

# Daniel 2 - The God of Heaven shall set up a Kingdom

## DANIEL 2:1-9 THE KING'S DREAM AND DECREE

Daniel introduces us to the great conflict of the ages which began in Eden: **Gen 3:15**. In **Dan 2** the *seed of the serpent* is organised into a political and religious system at *enmity* with the *seed of the woman*.

**v1 Dreams**: Only one of Nebuchadnezzar's dreams is recorded here. The background is in **Jeremiah**: This dream was in Neb's 2nd year.

**Jer 25:1** The 1st year of Neb was the 4th year of Jehoiakim.

**Jer 46:1-2** Egypt was defeated by Babylon at Carchemish in the 4th year of Jehoiakim. This battle was one of the most significant in world history. Neb would have come home victorious and proud!

**Jer 36:1-18** In the 4th year of Jehoiakim, Jeremiah writes part of the Bible. God gives Judah an opportunity to repent.

**Jer 36:9** The 5th year of Jehoiakim is also the 2nd year of Neb. Jeremiah prophesied that Babylon would overthrow Judah and that Jehoiakim would be killed. The king cuts up the Bible and throws it into the fire: **Jer 36:23**. **How ironic!** While a Gentile king is praising God in **Dan 2:46-49**, the king of Judah is burning the Bible.

**v2-3 Magicians**: Heb *stylus* ie. *sacred scribes*, similar to magicians in Egypt: **Ex 7:11**. **Astrologers**: Elite priests, mathematicians, astronomers. The "clever" people of the world are contrasted with Daniel.

**v4 Syriac**: From **2:4** onwards, the original is written in the **Chaldean** (Syriac) language, up until the end of **Daniel 7**. Why? Because this the very heart of events in the **KINGDOM OF MEN**. It is written in their own language. But when you come to **Dan 8:1**, the focus is back to events in the land of Israel and the Jewish people.

**v5-6 Thing is gone from me**: His decision was unalterable. A man of extremes! **Dunghill**: Refuse tip. Common punishment: **3:29**.

**v7-8 Gain the time**: Very bold for not taking the king at his word. But they are desperate. The problem is they don't even know the dream! **Corrupt**: Chal. tr. *fault* in **6:4**. Daniel was the opposite!

**v9 Lying and corrupt words**: The king wanted to be certain they could interpret the dream. The wisdom of the world: **1 Cor 1:20-21**. When the dream is fulfilled, the lying and corrupt words of Babylon the Great will be judged: **Jer 16:19; Zech 13:2; Rev 18:1-3**.

## DANIEL 2:10-13 FAILURE OF BABYLON'S CLEVER PEOPLE

**v10-11** A confession that what was being asked was impossible. The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God: **1 Cor 3:19**.

**Whose dwelling is not with flesh**: Babylonians believed their gods came and dwelt with men and were reduced to the weaknesses of flesh. **v12-13 They sought Daniel**: **Dan 1:18**. He was on a 3 year apprenticeship: **1:5**. This commenced in the 1st year of Neb. When the decree went out to slay the wise men, Daniel was not known to the king, because he was only an apprentice: **1:5; 2:1**. **Wise men**: They also reappear in **Dan 4:6,18; 5:7,8,15**.

## DANIEL 2:14-18 DANIEL'S REQUEST AND PRAYER TO GOD

**v14-18 Arioch king's captain**: Lit. the *chief butcher!* (KJV mgn), an executioner. **Counsel and wisdom**: Daniel gives an answer immediately. Roth: "immediately Daniel made answer with prudence and discretion" **Arioch**: Chal. *Servant of the moon goddess*.

**v16-18 Give him time**: Daniel has the ability to gain the confidence of others by his demeanour, his **excellent spirit**. **Dan 5:12,14; 6:3**. This is why he can gain time, cp. **2:8** where Neb. refused this!

**v17 Companions**: Chal. *fellowship*. He was not in fellowship with Babylon. Daniel's **house** was a refuge: **6:10; 4:4**. An answer to his prayer was not given immediately. God tests his faith, as He does with us. They offer a communal prayer: cp. **Mt 18:19, Acts 12:12**.

