

Too Human?

- Daniel 2

Daniel 2 in summary



- How Nebuchadnezzar responds to his dream (1-13)

A Reaction unreasonable


- How Daniel responds to Nebuchadnezzar's demands (14-23)

A Relationship with God

- The Interpretation of the Dream (24-49)


A Reality that Endures

Daniel 2:1-13
How Nebuchadnezzar Responds

- A Reaction unreasonable 
 - Nebuchadnezzar and his dream (1-3)
 - An understandable but unreasonable demand (5-9)


Don't Practise this!

Daniel 2:14-23
How Daniel Responds

- A Reaction unreasonable
- A Relationship with God 
- Daniel's response
 - He asks for more time (16)
 - He asks friends for help (17-18)
 - He himself prays to God (19)

Daniel 2:14-23

How Daniel Responds

- A Reaction unreasonable
- A Relationship with God 
 - Daniel and his God
 - A personal but not private relationship (17-19)
 - Two extremes to avoid:
 - too holy to work (Daniel 1)
 - too human to pray (Daniel 2)

Verse 11: “What the kings asks is too difficult.
No one can reveal it to the king except the gods,
and they do not live among men.”

Too Human to Pray?


Verse 11: “What the kings asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among men.”

“I may not be too holy minded to believe in a God who works in the realm of human endeavour. But am I too human minded to believe in a God who can work *outside* the bounds of human possibilities?”

Verses 27-28

Daniel replied, "No wise man, enchanter, magician or diviner can explain to the king the mystery he has asked about, **but there is a God in heaven** who reveals mysteries.

Daniel 2:14-23
How Daniel Responds

- A Reaction unreasonable
- **A Relationship with God** 
 - Daniel and his God
 - A personal but not private relationship (17-19)
 - Two extremes to avoid:
 - too holy to work (Daniel 1)
 - too human to pray (Daniel 2)

Practise Personal PRAYER

Three clear sections in Daniel 2

- How Nebuchadnezzar responds to his dream (1-13)

A Reaction unreasonable

- How Daniel responds to Nebuchadnezzar's demands (14-23)

A Relationship with God

- 
- **The Interpretation of the Dream** (24-49)

A Reality that Endures



THE DREAM

Daniel 2:31-35

1. GOLD

2. SILVER

3. BRONZE

4a. IRON

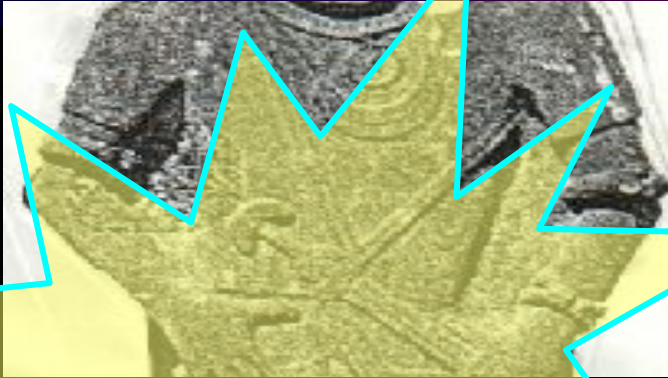


4b. IRON & CERAMIC



THE DREAM

Daniel 2:31-35



**Rock
smashes
statue
(verse 34)**

Interpreting the Statue

Two clear points

1. The head of gold = Nebuchadnezzar

Verse 38 “You are that head of gold.”

2. The rock = the eternal kingdom of God

Verses 44-45 In the times of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure for ever. This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands."

Interpreting the Statue



Two disputed points

1. One or four kingdoms?
2. If 4, which four?

Interpreting the Statue

- One kingdom & succeeding kings?
 - Babylon: Nebuchadnezzar is clearly identified as the head of the statue (38)
- Four successive kingdoms?
 - Which 4?

Verse 39 “After you, another kingdom / king will rise, inferior to yours. Next, a third kingdom / king, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth...”

Interpreting the Statue Four Kingdoms?

- Babylonian
- Persian
- Greek
- Roman

- Babylonian
- Median
- Persian
- Greek



Interpreting the Statue

- One kingdom?
 - Babylon: Nebuchadnezzar is identified as the head of the statue (38)
- Four kingdoms?
 - Which 4?
- All kingdoms✓
 - all human empires fall before the kingdom of heaven: all 4 parts crumble as one whole statue (35)

