

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

Daniel 2

Part 4

Introduction: Last week in our study of Daniel we looked at the worship that Daniel gave to God as God had revealed the king's dream to him.

Notice Daniel 2:19-23

Daniel's worship was God centered. Daniel praised God for who He is and for His wisdom and might. When Daniel revealed to Arioch that he knew the dream Daniel was rushed into the presence of the king.

Notice Daniel 2:24-25

Arioch was quick to give the praise to Daniel as he told the king that there was a man from the captives who could tell the king the dream. Daniel however would not take any glory but instead he gave all the glory to God.

Notice Daniel 2:26-30

Daniel made it known that the revelation of the dream came to him not because he had more wisdom than anyone else. Daniel understood that the revelation was from God and that he did not contribute anything that brought about the revelation. God made it known and apart from God no one would have ever been able to meet the demands of the king.

Application:

We considered this last week, but I must speak on this one more time. Everyone of us has the potential to learn the deep Truths of the Bible. First of all, we must desire to know the Word of God. Then we must be willing to pray and to dig into the Word of God just as someone would dig into the earth to mine silver or God. This desire should be in each of us who are saved. If it is not, then there is something wrong. Every newborn baby has an appetite to eat and if they don't then you can be sure that the baby is sick. The same is true for believers. I also need to add that there are many who miss the deep things of the Bible because they will not do the work. It is a labor to learn the Bible, but the blessings far outweigh the effort spent to learn.

➤ **The Image in the Dream**

Notice Daniel 2:31-35

The image that the king had seen in his dream was metallic and was made of different metals. The head was gold, the arms and chest were silver, the belly and thighs of brass, the legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay. Then there was a stone cut without hands that came and completely destroyed the statue, and the stone became a great mountain and filled the earth.

The image is described with some very interesting words. Daniel tells the king it was a GREAT image, its brightness was EXCELLENT which means "extreme," and it was TERRIBLE which means it "dreadful" or "intimidating."

This statue or image represents the Times of the Gentiles and the Gentile powers that will exist during the Times of the Gentiles. Each part of the statue represents a kingdom that will come to power from the time that King Zedekiah was removed until the True King of the Jews reigns in Jerusalem and that will be Jesus Christ.

2 Kings 25:6-8

⁶ So they took the king, and brought him up to the king of Babylon to Riblah; and they gave judgment upon him.

⁷ And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.

⁸ And in the fifth month, on the seventh day of the month, which is the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, came Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, a servant of the king of Babylon, unto Jerusalem:

This was the last king of Judah to sit on David's throne and when he was removed the Times of the Gentiles started.

Revelation 20:4-6

⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

⁶ *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

This is when the Times of the Gentiles will end. At the end of the Tribulation Jesus will set up His Kingdom on the earth and He will then sit upon the throne of David. The image that the king had seen represents all the Gentile kingdoms that will exist until Jesus reigns. As the image goes from gold to silver to brass to iron and to iron mixed with clay we see deterioration in the metals. This tells us that as these kingdoms rise up the conditions will deteriorate because man will devolve as time goes on due to the effects of sin. Notice the words of Showers.

"First, the downward movement on the image not only represented the passage of time, but also revealed a descending decrease in value of the substances of the image. The intended lesson seemed to be this: the longer man would attempt to rule the earth apart from God, the more degenerated that rule would become. Second, the downward movement on the image also revealed an ascending growth in strength of the substances. The longer man would attempt to rule the earth apart from God, the more that rule would be characterized by militarism."

We see in the statue the degeneration of mankind, but this is not what is taught by the evolutionists today. Notice the words of Walvoord.

"The concept of degeneration contradicts the evolutionary interpretation of human history. Instead of man beginning in the dust and consummating in fine gold God reveals man in the times of the Gentiles to begin with fine gold and to end in the dust."

Those who believe we have evolved will tell you that man is far more intelligent today than he has ever been. But a search of the Scriptures will reveal that man was very intelligent when he was created.

Genesis 4:19-22

¹⁹ *And Lamech took unto him two wives: the name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah.*

²⁰ *And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.*

²¹ And his brother's name was Jubal: he was the father of all such as handle the harp and organ.

²² And Zillah, she also bare Tubalcain, an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron: and the sister of Tubalcain was Naamah.

Here we see that even before the flood in the very first civilization man was working with bronze and iron. Today it is taught that the bronze age began around 2300 BC and the iron age around 1200 BC. In Genesis we see that both bronze and iron were used shortly after creation. Right after creation.

There are other ways to see the intelligence of man right after creation.

Genesis 2:18-20

¹⁸ And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

¹⁹ And out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air; and brought them unto Adam to see what he would call them: and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.

²⁰ And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

We can only imagine how intelligent Adam was to name every animal. Then we go to Noah's day and consider that Noah and his family constructed an ark that would hold 2 of every kind of animal and they had no power tools, and they had to cut their own lumber. The ark was 450 feet long, 75 feet wide and 45 feet high.

As we consider the image, we can also see that as the metal goes from top to bottom the metal gets harder. God at the top followed by silver then bronze then iron. I believe we can see in this the hardening condition of man's heart and how it reflects upon society.

Matthew 24:9-12

⁹ Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

¹⁰ And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

¹¹ *And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.*

¹² *And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.*

2 Timothy 3:1-5

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

² *For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

³ *Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,*

⁴ *Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;*

⁵ *Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*

➤ **The Interpretation**

➤ **Part 1**

Notice Daniel 2:36-38

As Daniel interprets the dream, he tells the king that he is the head of gold. In verse 37 he tells the king something very interesting. He tells him he is a king of kings. Nebuchadnezzar is the most powerful king on the earth at this time. But there is more to see here when we search the Scriptures.

Psalms 89:20, 27

²⁰ *I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:*

²⁷ *Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.*

If the descendants of David had been faithful to exercise righteous rule this power would never have been transferred to the Gentile kings.

1 Kings 10:9

⁹ *Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.*

It was sin in the lives of the kings that brought about the transfer of power over to the Gentile kings. The sin that the kings of Judah had become involved in resulted in lost potential.

Application:

This is what sin does in the lives of people who become entangled in it. It happened to David as well.

2 Samuel 12:7-8

⁷ And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

*⁸ And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, **I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.***

Conclusion:

I cannot help but think of the blessings that the kings of Judah missed because of sin. Then I am reminded of the blessings that God's people miss today because they get tangled up in sin. Lost potential is a sad thought. To think that we had a greater opportunity to glorify God, but the opportunity was taken away.