

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: God is Sovereign over History

Outline:

- A. The personal history of the prophet Daniel – chapter 1
- B. *The prophetic history of the Gentiles – chapters 2-7***
- C. The prophetic history of Israel – chapters 8-12

In 605 BC, Daniel and his Jewish friends were taken captive to Babylon. There they were then trained (brain-washed) to be Babylonian servants to the king. Daniel is highlighted as being a man of “no compromise” and also especially gifted.

Slide # 2

Daniel 1:17 (NKJV)

17 As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and **Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.**

About 2 years into their training king Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had a troublesome dream. He called for all the wise men (occultist) of his kingdom to first tell him the contents of the dream and then he would accept that they could also give him the proper interpretation. None of them could do it. But then God revealed the secret to Daniel and he came before the king to tell him what had been revealed.

Daniel explained that the God of heaven has made known to the King what is going to happen in the latter days. God was revealing to Nebuchadnezzar by way of this dream an outline of Gentile World history that would climax in the coming of the Messiah to set up His kingdom.

Daniel emphasized that it is “God in heaven who reveals secrets” (v. 28) and that he (Daniel) was nothing special – but just the one to whom God had revealed the secret. Daniel made this all about God and not about himself. And that brings us to Daniel 2:31.

Daniel 2:31–49 (NKJV)

31 “You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome.

Daniel here explains the contents of the dream. In this dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a huge, colossal image. It was all one connected figure and yet it was a composite of distinct parts. It was brilliant in appearance and awesomely impressive to behold.

**32 This image’s head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze,
33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.**

Slide # 3

The word for “clay” is literally “baked clay” which means it would be brittle. So the feet were a combination of baked clay and iron.

**34 You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.
35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

Out of the blue (so to speak) came a stone “cut without hands” meaning it was supernatural in orientation. It struck the image on its feet and broke them to pieces. This resulted in the entire structure coming down in pulverizing fashion and like powder being blown away to where there was no trace of them at all.

But then the **STONE** that struck the image became a great mountain that filled the entire earth.

Slide # 4



In biblical prophecy, “**mountain**” often symbolizes the idea of a kingdom (cf. Ps. 48:2; Isa. 2:2; 11:9; 27:13; Jer. 51:25; Ezek. 20:40; Mic. 4:1; Zech. 8:3).

The Babylonians regarded the earth as a huge mountain. In fact, they actually called the earth “E-kur” which literally means “Mountain-house”. So, God was, in effect, speaking to the king in a language he could understand.

36 “This is the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king.

Daniel explains this was the content of the dream – now he will give the interpretation.

37 You, O king, are a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory;

38 and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, He has given them into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—you are this head of gold.

The Babylonians believed that their gods were earth-oriented, so to start with, Daniel wanted to distinguish the One true God by saying, “the God of heaven”.

Secondly, he wanted to make it clear that Nebuchadnezzar was not a self-made man. Rather, the God of heaven has given him a kingdom, power, strength, and glory. All this came from the God of heaven.

Daniel then described the level of control in King Nebuchadnezzar’s reign. Wherever in his kingdom, people or animals were found, Nebuchadnezzar’s rule was absolute. This is what uniquely made him the “**head of gold.**” Nebuchadnezzar had unchecked authority (humanly speaking). His word was law – whatever he said. No prior law could challenge him. Humanly speaking, he had the purest form of raw power and rulership. He was the gold standard of direct and supreme authority!

Nebuchadnezzar, in effect, embodied the state of Babylon. He himself was this head of gold. Everything that defined Babylon was represented in him.

But the message, in effect, was “You and your kingdom are a passing phenomenon.”

39 But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth.

“**But after you**” indicates that his kingdom shall pass. It is not going to last forever. Remember the king had been thinking about this before he went to sleep and had this dream (2:29). Kings were often paranoid about how long they would be able to remain in power and what their legacy would be. What lasting mark would they make?