INTERPRETATION

Daniel 2:36-45

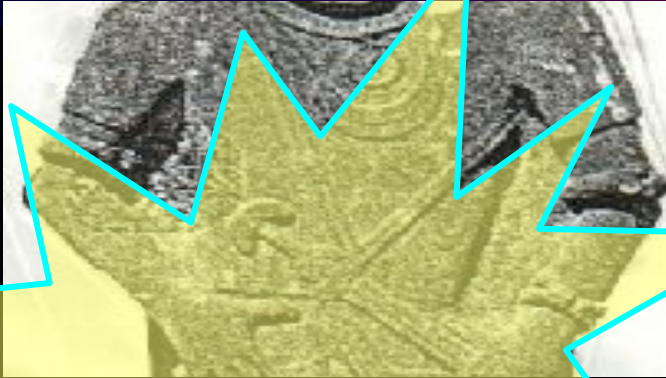
Nebuchadnezzar

**All
Human
Powers
and
Kingdoms**




INTERPRETATION

Daniel 2:36-45



**God's
kingdom
replaces
all human
empires
(verses
44-45)**

Daniel 2

- A Reaction unreasonable
- A Relationship with God
- **A Reality that endures** 
 - The dream and its interpretation (31-45)
 - **Not a timetable but a theology of history**
 - The kingdoms of this world
 - God's kingdom and its coming

*Any
questions?*





Daniel 2
God's Eternal Kingdom

All kingdoms on earth will pass
God's Kingdom alone will last

Perspectives on Life

- PRIDE
- PRIORITIES
- PAIN



DANIEL 2: Many earthly kings, One Eternal Kingdom

- A Reaction unreasonable
- A Relationship with God
- A Reality that endures

Don't Practise this!

**Practise Personal
PRAYER**

**Put PRIDE, PRIORITIES & PAIN
in Perspective**

Faithful Living in Babylon / Exile?

- Dan 1: Wisely determine what to accept/reject
 - Avoid Evil / Advance Excellence
- Dan 1: Find strength from the conviction of God's sovereignty
- Dan 2: Be Prepared for unreasonable pressures
- Dan 2: Have a Personal relationship with God
 - Pray alone / Pray with others
- Dan 2: Keep wise Perspectives on pride, priorities and pain



Questions for Personal or Group reflection

For personal / group reflection




- How can we develop our personal relationship with God? When Daniel was in trouble, he prayed. Do we? How can we help each other to pray?
- What are some of the human “kingdoms” or accomplishments that we may be in danger of placing too much confidence in?
- We need money for our families to survive in this world. How can we work for money and earthly success without being blinded by the pursuit?



I've found a friend, O such a friend!
He loved me ere I knew Him
He drew me with the cords of love
And thus He bound me to Him.
And round my heart still closely twine
Those ties which nought can sever
For I am His and He is mine
Forever and forever.



I've found a friend, O such a Friend!
He bled, He died to save me
And not alone the gift of life,
But His own self He gave me.
Naught that I have my own I call,
I hold it for the Giver
My heart, my strength, my life, my all
Are His and His forever.



I've found a Friend, O such a Friend!
So kind and true and tender
So wise a counselor and guide,
So mighty a defender.
From Him who loves me now so well,
What power my soul can sever?
Shall life or death or earth or hell?
No! I am His forever.

He Knows My Name

Tommy Walker

1996

I have a Maker
He formed my heart
Before even time began
my life was in His hand.

He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call.

I have a Father
He calls me His own
He'll never leave me
No matter where I go.

He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And hears me when I call.

*Any
questions?*





Daniel 2

Modern Questions to Ponder

- How does God speak to people today?
 - through dreams and visions (Dan 2,4)
 - in times of prayer (Dan 2, 9)
 - from meditation on Scripture (Dan 9)
- Can God speak to those who do not believe in Him?
 - through human events and examples (Dan 1-6)
- Should Christians be involved in political leadership?



Additional Notes

- Hopefully no one will ask ...
- but, just in case

Interpreting the Statue Four Kingdoms?

- Babylonian
- Persian
- Greek
- Roman

YES ...

- 4 successive empires in actual history
- Jesus/Church as the Rock when Rome fell

BUT...

- Persia not “inferior” (39)
- 5:30 says Median king followed Babylon

Interpreting the Statue Four Kingdoms?

- Babylonian
- Persian
- Greek
- Roman

- Babylonian
- Median
- Persian
- Greek

**• Persia (not Media)
succeeded Babylon in
actual history**

**• 5:30 says Median king
follows Babylonian
• Media was “inferior” (39)
• iron/ceramic mixture (43)
fits Greek split**

Additional Note:



- The chronological problem between Daniel 1:5,18 and Daniel 2:1,48.

Historical Problems

- Daniel 2:1 sets the story in the 2nd year of Nebuchadnezzar's reign. Daniel & friends are already part of the group of court wise men (2:13). At the end of the chapter, Daniel is given a place in the royal court as a “ruler” and his 3 friends are promoted (48-49).
 - Dan 1:5,18-19 says that Daniel & friends trained for 3 years before being presented to Nebuchadnezzar.

Is this uncertainty significant?