

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Part 5

Introduction: Last week when we stopped our study, we had just started to look at the interpretation of the image that Nebuchadnezzar had seen in his dream. God gave to Daniel the wisdom to know the dream and the interpretation.

Notice Daniel 2:28-36

Daniel was very clear that God was the one who knew the dream. God had given the knowledge of the dream to Daniel. This image that the king had seen in his dream was a magnificent statue in the form of a man and it was made of different metals. It started with gold, silver, bronze, iron and then iron mixed with clay. This image represented the Times of the Gentiles. In other words, the image foretold the Gentile Kingdoms that would be the world powers from the removal of Zedekiah king of Judah until the reign of Jesus Christ in His earthly Kingdom. The different metals show the deterioration of the kingdoms as each one would rise. The hardness of the metals spoke of two different aspects of the kingdoms. First there would be the fact that the longer man would rule on earth apart from God the more suppressive his rule would be until the pinnacle is reached under the last Gentile ruler, the Anti-Christ. He will place the entire world under tyranny. Therefore, as these kingdoms would move from one to another, they would become more tyrannical. The hardness also foreshadowed the condition of man over the ages. Man has grown harder and harder in his heart as time has passed. Today we see this hardness in man as he shows little respect for the life of his fellow man. We also considered how this image contradicts the teaching of evolution that says man started in dust and will culminate in the quality of fine gold. But this image shows us that man started in fine gold and will end in the dust of the earth.

Let us consider one more thought concerning this image. I find it interesting that the Gentile world powers are pictured here in an image of a man. The kingdoms then begin with an image, and they will end with an image.

Revelation 13:11-15

¹¹ *And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.*

¹² And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.

¹³ And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

¹⁴ And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

¹⁵ And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Another thought here is that this image was in the form of a man. This is very important to notice. This is because the focus of everyone of these Gentile kingdoms will be upon humanism. Each one will be about the glory of man and the greatness of man therefore they are in opposition to the Kingdom of God. Notice the words of Garland.

"In the following verses, we find the image is of a man. This is not an accidental detail for the image represents the pride and extended period of rule of the kingdom of man. It stands in opposition to the kingdom of God which will subsequently destroy it. Evidently God gave Nebuchadnezzar's vision using a human form because it ultimately represents humanism in all its proud rebellion and imagined independence from God."

This now brings us to where we are tonight.

➤ **The Interpretation**

➤ **Part 2**

Notice Daniel 2:36-38

We started to look at the interpretation last week, but we did not get very far. God gave this kingdom to Nebuchadnezzar, and this was confirmed by Jeremiah.

Jeremiah 27:4-8

⁴ And command them to say unto their masters, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Thus shall ye say unto your masters;

⁵ I have made the earth, the man and the beast that are upon the ground, by my great power and by my outstretched arm, and have given it unto whom it seemed meet unto me.

⁶ And now have I given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant; and the beasts of the field have I given him also to serve him.

⁷ And all nations shall serve him, and his son, and his son's son, until the very time of his land come: and then many nations and great kings shall serve themselves of him.

⁸ And it shall come to pass, that the nation and kingdom which will not serve the same Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, and that will not put their neck under the yoke of the king of Babylon, that nation will I punish, saith the LORD, with the sword, and with the famine, and with the pestilence, until I have consumed them by his hand.

God made Nebuchadnezzar a "king of kings" which was a role that was to be occupied by the line of David but because of sin the power was given over to this Gentile king. Therefore, as we considered last week the Jews experienced lost potential due to their sin.

Notice Daniel 2:37-38

Reading these verses should remind us of how God had established His Kingdom in the beginning of creation.

Genesis 1:26-28

²⁶ And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

²⁸ And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

This rule was entrusted to Adam and when he sinned his position as theocratic administrator was lost. When we come to Daniel 2, we see now that God gives this position to Nebuchadnezzar and it will be passed on to the other Gentile rulers. But they will abuse the power, and Jesus will take the position when He returns to set up His Kingdom. Notice the words of Unger.

"The reference to Nebuchadnezzar's dominion over mankind and the animal and bird creation envisions the dominion originally assigned unfallen man (Gen. 1:28; 2:19-20) and lost through the Fall. It was temporarily delegated to Nebuchadnezzar and the Gentile world powers; but, because of their abuse, it will be taken from them by the Son of Man, who at His second advent will restore the lost inheritance to mankind."

Psalm 8:3-6

³ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

⁵ For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

⁶ Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet:

This was God's plan. To have man rule over His creation. But sin has made man incapable of ruling without abusing his authority. Therefore, Jesus will take back the earth and He will rule over the creation.

Revelation 5:1-5

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

³ And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

⁴ And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

⁵ And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

The "book" here in Revelation 5 is the Title Deed to the Earth. Had Jesus not prevailed to take it and open it then Satan would forever remain the god of this world and oppression and death would never end. That is why John wept MUCH.

Notice Daniel 2:39a

Daniel here shows his faith in the Lord for he tells the king that his kingdom would one day be conquered by an inferior kingdom. The kingdom that was to replace the Babylonians would be the Medes and the Persians. The king heard this, but it seems as though he did not believe these words. I say this because in the next chapter he will build an image of all gold dedicated to himself. Let us notice what Jeremiah wrote.

Jeremiah 51:24-26

²⁴ And I will render unto Babylon and to all the inhabitants of Chaldea all their evil that they have done in Zion in your sight, saith the LORD.

²⁵ Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

²⁶ And they shall not take of thee a stone for a corner, nor a stone for foundations; but thou shalt be desolate for ever, saith the LORD.

The Babylonians were used by God to chasten the Jews because of their sin. But the Babylonians overstepped their bounds, and they went too far. For that reason, God would bring the next Gentile kingdom against them to destroy them. What Jeremiah writes here is evidence of God's promise to Abram in Genesis 12.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

³ And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

The time of which Daniel interpreted this dream was around 603 BC. It would be in 539 BC that Babylon would fall to Medo-Persia. Nebuchadnezzar would die in 562 BC. So, Nebuchadnezzar would enjoy his kingdom and his reign for another 41 years from the time of this dream. Then the Babylonian kingdom would last another 23 years before it would fall. This will happen in Daniel 5.

Daniel 5:30-31

³⁰ In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

³¹ And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

Conclusion:

I want to use these thoughts for a moment to show you the sovereignty of God in all that was happening. In 539 when Babylon fell Darius the Mede was in authority. But God had given a prophecy to Isaiah that had to be fulfilled concerning Cyrus.

Isaiah 44:28

²⁸ That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.

Now notice what Ezra wrote.

Ezra 1:1-2

Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying,

² Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, The LORD God of heaven hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth; and he hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah.

It was in 536 BC that Cyrus gave the command for the Jews to return. The 70 years of captivity were over. God's timing to get Cyrus in the right place at the right time was perfect!