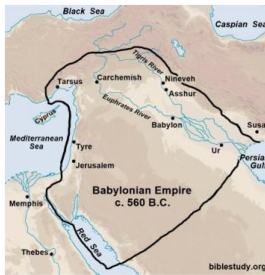
Nebuchadnezzar is told straight out that God sovereignly controls who is in power (v. 37) and that after him will arise another kingdom that would be inferior to his. This refers to the Medo-Persian empire that would usurp power from Babylon in 539 BC. So, as it turned out, Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom would only last for 66 years. That is a blip on the screen of history! Try as hard as he might; he wasn't building something that would last.

But Daniel didn't give him any dates only that there would be a successor and that the successor would be inferior. Again, Nebuchadnezzar is presented the gold standard of absolute authority. Whereas Nebuchadnezzar's word was law (whatever he said), the Medes and the Persians had laws that even the king couldn't change – which made for a more inferior form of government in terms of the king's raw power (cf. Dan. 6:8, 12, 15).

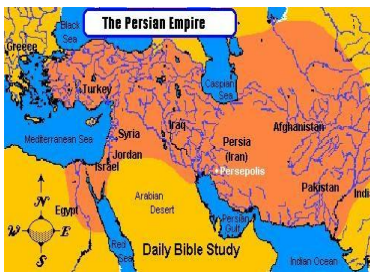
The Medo-Persian empire (beginning with Cyrus the Great) would last for 208 years, from 539 BC to 331 BC. This would give way to the Grecian empire ruled by Alexander the Great, which would rule for 185 years. The Grecian empire would move fast and be very large in scope, but neither did it have enduring power being subdued in 146 B.C.

But in the meantime, it was vast in scope, as it says here in verse 39, ruling “**over all the earth.**” Each of the successive empires became weaker in centralized power but more expansive in terms of territory. Medo-Persia was larger than Babylon, Greece was larger than Medo-Persia, and Rome was larger in scale than all the forerunners. And yet each kingdom became increasingly inferior in terms of centralized control.

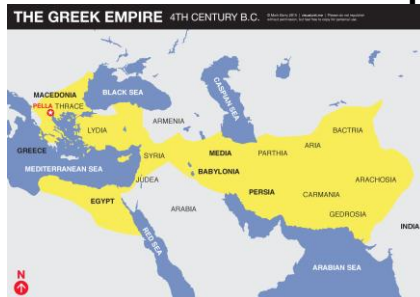
Slide # 5 – Babylonian Empire



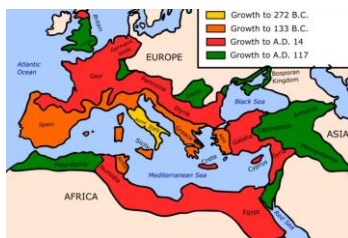
Slide # 6 – Medo-Persian Empire



Slide # 7 – Grecian Empire



Slide # 8 – Roman Empire



40 And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.

The fourth successive kingdom would be Rome. And it would be as strong as iron, known for its destructive power. Note the language: “Breaks in pieces” (twice), “shatters” (everything), and “crushes” (twice). No one messed with Rome.

It was the Romans who systematized crucifixion as the manner of capital punishment – which made a statement! It ruled with a “rod of iron,” so to speak. It was more ruthless than any of the previous kingdoms.

In duration, it went from 146 BC to AD 476 which is over 600 years. But then, as it went along, the Roman Empire was divided into an Eastern and Western branch. While the West went until 476 AD in the East it continued on for about another thousand years until 1453 AD. In total, that means the Roman Empire existed for about 1600 years before it went dormant.

Daniel only saw earthly Gentile kingdoms that would be in place prior to the coming of Messiah’s kingdom. Christ referred to this period as “the times of the Gentiles” (Lk. 24:21). As God charts history, these are the significant kingdoms in place in relation to His people, Israel. Again, there are only FOUR.