## DANIEL 2:19-23 DANIEL'S THANKFULNESS TO HIS GOD

**v19 God of heaven**: Daniel saw the vision again. This title relates to God intervening by His angels: see context of **Gen 24:7**. **Night vision**: The darkness of Gentile times: **Dan 7:1** cp. **Jn 9:4,5**. Many parallels between Daniel and Joseph. See notes on **Dan 6** for a list of parallels.

**v20 Blessed be the name of God**: Daniel prayed for God's mercy, not his justice. He praises God, not himself, as Jesus also does: **Mt 6:9**. God's Name is related to the covenants made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. **Wisdom and might**: Not only a wise God but He has power to perform these things! In **2:23** God gives Daniel *wisdom and might*. **v21 Times and seasons**: **1 Thess 5:1**. **Times** are established by the order of nature. The **seasons** are the times set up by man. The ages are framed by the Word of God: **Heb 11:3**. There is a *set time* to favour Zion: **Psa 102:13**. Nations have times and boundaries set by God: **Acts 17:26**. The Papacy changed times and laws: **Dan 7:25**.

**Remove kings, set up kings**: Yahweh is in control: **1 Sam 2:7-8; Job 12:16-21; Psa 75:6-7, 89:18; 95:3; 113:7-8, Lk 1:51-52, Acts 13:21-22; 17:26**. **Wisdom / knowledge**: Wisdom is the application of knowledge. God assists those who put in the effort to know him. Jesus says, "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance": **Mt 13:12**. God gives wisdom through His Word: **Deut 17:18-20, Psa 119:105; Prov 2:1-9; 3:1-6; 1 Cor 2:13; 2 Tim 3:15-17; Jas 1:5**. **Understanding**: To *distinguish* between Godly principles and worldly wisdom: **Heb 4:12-13**. **v22 Darkness**: Men choose darkness rather than light: **Jn 3:19**. See also **Jer 23:24; Lk 12:2-3; 1 Cor 4:5**. **Light dwells with him**: Jesus Christ is the light of the world: **Jn 8:12** cp. **1 Tim 6:16**. Light and darkness are opposites: **1 Jn 1:5-6**.

**v23 God of my fathers**: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Abraham is the *heir of the world*. Neb's dream was all about this! God revealed the secret of His purpose to the faithful eg. Joseph: **Gen 41:16,25,28**; the prophets: **Amos 3:7**; and to us through Christ: **Rom 16:25**.

## DANIEL 2:24-30 DANIEL BEFORE KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR

**v24 Destroy not the wise men**: Neb wanted them to reveal the dream to prove they could also interpret it: **2:5**. Daniel wants to **save** them! In **Ez 14:14** Daniel is included with Noah and Job, two men who saved others (Noah's ark saved his house, Job prayed for salvation of his friends). He had a strong influence on the magicians. He was later on made *master of the magicians*: **4:9; 5:11**. In **Dan 4**, Neb has another dream, this time he brings in the wise men and they apologise as they don't have the answer. Is that Daniel's influence? **v26 Belteshazzar**: Neb thought the spirit of the gods lay in Daniel: **4:8**. He calls him by this name to link him with Babylon's gods: **Dan 1:7**.

**v27 Daniel answered**: Chal. *looked him in the face*. This is faith! It would have been so easy to bask in his own glory. The hopelessness of the wise men is highlighted to expose the world. **v28-29 Latter days**: **Key phrase!** Not just a chronology of history. The **whole** image exists as an allied confederacy at Christ's return. **v30 More than any living**: The sorcerers thought the answers lay with the dead: **Isa 8:19**.

## DANIEL 2:31-35 DANIEL REVEALS THE KING'S DREAM

**v31 Great image**: The kingdom of men in its totality, the big picture of prophecy. **Excellent**: Chal. *extraordinary*. **v32 Image**: Represents the flesh. These 4 metals all occurred together once before, in the house of God: **1 Chr 22:14**. Neb just plundered God's temple. Those metals were now built into the Kingdom of Men. But in God's kingdom, God re-establishes them in Israel: **Isa 60:17**. Silver is inferior to gold: **2:39**.

