

DANIEL – CHAPTER 2

Dan 2:1 through 7:28 Outline of God's program for the period of
Gentile supremacy – the way the world will
go!
Jesus referred to this time period as "the times
of the Gentiles". Lk 21:20-24

Vs 1 Nebuchadnezzar Had Dreams

Note: Dan 1:5

* Daniel was in training for 3 years before entering
the king's presence, Dan 2:1.

* In the 2nd year, Daniel is brought into his
presence.

Both of the above statements are correct.

The year of ascension was not reckoned as the
king's first year of reign; it was included in the prior
king's reign.

June – August 605BC	Fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar, and Daniel and friends were taken captive.
Sept 7, 605BC	Nabopolassar dies – Nebuchadnezzar is made king.
Sept 7, 605BC to	Sept 7, 604BC Year of accession – Daniel's first year of training.
604 – 603BC	First year of reign – 2 nd year of training
603 – 602BC	Second year of reign – 3 rd year of training

Daniel chapter 2 continued

Dan 2:29

The king had thought about what was to take
place in the future, had dreams (plural), and

became disturbed (apprehensive) as a result of these dreams.

God communicating by dreams to Gentile rulers was not without precedent Gen 20:3; 41:1-8.

God has even worked His purpose by causing sleeplessness Esther 6.

Vs 2 – 3 magicians – scribes of the religious ritual (scholars)
conjurers – (enchanters, astrologers) those who communicate with the dead.

sorcerers – deal with potions

Chaldeans – Gen 11:28 A people who lived in Southern Babylonia who had been active in defeating the Assyrians when Nebopolassar was alive.

Vs 4 – 6 Beginning in verse four and continuing through chapter seven the book is written in Aramaic.

"The command from me is firm" is translated in the KJV as "the thing is gone from me".

Either he did not remember the dream or he had already decided that he would not reveal the dream.

If these men had supernatural ability to interpret a dream, they should also have had the power to reveal its content.

Daniel never claimed the ability to have either, just a God who had both, vs 27-28, 36

Failure to perform would result in a bad end.

Vs 7 – 9 If the king had forgotten the dream then why didn't the wise men just make something up? His withholding the would explain their decision not to attempt such a solution.

when

dream

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Vs 10-13 Nebuchadnezzar wants assurance that the wise men are "divinely" empowered to interpret his vision – thus the requirement. The response of the Chaldeans is reasonable.

It would take a god to reveal the dream and it would be assumed that the god of the Chaldeans "never" communicates "divinely held" information to their priests. If their god's communicated the interpretation of dreams, why not the dream itself – Nebuchadnezzar's anger was also justified.

Vs 14-16 Why did Arioch respond to Daniel the way he did? Could Daniel's reputation have preceded this meeting? Whatever Daniel said impressed Arioch.

Daniel had not been involved up to this point! Why was the king killing a "wise man" who had not been given a chance to answer the king's question? Daniel has a positive response from the king at the time of his first meeting.

Vs 17-18 Instead of responding in a panic, they prayed to the only God who is, the God of Abraham, Gen. 24:7.

A God who Cyrus, king of Persia, also recognized Ezra 1:2.

And so did his predecessor, king Darius, Ezra 6:1-12, esp vs 10. (King Artaxerxes Ezra 7:11-ff, 21). They prayed believing with full knowledge Dan 3:16-18.

Daniel chapter 2 continued

Vs 19-23 Both the dream and its interpretation were revealed to Daniel in a vision – while he is awake!
Daniel's immediate response is to praise the God of Heaven. Ps 103:1-2 Daniel's God IS God!!

1. wisdom and power belong to Him
Job 12:13; 1 Chron 29:10-20
2. He changes the times and seasons
(Satan will attempt to "make alterations in times").
The deities of Babylon were believed to set the times and seasons by the movements of the sun, moon, and stars.
Daniel's God stopped the Sun for his servant Joshua.
3. He removes and establishes kings
Rom 13:1-2; Jn 19:10-11; Job 12:23
4. He gives wisdom...knowledge
1 Kg 3:5-12; 4:29; 1 Cor 2:6-16
5. The darkness hides nothing from God
Job 12:22
God dwells in light – He is light
Jn 1:9; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46; 1 Jn 1:5
6. Having declared the infinite qualities of wisdom, power, sovereignty, and knowledge,
Daniel thanks God for revealing to him, the dream.

Vs 24 Therefore – because of the truth of verses 20-23, Daniel acted. He goes to Arioch the executioner, vs 14, and requests an audience with the king.

Daniel chapter 2 continued

- Vs 25 The speed of Arioch's response indicates the agitated state of the mind of the king, and his approach may indicate that he expected recognition for finding an interpreter.
- Vs 26-27 The ability of "who" is able to reveal is cleared up with the king. (Forgetting this fact cost Moses the promised land, Num 20:8-13)
There are many today who appear to also forget that it is God and not them that accomplishes the fruit.)
- Vs 28 "there is a God"...
- Vs 29-30 Your dream was prophetic in nature.
The dream was given to Nebuchadnezzar covering the "times of the Gentiles", Lk 21:24, providing God's outline for Gentile domination of the earth until the coming of Israel's Messiah.
Daniel again makes sure that the king understands that Daniel's ability to reveal the dream comes from the same God who gave the dream.
- Vs 31-36a The dream itself.
Though Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold – the most significant Gentile king to ever reign – standing before the image as a whole he was relatively insignificant, vs 31.
The head – pure gold
Chest and arms – silver
belly and thighs – bronze

legs – iron

feet – partly iron and partly baked clay

As great as the image was, it was destroyed by a rock, not with human hands, which reduced it to chaff, blown away.

Daniel chapter 2 continued

Vs 36b-45 The interpretation of the dream

Vs 36 Who does the "we" make reference to? Daniel and God; Daniel and his 3 friends Dan 2:17-19, or is Daniel making sure that the king understands that the interpretation is not coming from him, even though he speaks it.

Vs 37-38 Nebuchadnezzar is the king of kings – made so by the God of heaven. This title is no mistake Ezk 26:7
Such a king reigns over all!
The kingdom is seen as its head.

Vs 39 A kingdom will replace the Babylonians being inferior to them followed by a third.
1. Medo Persian empire Dan 5:28; 8:20; 11:2
2. Greece Dan 8:21; 11:2-4 which is said to rule over all the earth (in influence)
The quality of organization and authority deteriorates in each successive kingdom represented by the quality and purity of the metal that describes it.

Vs 40 -43 The fourth empire, Rome
1. The iron legs of Rome will break to pieces and subdue all that opposes it. (The Roman legions made Rome, Rome.)
2. It will be an empire that breaks and crushes rather than creates and builds.
3. There are two legs – the original empire split into two empires.
4. The 10 toes of mixed material represents the final form

of this empire which is forming in one day.
It will be a diverse grouping which never really forms
one unit, yet it operates as one (possibly an EU type
kingdom).

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Some nations and people within this unit will be
Strong and others will be weak.
Dan 7:24-27; Rev 17:12-14

- Vs 44 The final and lasting kingdom headed by the Divine
King of kings
Rev 19:11-16
- Vs 45 The course of human history as determined by God is
certain.
- Vs 46-49 Daniel not only described what Nebuchadnezzar had
dreamed (which no other wise man could do) but
he had also explained its meaning.
Daniel was made ruler over Babylon and over all the
other wise men (whose lives he had saved).
He also remembered his three friends and sought their
betterment at his greatest moment – a rare act and
man indeed.

