

Daniel and the 1st Dream

Daniel 1:1 – 2:49

- 1:1)** Why did Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, receive Jehoiakim, King of Judah, from the hand of God?

[Despite Babylon being the greatest of the “cities of blood”, that is built by those who shed innocent blood, and Nebuchadnezzar being the archetype of godless people, God uses him to meet out discipline on the children of Israel. *Jeremiah 25:8-9*] [Jehoiakim was a terrible king and did NOT walk in the footsteps of his Godly father Josiah. He worshipped idols, setting them up in shrines everywhere and attempted to destroy the Word of the LORD. *Jeremiah 36:23-24*]

{WE worship idols too. Not of precious metals, stone or wood though... in the form of houses, jobs, money, possessions, status, wives/girl friends, hobbies, sports, etc. Anything that holds a higher position in your heart, wallet or time spent is an idol.}

- 1:2)** Nebuchadnezzar took some of the golden vessels from the temple along with Jehoiakim and the Jews to Babylon in the land of Shinar.

[Where the cities of blood started] {*Genesis 4:17; Genesis 10:8-10; Habakkuk 2:12*}

- 1:6)** Why did Nebuchadnezzar rename these 4 men?

Daniel = “Belteshazzar” Hannaniah = “Shadrach” Mishael = “Meshach” Azariah = “Abednego”

(Your shack, my shack and A bungalow)

[This showed ownership in the ancient near East.] {*Genesis 1:2-5; Genesis 17:1-5; John 1:42;*

Acts 13:9; Isaiah 43:1}

- 1:8)** Why would Daniel refuse to eat the king’s food and drink?

{1. Possibly against Levitical food laws. (Horse or pig) 2. Sharing the king’s food and drink showed fealty and commitment to a relationship. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*) 3. Possibly the food had been offered as a sacrifice to idols and therefore would be considered tainted according to Hebrew custom.}

- 1:19-20)** Why were the 4 men “better than all the magicians and enchanters in Babylon?
[God honored their faithfulness, physically and mentally]
- 2:1-6)** The king’s dream and the consequences for knowing and interpreting it.
[Knowledge and correct interpretation = Riches and honor or the opposite = Death.]
- 2:10-11)** The king’s men say that “No man can meet the king’s demand, only the gods, who do not dwell in flesh.”
{John 1:1 & 14; Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 2:14-15}
- 2:12-13 & 16)** Death it is... BUT Daniel wants everyone’s life spared... Why?
{Israel is supposed to be a light to the gentile world. Isaiah 49:6}
- 2:17-19)** Daniel and the others seek the LORD in prayer.
{Matthew 18:19-20; Philippians 4:6}
- 2:20-23)** Daniel praises God...
 1. Blessed is the name of God forever who has wisdom and might.
 2. He changes the seasons.
 3. He sets up and removes kings.
 4. He gives wisdom.
 5. He knows what is in the darkness, but light dwells in Him.*{Psalm 51:15-17; Psalm 69:29-31}*
- 2:26)** The king asks Daniel if he can interpret his dream and Daniel admits that “No man can, but there is a God in heaven Who reveals mysteries.”
{Daniel shares the good news that the God he serves intervenes in the affairs of men.}

- 2:30)** Daniel states that he is not the reason that the dream is known and will be interpreted.
{Psalm 115:1-8; Jeremiah 10:14}
- 2:32)** A Human Image: Foretelling that the Jews will become exiles to various Gentile kingdoms because of the Jews idolatry and foretelling the failure of humans “leaning on their own understanding”.
- Head of Gold** = Babylonian (Babylonia captivity)
- Chest/Arms of Silver** = Medo-Persian (Book of Esther; The 300)
- Belly/Thighs of Bronze** = Grecian (Maccabees against Antiochus IV)
- Legs of Iron** = Roman (Caesar, the Zealots and Jesus)
- Feet/Toes of partly iron/clay** = Anti-Christ (The return of Jesus/Armageddon)
- {2 Kings 17:7-12} {Romans 3:9-12} {Jeremiah 17:5} {Revelation 19:11-20}*
- 2:34)** What does this verse make you think about? “A stone cut by no human hand” “it struck the Image on its feet...and broke THEM in pieces.”
- {Matthew 1:23-24; Matthew 21:42; Revelation 19:11-21}*
- 2:35)** “The stone which struck the feet of the Image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”
- Mountains frequently mean kingdoms, thus this represents Christ’s Millennial Kingdom.
- (Remember, in a prior study I told you that the word “KINGDOM” means the ACTIONS of a king, NOT the area of control of the king.)
- {Isaiah 2:2; Psalm 121:1-2; Micah 4:2}*
- 2:36)** The Interpretation: 4 kingdoms made by God; all that come after Babylon are lesser and inferior to Babylon, despite the fact that THEY defeat Babylon.
- (Just because someone is in authority over you does NOT mean that they are superior to you... It means that God sets up and removes earthly rulers as His will dictates. Just because YOU are in power over someone else does NOT mean that you are superior to them and that God won’t remove you from a position of authority!)
- {Matthew 7:21-23}*

- 2:45)** Because God has shown this to you, it's prophecy is "Certain and sure".
God said it, I believe it, that settles it! THIS is FAITH lived out.
{*Hebrews 6:17-20; John 14:1*}
- 2:47)** The king exclaims that "Daniel's God" is the God of gods and the LORD of kings and
revealer of mysteries.
Notice he does NOT say "my God".
"We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone."
~ John Calvin 1547 AD
{*James 2:18-19*} {*Matthew 7:20-21*}
- 2:48)** The king appoints Daniel (still calling him Belteshazzar) the Prefect over all Babylon and
the "wise men" of the land.
Prefect = Judge
- 2:49)** There is no "I" in TEAM! Daniel requests that the king appoint Hannaniah, Mishael and
Azariah as Governors of the outlying provinces of Babylon. The king grants this request
(still calling them Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego) while Daniel remains in the king's
palace.
{*Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2:11-17*}