## v33 Legs of iron, feet iron and clay:

There is a degeneration of metals from top to bottom. **Rome continues until the end**. The clay shows that despite the break up of the R. Empire in AD476, Rome continued in the **Roman Catholic** and **Eastern Orthodox Churches**. Clay represents the insertion into western Europe of the Vandals, Goths and other Germanic hoards in AD410-476. This forms the foundation of modern day Europe: the strength of the church and the fragility of political democracy.



**v34 Stone cut out without hands**: **Dan 8:25; 11:45**. This is the **most important feature** of **Dan 2**. Jesus Christ has God as his Father: **Isa 11:1; 59:16; Lk 1:35**. The equiv. Hebrew word for **stone** means *to build* and is used of building families: **Gen 2:16** (tr. "*obtain children*"). Jesus Christ is the head of a family. He is the chief cornerstone: **Psa 118:22; Mt 21:42; Acts 4:11; Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 2:7**. Men polish stones. Like a stone, Jesus was not noted for outward beauty: **Isa 53:2**. But inside, he is full of character: **Heb 1:3**. The altar was made of unhewn stone. No iron tool was to strike these stones because the stone will strike the iron: **Ex 20:22-25; Deut 27:5; Heb 13:8-10**. Consider **Mk 14:57-58 without hands**; **2 Cor 5:1; Col 2:11; Heb 9:11,24 not made with hands**. Also **Isa 41:28; 63:5; Rev 22:16**. **Mountain**: Literally a *rock*. God is often described as a Rock: **Deut 32:3-4,18; Psa 18:2,31,46; 94:22**. **Smote image upon his feet**: The Catholic and Orthodox Churches (with their associated military power) will be destroyed by Christ. The *fourth beast* (with its *little horn*) is destroyed at Christ's return: **Dan 7:11,22,27**. The Roman Empire is the *little horn of the goat* in **8:9-12,23-25** and *King of the North* in **11:36-45**. In each Scripture she is destroyed.

**v35 Broken in pieces together**: **Key phrase!** There will be a latter day confederacy of nations in the general area of these 4 empires. These nations are described in **Ezek 38:1-7**. The 4 Beasts are similarly combined together in **Rev 13:2**. Jesus alludes to **Dan 2:35** in **Mt 21:43-44**. **Summer threshingfloors**: Armageddon, a heap of sheaves in a valley for judgment: **Rev 16:16**. Judgment of nations is likened to threshing of wheat: **Mic 4:11-13; Joel 3:12-14; Rev 14:14-16**. **Great Mountain**: Slow process, but a world-wide empire: **Isa 2:2; Jer 51:25**.

## DANIEL 2:36-49 THE DREAM INTERPRETED. KING RESPONDS!

**v37 Given thee**: Key principle: **1:2; 2:37; 4:17,22; 5:18; 8:13,22,24**. **v38 Head of Gold**: Babylon: **7:4**. **v39 Another kingdom**: Medo-Persia: **7:5**. **v39 Third kingdom of brass**: Greece: **7:6**. **v40 Fourth kingdom**: Rome. Many parallels in **7:7,23**: *Fourth / strong / iron / break in pieces*. There is no 5th Beast in **Dan 7**. The iron and clay dominion is therefore a continuation of the 4th Kingdom. The 4 empires are numbered, a **continuous-historic** prophecy. A similar sequential structure is in **Rev**. **v41 Strength of the Iron**: The Church has power over people's minds. **v42 Broken**: Roth. *fragile*. The democracies of Europe, incl. Russia. **v43 Seed of Men**: Mob rule. People power! Democracy. cp. **1:3; 9:1**. **v44 Key Verse! The grand climax!** Two phases of judgment: **1. Break in pieces**: Armageddon, **wheat** harvest, see notes **2:35**. **2. Consume**: Rebellion in Europe, the **grape** harvest, the winepress of the wrath of God: **Psa 2:6-8; Joel 3:13; Rev 14:17-20; 17:14; 19:15**.

**v45-49** An amazing response but one that is short-lived: **Dan 3:1**.