Slide # 9

- 1) Babylon
- 2) Medo-Persia
- 3) Greece
- 4) Rome

They are all connected in that they are all successive to one another just as one part of the body is connected to another part of the body – just as the head gives way to the chest and arms, which then gives way to the belly and thighs, which then gives way to the legs which are connected to the feet. There is one uniform figure connected to a consecutive developing picture that portrays Gentile history from the time of Babylon to the Second Coming of Christ.

Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 are parallel passages describing the same historical realities but with different imagery. In Daniel 2, the imagery of the successive kingdoms is that of an impressive metallic human-like figure. That represents man’s view. In Daniel 7, the imagery of these same kingdoms is presented in the form of wild beasts, which is God’s view.

Daniel 7:23 is very explicit that there are only FOUR kingdoms, and out of this fourth kingdom comes the Antichrist. Furthermore, Daniel 9:26 is very clear that the Antichrist who is to come will come from the people who destroyed the Jewish Temple in 70 AD, which, of course, was the Romans. That makes it very clear that this FOURTH empire is Rome.

Daniel says more about this fourth kingdom than all the others combined – and the reason is because this is where it all ends up. This is the finale before the kingdom comes. It ends up with Rome – the final stage of the Roman Empire.

Remember, the king is being shown, in particular, what “will be in the latter days” (v. 28). Yes, in survey form, he is shown what leads up to that time, but then he focuses on the very end in a concentrated manner.

The focus here is on the last phase of the fourth empire – the final form of the Roman Empire, which is presented in the form of the two-feet. There is a real emphasis here as seen in verses 41-45.

41 Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter’s clay and partly of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay.

The final form of the Roman Empire is presented here. This is the form it will have assumed after Israel is back in the land in the latter days – which is where Israel is at today. And the reason I say this is because Daniel goes on to show that this is the form of the Roman Empire that will be in place at the time of the Second Coming of Christ.

Whereas earlier in verse 33, he spoke of “*its legs of iron*” and in verse 40, that the kingdom “*shall be as strong as iron*,” now he speaks in terms of the feet and toes being a mixture of iron and clay. This distinction in substance speaks to the reality of two distinct stages of existence, namely an earlier state and a later stage. Of course, the feet and toes are the later stage – what we often refer to as the Revived Roman Empire of the latter days.

Normally people have 10 toes. So when it speaks of feet (plural) and toes (plural) we would naturally think that 10 toes are in view.

These 10 toes in Daniel 2 logically correspond to the ten horns on the fourth beast in Daniel 7:7. The 10 horns there correspond to 10 latter-day kings who form the base of Antichrist’s empire as seen in Dan. 7:24. Furthermore, this harmonizes with the 10 horns/kings who will serve with the Antichrist as seen in Rev. 17:12.

Dan. 2:41 “toes” – 2:43 “these kings”

Dan. 7:7 beast with “ten horns” – 7:24 “ten horns are ten kings”

Rev. 17:12 “ten horns...are ten kings”

There is a consistency here that harmonizes with the final stage of the Roman Empire – which, in effect, is a revived Roman Empire, which is part of the story of the fourth kingdom, as presented here in Daniel 2.

The Bible shows that in the end, Israel will be back in the land, and it shows that in the end, it is this final form of the Roman Empire that will be directly struck by Christ. All systems are go – it’s just a matter of timing.

This is definitely the future because at no point in history did Rome ever have 10 contemporaneous kings in place at the same time. This looks forward to a latter-day form of the Roman Empire which roughly corresponds to those nations around the Mediterranean Sea. This in general, relates to modern-day Europe, of which Rome is the hub.

The feet and the toes, representing the final form of the Roman Empire, are shown to be partly of clay and partly of iron. That is an interesting combination. As verse 41 says, “***the kingdom shall be divided***”. Both strength (iron) and weakness (clay) will be represented, yet the strength of the iron shall be in it.

42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.

