

DANIEL 2:24-49

Study by Glenn Palmer 03 Mar 13

Daniel 2:24-25

1. To whom does Daniel go? *Arioch, whom the king had appointed to execute the wise men*
2. How does Arioch boast?
 - a. *"I have found the man I found him."*
 - b. *"Among the exiles of Judah" I did a lot of looking - it was due to my hard work*
 - c. cf. Claudius Lysias Acts 23:27-30

Practical Application: *How much credit do we claim for ourselves when it is others who do the work?*

Are we quick to give praise to others or are we glory hogs?

Chinese proverb: Victory has a thousand fathers, and defeat is an orphan.

Daniel 2:26-27

3. What does Nebuchadnezzar ask Daniel?
4. What does Daniel respond?

Practical application: *When God has blessed us with money, do we congratulate ourselves for our superior wisdom and hard work and look down on others, or do we praise God for giving us the knowledge and the ability and desire to work hard?*

When we are healthy and others are sick, do we credit ourselves for our good constitution or do we praise God for giving us healthy bodies?

How often do we attempt to claim credit for ourselves when it is God who has blessed us?

5. How is Nebuchadnezzar politely rebuked? *No wise man, et. al can explain the dreams. (So your request is an unreasonable one.)*

Daniel 2:28

6. God reveals himself as
 - a. "God in heaven - God is NOT like us - dwells in a different world than us - therefore He is bigger than us. If we could understand Him and visit Him, then he would not be God!! He would be Jesus Christ Superstar - not Jesus Christ the Son of God
 - b. God reveals *mysteries*
 - c. God predicts HIS STORY because He is *OMNISCIENT & OMNIPOTENT*.
 - d. See theme of Daniel
7. NIV: "days to come" is a bad translation. KJV: "in the latter days." Or "in the end of days"
 - a. Hebrews 1:1-2: *In the past God spoke through the prophets . . . but in these last days*
Note that "in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son" Christ appeared 2,000 years ago, but they are considered "the last days."
 - b. Acts 2:16-17 - Why does Peter apply the passage from Joel to Pentecost?
For Peter, the prophecy is being filled now
 - c. I Timothy 4:1 *In the latter times some will abandon the faith*
 - d. II Timothy 3:1 *There will be terrible times in the last days*
If this passage was written to apply only for us, why did Paul write it to Timothy?
 - e. I John 2:18 - what time unit did John use?
 - f. "The latter days" is the time of the Messiah as He is the rock that destroys the kingdoms of the world.

8. "Dream and the visions" - But Daniel explains only one dream
 - a. Same dream, but multiple times?
 - b. Similar dreams?
 - c. Repetition because it is really true?

Daniel 2:29

9. God is omniscient - "revealer of mysteries. In vs. 28: "God in heaven who reveals mysteries." Daniel's chariot bumper sticker: "My God knows more than your god"
10. "What is going to happen." These events are going to take over 600 years to accomplish, but Daniel speaks with confidence.

Daniel 2:30

11. Modesty: shifts purpose so that the king will know.

Daniel 2:31-35 The Dream

12. Statue is beautiful: "an enormous dazzling statue, awesome in appearance."
13. No other nation records such a dream as this. This is unique.
14. What is a threshing floor? *A place to thresh, separate the heavier chaff from the kernel*



http://www.bible-archaeology.info/village_threshing_floor.jpg accessed on 02 Mar 13

15. Rock completely smashes the kingdoms and they disappear

Daniel 2:36-43 The Interpretation

16. Count how many times it states that God has given Nebuchadnezzar power in vss. 36-38.

Four Kingdoms

17. Gold - head - Babylonian
 - a. Daniel 2:38: "You are that head of gold."
 - b. The Hanging Gardens was one of the most spectacular of the 7 Wonders of the World
 - b. Jeremiah 27:5-7
 - c. Jeremiah 28:14
 - d. Nebuchadnezzar is the only one in the Bible who is said to control the wild animals
18. Silver - chest and arms - Medes and Persians
 - a. Most agree it is the Medes and Persians.
 - b. Not as spectacular as the Babylonian Empire
 - c. Babylon had internal unity - one head
 - d. Medes and Persians were two empires molded into one; not as much internal unity
19. Bronze - belly & thighs - Greeks
 - a. Most agree it is the Greeks
 - b. One empire under Alexander the Great, then split into four empires

20. Iron, then iron and clay - legs & feet - Romans
- a. Traditional view (Josephus, most of the church fathers, Luther, Calvin, etc.) is that it is the Roman Empire
 - b. Some think it is the Moslem Empire
 - c. Dispensationalists
 - 1.) When:
 - a.) Gaebelien: "The stone which falls from above is the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. His coming is in great power and Glory."
 - b.) Cf. Rev. 20:1-6
 - c.) Problem:
 - (1.) Revelation states that there is going to be a thousand year reign. If that is taken literally as the dispensationalists/pre-millennialists do, then it contradicts Daniel when it says that "it will endure forever"
 - (2.) Timing: all other events (Medes destroyed Babylonians, Greeks destroyed Medes, etc) happened immediately after each other. Dispensationalists have to have a pause of over 2300 years!
 - d.) Solution: Calvin: "that under one image the whole state of the world is here depicted for us. Although all events did not occur at the same moment, yet we shall find the Prophet's language essentially true, that Christ should destroy all monarchies." All the kingdoms are one. Babylon was conquered by the Medes and Persians who were conquered by the Greeks (Alexander the Great) who was conquered by the Romans. Thus, all the kingdoms of the world are represented by one large statue. Daniel 2:44 "In the time of those kings" means that the kings of the empires. Just as all kingdoms form one statue of human empires against God, so the "time of the kings" represents human kings as a collective. The statue and the kings should be treated as a whole.
 - 2.) Who:
 - a.) There will be ten kings - ten toes - Thus, after the 10th king of the revised Roman Empire, only then will Christ come.
 - b.) Problem: Daniel 2 does not mention toes! Daniel 2:34 says the rock struck the feet, not the toes. No where does Daniel 2 equate the ten toes with ten kings. Further, in humans, all of our toes are with us all at the same time and we do not have consecutive toes.
- d. Iron breaks everything - Roman Empire was the largest of all the ancient empires.
 - 1.) Cruelty - decimate
 - 2.) Cruelty - crucifixion
- e. Kingdom is of iron and clay - diverse

