



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

CHAPTER 2: THE KINGDOM OF GOD VERSES THE KINGDOMS OF MEN

I. Outline of the chapter

- A. A Sleepless Night** **vrs 1-13**
1. The troubled King vrs 1-3
 2. The helpless advisors vrs 4-11
 3. The deadly decree vrs 12-13
- B. God Reveals the Dream to Daniel** **vrs 14-45**
1. The request for time vrs 14-16
 2. The night in prayer
 - a) Daniel and his friends pray vrs 17-18
 - b) God reveals the secret vrs 19
 - c) Daniel gives thanks vrs 20-23
- C. Daniel before Nebuchadnezzar** **vrs 24-30**
1. Daniel brought in vrs 24-26
 - a) Daniel goes to Arioch to save the wise men, vrs. 24
 - b) Arioch hurriedly tries to take credit, vrs. 25
 - c) “Art thou able?” vrs. 26
 2. The superiority of Jehovah God
 - a) The wisemen are powerless vrs 27
 - b) The God of heaven vrs 28-29
 - (1) “there is a God”, The one true God is contrasted to the many gods of the Babylonians
 - (2) Only He knows the secret things of men
 - (3) The “latter days”
 - (4) You wished to know what will come to pass
 - (5) “He” is making it known to you
 - c) I am just a man vrs 30



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

3. The dream disclosed vrs 31-35
4. The dream interpreted vrs 36-45
 - a) Five kingdoms are represented by the five different elements/metals of the image
 - (1) Gold: Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom
 - (2) Silver
 - (3) Bronze
 - (4) Iron, Iron mixed with clay
 - (5) God's eternal kingdom, set up in the period of the kingdom of iron.



- D. Daniel promoted*** vrs 46-49
1. Daniel honored vrs 46
 2. Daniel's God praised vrs 47
 3. Daniel promoted vrs 48
 4. The three friends promoted vrs 49

II. Points in the chapter

A. The incompetence of false religions

1. Nebuchadnezzar does not trust his advisors and shows little faith in the religion that they espouse.
2. No matter how much comfort any doctrine may cause a person to feel, it cannot bring the believer of that doctrine into a right relationship with its God if it is false.



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

B. God's people can take courage

1. Daniel did not cower before the king or the executioner.
2. We are told to (1 Cor 16:13 KJV) "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong."
3. The man of God is not some timid and fearful person, but one with a quiet confidence, even boldness about those things that have been revealed.

C. God only knows the thoughts of the heart

(1 Cor 2:11a KJV) "For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?"

D. Only four earthly kingdoms mentioned

1. Note verse 40 and the "IT" in verse 41.

E. God would set up his kingdom in the days of the fourth kingdom

1. Note verse 44

F. God's kingdom would last forever

1. The temporary nature of the earthly kingdoms is contrasted to the eternal nature of God's Kingdom.

G. The four kingdoms of antiquity

1. Babylonian
2. Medo-Persian
3. Grecian
4. Roman

H. The events of chapter two are expanded upon in the following

1. Chapter 7 provides amplification of all four kingdoms, but special detail regarding the fourth.
2. Chapter 8 provides amplification on kingdoms two and three.
3. Chapters 11 & 12 provide amplification on kingdoms two, three and four.



THE BOOK OF DANIEL

In chapter 2 we find the full scope and purpose of the book exposed in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar and stated concisely in verse 44. God shows through the dream how He would prepare mankind for the establishment of His kingdom the church and hence the redemptive plan to save man from his sins.

God is showing to both the heathen and His disobedient children that though it may seem that the ungodly may be in power, He is still in charge and fulfilling His divine purpose. This lesson will be taught over and over in the book.

It seems incredible to me that those of the pre-millennial persuasion could turn to this book/chapter as a proof text for their doctrine as the very thrust of the chapter is that God is in control and His purpose cannot be thwarted. Yet they believe that Jesus could not set up His kingdom in the first century because the Jews rejected Him. What in the name of logic and reason would make someone to think that if He was not able/capable/powerful enough to do it the first time that He would be able to do it the next or a hundred more times if He failed the last time?

God through the next 450 years (approximately) of Judah or Israel's history would work behind the scenes (providentially, not miraculously) to set the stage for the kingdom. This is called in the New Testament "the fullness of times" or in "due time", Ephesians 1: 10; Romans 5: 6.

The purpose of this kingdom was to save men from their sins. This spiritual kingdom would be set up without the aid of men, yet in the midst of men and made up wholly of men who had been obedient to His proffer of salvation by being washed in the blood of the Lamb.

Chapter 2 is the key to the whole of the book. The main thrust of what God revealed to man through his prophet Daniel is in this chapter. The rest of the chapters enhance and color the events which chapter 2 reveals.