The last phase of the Roman Empire will be mixed in nature -partly strong and partly fragile. This marks a change from the earlier Roman Empire, which was signified by the legs, which were only iron (v. 33).

This tenfold arrangement of the Roman Empire [represented by the toes] has never been witnessed on earth, even to this day. That can only mean that the Roman Empire, long dormant, has not yet completed its prescribed role in world affairs. – ***Charles Feinberg***

Since Roman history provides no fulfillment of this federation of kings (which seems to number ten, because of the number of toes, and passages like [Daniel 7:24](#) and [Revelation 17:12](#)) this prophecy must

still be future. Since the fall of the Roman Empire, there has never been a world-dominating empire equal to Rome. Many have tried – the Huns, Islam, the so-called Holy Roman Empire, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin – but none have succeeded. Each of these had amazing power and influence, but nothing compared to that of the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire, in some form or another, will be revived under the leadership of the final dictator, the Antichrist. – **David Guzik**

The MIXUTRE will be a combination of units or nations in which some have great strength and some don't.

The uniform testimony of Scripture is that the revived Roman empire from out of which the antichrist will come (see Dan. 9:26-27) will consist of a 10-unit confederacy. This is seen in Daniel 2, Daniel 7, Rev. 13, and Rev. 17 (cf. Dan. 2:33, 41, 42, 43, 44; 45; 7:7-8, 19-20, 23-24; Rev. 13:1; 17:12). On this the Scriptures present a consistent, uniform testimony.

43 As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

Here, Daniel adds more detail. The mixture in view involves a mingling of “the seed of men” that will not adhere well together.

It is amazing how people lock into their own “kind” in terms of nationalities and ethnic groups and often form all manner of prejudices, biases, and partialities. People, by nature, often tend to be very “clicky.”

It is very difficult to just throw differing groups of people together and expect them to automatically mesh well. That essentially is the calling of the Church, which is achieved by the power of the Spirit – and yet even then, there are struggles. The United States has often been called a “Melting Pot” society because of so many different kinds of people represented in society. And yet when I googled it, AI said this:

The United States is often called a "melting pot" to describe how different cultures and ethnicities combine to create a rich American society. However, this metaphor has been criticized for its simplistic assumptions and for failing to recognize the diversity of American society. – **AI**

The point is the 10 units in view will have internal struggles in terms of getting along among themselves. This mixed emphasis is very strong!

Slide # 11

- v. 41 partly potter's clay and partly of iron
- v. 41 iron mixed with ceramic clay
- v. 42 partly of iron and partly of clay
- v. 43 iron mixed with ceramic clay
- v. 43 iron does not mix with clay

In view all the way through verses 41 through 43 are the 10 toes which in verse 44 are then called "kings". The toes are kings as seen in verse 44.

44 And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

In the days of these kings – what kings? Well, the kings represented by the 10 toes just addressed at length.

Slide # 12

Revelation 17:12–13 (NKJV)

12 "The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings with the beast.

13 These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast.

In the days of these 10 kings who come out of a revived form of the Roman Empire and who will be in league with Antichrist – in the days of these kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

Again, God is called "the God of heaven," emphasizing His sovereign authority and power over all in contrast to the earthly "gods" of the Babylonians (cf. 2:28, 37, 44).

In Daniel's interpretation, there would be four MAJOR Gentile empires during the course of world history that would then be brought down by the God of heaven Who sets up another kingdom that will last forever. There will be no successor to God's kingdom. It shall stand forever! And when God's kingdom comes it comes smashing and totally obliterating all remnants of all the earthly kingdoms that have gone before it.

In one sense, all these earthly kingdoms are tied together and have an accumulative effect. One blends into the next. They are distinct and yet there are assimilating factors as each one builds on the previous ones. But they are all going down! As verse 35 says, “**No trace of them**” will be found. It is a complete start-over point!

