of Heaven has a definite _____ which He has revealed and is sovereignly working out in human history. His people can therefore _____ Him as they wait for it to be fully accomplished.

The King of Babylon & the King of Kings—Daniel 2:24-49

Daniel & the King (2:24-30)

Observations

1. Daniel immediately sought the king’s executioner.

2. The king’s question was asked with the _____ of his prior order still in effect.

3. Daniel’s response evidenced his _____ in God.

“No wise men...can show the king the mystery”

“...there is a God in Heaven who reveals mysteries”

⇒ Daniel credited the God of Heaven for revealing the mystery to Nebuchadnezzar so he might have insight into what things which were to occur in the ‘_____’ (end-times).

“Revelation of a mystery can be defined roughly as God fully disclosing wisdom about end-time events that were mostly hitherto unknown (Dan. 2:20-23). He primarily communicates his wisdom through dreams and visions mediated by either an individual or an angel.”
—G.K. Beale & Benjamin Gladd, *Hidden But Now Revealed*

⇒ Daniel directed all glory away from himself and unto God as the source of the necessary wisdom:

(1) _____ Revelation

(2) _____ Revelation

Key Point: Daniel was functioning as the prophetic _____ who bore witness to the power and supremacy of the ‘God of Heaven.’

“Daniel employs [this title] here in direct conversation with a pagan monarch to impress upon [him] the superiority of his God over those of Babylon, a recurrent theme in this chapter.” —Paul Hennebury, *The Words of the Covenant*

Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream & the Interpretation (2:31-45)

Observations

1. In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a great _____ which had a profound effect upon him.

“mighty”

“of exceeding brightness”

2. The image was of a man and was composed of varying materials:

Head →

* The materials progressively decrease in _____.

Chest/Arms →

* The materials progressively increase in _____.

Middle/Thighs →

Legs →

* The feet are _____ from the other portions of the image.

Feet →

3. The statue was then thoroughly destroyed by a stone that struck its feet and which then grew into a _____ that filled the whole earth.

4. The interpretation indicated that the dream concerned a series of _____ which were to be understood in light of the materials used to describe them:

(1) *The Head of Gold* - _____ (Nebuchadnezzar is given a place of prominence)

“making you rule over them”

(2) *The Chest & Arms of Silver* - _____ - _____

“inferior”

(3) *The Middle & Thighs of Bronze* - _____

“which shall rule over all the earth”

(4) *The Legs of Iron* - _____

“iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things”

(5) *The Feet of Mixed Iron & Clay* - The _____ - _____ Confederation

“partly strong and partly brittle”

“...the best interpretation...is to regard the “legs” as representing the Roman Empire and the “feet/toes” as a confederacy of ten kings still to come in the future. Since the “feet/toes” are partly of iron, then this future kingdom probably has some connection to the ancient Roman Empire (most likely, in light of 7:24...geographical location...)...This conclusion would imply that there is a gap of time between the fourth kingdom (Rome) and the final phase of that kingdom...” —J. Paul Tanner, *Daniel*

(6) *The Stone that Becomes a Mountain* - The Kingdom Established by _____

“the God of Heaven will set up a kingdom”

“it shall break into pieces all these kingdoms...and it shall stand forever”

“The dream of Nebuchadnezzar...is relatively straight forward...In subsequent visions, however, additional details will be added to show that this plan of history is far more complex and will ultimately involve a “showdown” with a particular king...Yet with Daniel chap. 2, the foundation of God’s kingdom plan is laid, on which further revelation will be added in subsequent chapters...” —J. Paul Tanner, *Daniel*

5. In his response, the king verbally acknowledged the supremacy of the God of Heaven and then _____ Daniel.

Key Point: Daniel emphasized the certainty of the dream and its interpretation which therefore demanded a _____ from Nebuchadnezzar.

“The king of Babylon may have taken the vessels of God into the Temple of Marduk, but Yahweh Himself has taken the king of Babylon and used him in any way that seemed fit, while ringing a spontaneous acknowledgement out of him that He is “the God of gods...” —Paul Hennebury, *The Words of the Covenant*

Living Faithfully in “Babylon”

- The vision should encourage us as Christians because of our relationship to the _____ who ultimately establishes the Kingdom of God.

¹ Pet. 2:4-8—⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

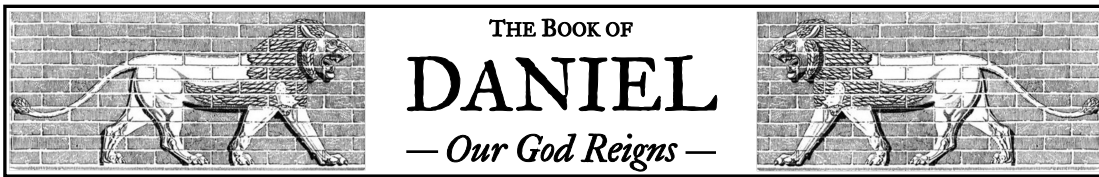
“BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A STONE, A CORNERSTONE CHOSEN AND PRECIOUS,
AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”

⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“THE STONE THAT THE BUILDERS REJECTED HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE,”

⁸ and “A STONE OF STUMBLING, AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.



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⇒ Daniel directed all glory away from himself and unto God as the source of the necessary wisdom:

(1) Symbolic Revelation

(2) Interpretive Revelation

Key Point: Daniel was functioning as the prophetic mediator who bore witness to the power and supremacy of the ‘God of Heaven.’

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4. The interpretation indicated that the dream concerned a series of **kingdoms** which were to be understood in light of the materials used to describe them:

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“making you rule over them”

(2) **The Chest & Arms of Silver - Medo-Persia**

“inferior”

(3) **The Middle & Thighs of Bronze - Greece**

“which shall rule over all the earth”

(4) **The Legs of Iron— Rome**

“iron breaks to pieces and shatters all things”

(5) **The Feet of Mixed Iron & Clay - The End-Time Confederation**

“partly strong and partly brittle”

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