Daniel 2:44-45

21. The rock uncut by human hands. Rock is Jesus Christ and then His Kingdom
- a. Divine origin. Note that the statue had human origin.
 - 1.) Beginning
 - a.) *In the beginning was God*
 - b.) *The Virgin Birth*
 - b. Most powerful in endurance - never destroyed. Note that the statue's kingdoms are overtaken by the next one. The power of the Church. Christianity has lasted 2,000 years - other nations have come and gone, but Christ's kingdom endures forever.
 - c. Most powerful in destruction crush all kingdoms. Note that the statue's kingdoms become like chaff.
 - 1.) vs. 34 - "smashed them"
 - 2.) vs. 35 - "became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace"

- 3.) Arrange the following kings/queens/emperors/leaders in chronological order and then list the century they lived.
1. Hannibal
 2. Richard the Lion Heart
 3. Napoleon
 4. Julius Caesar
 5. Caesar Augustus
 6. Alexander the Great
 7. Darius
 8. Charlemagne
 9. Cromwell
 10. Queen Elizabeth

Point of the exercise is that most cannot put these in order and therefore this is like the "chaff on a threshing floor in the summer." Blown away. Not able to be remembered.

- d. Most powerful in establishing a superior kingdom -cf. vs. 35 - Note that the statue is only in one place, not the whole earth. Christianity is in every country of the world.

Ozymandias

by Percy Bysshe Shelley

I met a traveller from an antique land
Who said: `Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed.
And on the pedestal these words appear --
"My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!"
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

22. The dream is sure. This dream causes problems for many modern day "scholars" because Daniel predicted accurately the future of five kingdoms. Since today's "scholars" reject God, they say that Daniel must have been written at the time of the Maccabees. But this does not explain the most important prediction, God will send Christ to establish his kingdom.

Practical Applications:

1. *The Bible is trustworthy, divinely inspired. God predicted accurately exactly what would happen. No other book in the world does this.*
Isaiah 41:21-24
2. *God is sovereign. He raises kings and kingdoms as he sees fit. He causes Nebuchadnezzar to dream dreams.*
3. *God is omniscient. He knows what we dream (since he caused it to happen!) and knows the interpretation.*
4. *What is our response? Do we fall before Him or do we rebel (rise up) against Him?*

Daniel 2:46

23. What is King Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to the interpretation? *King Nebuchadnezzar fell prostrate before Daniel and paid him honor and ordered that an offering and incense be presented to him*
24. Does this strike you as strange what the king does? *King falling before a subject??*
 - a. But compare Pharaoh's response to Joseph who was a prisoner. Genesis 41:37-40.
 - b. Daniel was not a prisoner, but a wise man, a leader.
 - c. Cf. Acts 14:13. *The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them.*
 - d. Josephus in *Antiquities* 11:8:5 states: "However, Parmenio alone went up to him [Alexander the Great], and asked him how it came to pass, that when all the others adored him, he should adore the high-priest of the Jews? To whom he replied, "I did not adore him, but that God who has honored him with that high-priesthood; for I saw this very person in a dream."

Practical Application: Calvin writes "There ought to be moderation in our respect for God's Prophets, as we should not extol them beyond their deserts." Is there a problem with how some church leaders lead? Yes. Some church leaders believe they are above the law Acts 10:25-26 Peter with Cornelius-I am a man myself

Daniel 2:47

25. What is King Nebuchadnezzar's confession?
That Daniel's God is God of gods and Lord of kings and revealer of mysteries
26. Does Nebuchadnezzar truly believe in only one God?
 - a. Cf. Daniel 3.
 - b. Exodus 9:27-28
 - c. Exodus 10:16-17

Practical Application: Our banners are "Lord of Lords" and "King of Kings." What is wrong? It should be Lord of lords and King of kings.

Practical Application: Do we really believe this? With our mouth we say God is God and ruler of our life, but what do our actions say? Is God really in charge of our life - all of it?

27. "Surely your God" - note that "your" is plural. Therefore, perhaps Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah are there.
28. "You [singular] were able to reveal this mystery. *Only Daniel can interpret mysteries*

Daniel 2:48

29. What are the three rewards that Daniel receives?
 - a. *Received many gifts*
 - b. *Made ruler over the entire province of Babylon*
 - c. *Made ruler of all the wise men*

Daniel 2:49

30. What rewards do Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah receive? *administrators over the province of Babylon*
31. NIV: "remained at the royal court" KJV: "In the gate of the king."