Slide # 13

Daniel’s Overview of World History

Babylon

Medo-Persia

Greece

Rome (2 -stages)

Some have tried to spiritualize the text by saying what is in view is a takeover of the world by the church through the gospel. But that makes no sense for lots of reasons. In view here is a single, sudden, decisive event that totally pulverizes all the kingdoms of this world once and for all. Spiritualizing the text is a violation of it.

This does not refer to the first coming of Christ (which would make the kingdom = the church), since Christ did not destroy the Roman Empire at His first coming, nor were there 10 kings ruling at the same time then. – **Charles Ryrie**

This prophetic revelation makes clear that the kingdom from heaven is not a spiritual kingdom which by spiritual processes will gradually conquer the earth, but rather a sudden catastrophic judgment from heaven destroying the political kingdoms of the Gentiles. ... The revelation gives no support to either the amillennial view that the kingdom is a spiritual kingdom now on earth or to the postmillennial view that the kingdom will gradually gain control over the earth spiritually in a thousand years or more. The destruction of the Gentile world powers is an event, not a process and will be fulfilled by Christ in the Second coming - **John Walvoord , Prophecy Knowledge Handbook –pgs. 218-219**

God’s kingdom is the literal Messianic kingdom predicted by Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah in the OT (cf. Isa. 9:6; Jer. 23:5-6; Micah 4:1-8), and then predicted before the birth of Christ by the angel Gabriel.

Slide # 14**Luke 1:32–33 (NKJV)**

32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.

33 And **He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.**

In verse 45 Daniel specifically tells us HOW this is going to happen!

45 Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.”

Daniel referred to this “stone” ***cut out of the mountain without hands***” back in verse in verse 34. And there he said it “struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces.” Now adding detail to that he says, “it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold” which is to say it smashed the entire structure to smithereens.

Slide # 15

Twice, once in the telling of the dream (v. 34) and then in the interpretation of it (v. 45) Daniel mentions this STONE that was “cut out without hands”. This is to say it is a supernatural thing. It was not made by hands – which is to say of human making. This is a total GOD-THING!

Slide # 16

Isaiah 63:3 (NKJV)

3 “I have trodden the winepress **alone**, And from the peoples **no one was with Me**. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes.

Revelation 19:15 (NKJV)

15 Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He **Himself** will rule them with a rod of iron. He **Himself** treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

This is the singular work of God with the STONE that He has sovereignly and supernaturally prepared. It is a singular killer blow that totally wipes out all the “**one world dominant powers**” of the earth with a single blow.

The history of the World revolves around Christ – Christ the Stone! In the Bible this theme of the Messiah as a “Rock” or “Stone” is extensive.

- 1. Christ the Smitten Stone – to God** – In the N.T. in 1 Cor. 10:4 it tells us that the rock in the OT represented Christ. In Exodus 17:5-7 Moses struck the rock ONCE and out came water. In Numbers 20 in disobedience, he struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it. For this he could not go into the promised land. In Isa. 53:4 we read “Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.”
- 2. Christ the Corner Stone – to the church.** In Acts 4:11 Peter quoting from Ps. 118:22 says... “This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Paul affirms this in Eph. 2:20 (cf. 1 Cor. 3:11).
- 3. Christ – the Stumbling Stone – to the Jews.** In 1 Cor. 1:23 (NKJV), Paul says, “We preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block... In 1 Peter 2:8, Peter says Christ is “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” The Jews stumbled over the truth of the CRUCIFIXION. They could not see how a dying Messiah fit into God’s plan. They could not comprehend Him as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world (Jn. 1:29).
- 4. Christ the Smiting Stone – to the nations. Dan. 2:34-35**
Matthew 21:44 (NKJV) “And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”

Note that while it is true that the Revived Roman empire will have elements of the whole superstructure, and that is an accumulative part of a composite whole, it is ONLY the feet that will be stuck (cf. vs. 34)!

The crushing judgment comes in the days of the 10 kings which is the final form of Gentile World power that dominates the land of Israel under the rule of antichrist during “the times of the Gentiles” (Lk. 21:24).

This shows us the timing of this event as it relates to the 10-ruler confederation under Antichrist. It is in connection with this period of time that the Second Coming of Christ will take place when He comes to set up His kingdom.

So what we have here in Daniel 2:31-45 is an overview of world history symbolically portrayed from the time of Babylon to the final form of the Roman Empire, which will be destroyed by Christ at His Second Coming.

Slide # 17



In Daniel 2 God has given us a broad outline of world history that will climax in the kingdom of our Lord. And we definitely relate to the last part of the outline.

“This remarkable prophecy of Daniel was fulfilled exactly as he predicted. Babylon fell to the Medes and the Persians, the Persian empire to Alexander and the Macedonians, and the four divisions of Alexander’s empire to Rome. The West continues today in the heritage of the vast Roman empire. The final manifestation of that Roman Empire awaits the fulfillment of the last days.”

- **Believers Study Bible, pg. 1182**

There is all kinds of discussion and concern in the world over who will be the next superpower to rule the world. They talk about a one-world order and a reset that will make it happen. Will it be China? Will it be Russia? Will it be the United States? Will it be the world of Islam? Will it be the United Nations?

Right now, the whole world is jockeying for position. No one knows where it is going amidst a lot of talk about a New World Order. But God knows!

Well, we can relax because only God knows the future, and He has plainly told us that the last and final one-world order (prior to the coming of Christ) will be Rome!

It will be this last form of the Roman Empire that the Antichrist will be centered in and come out of and rule the world. Generally speaking this is the Mediterranean Basin corresponding generally to Europe. But that kingdom, too, will not endure. Then comes the kingdom that the God of heaven will set up, and it will stand FOREVER!

It is interesting to note that the very structure of the European Parliament building is often thought to reflect world unity as portrayed at the tower of Babel.

Slide # 18



AI Generated Overview

While the European Union headquarters building in Brussels [Belgium] isn't explicitly designed to directly mirror the Tower of Babel, the design of the European Parliament building in Strasbourg [France], particularly its large unfinished tower, is often referenced as having symbolic connections to the biblical story, with commentators drawing parallels to the idea of a unified Europe striving towards a common goal, sometimes even referred to as "Europe's Tower of Babel."

However it happens, in the end it will all circle back to the final form of the Roman Empire with its mixture of iron and clay. And it will be this final form that the judgment of God crushes with the stone cut out without hands.

The dream is CERTAIN and its interpretation is SURE! There is a double emphasis here! You can drive a stake down here! It is going to go down exactly as God has shown.

46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him.

How ironic! Here you have the head of gold flat on his face before a 17-year-old Hebrew slave who just minutes ago was in danger of having his life snuffed out.

Most believe that what is in view is homage for the God of Daniel in the presence of Daniel. The next verse would seem to bring this out. However, the king is so pagan in his background that there may be some confusion in his mind as to what is the proper response regarding this God of heaven and his messenger.

Certainly, Daniel would not have accepted worship that belongs to God alone. Daniel had already made it perfectly clear in verse 30 that his ability to know the dream was not about him. He has made the TRIPLE emphasis that it is the God in heaven who has revealed this secret, as seen in verses 28, 29, and 30.

47 The king answered Daniel, and said, “Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret.”

Just that quick the king acknowledged the superiority of Daniel’s God seeing Him as the higher power over all other gods. And he now sees him as the Lord (Master) of kings Who is a revealer of secrets. This is indeed high praise for Daniel’s God, but it was not yet saving faith.

Note it carefully: Nebuchadnezzar said “**your God**” and not “**MY God!**” True conversion comes to personally embrace the truth of God’s Lordship. This was expressed to Jesus when Thomas, in the resurrection, said to Jesus, “**My Lord and my God!**” (Jn. 20:28) That is saving faith. True conversion personally appropriates the Lordship truth of God. Nebuchadnezzar was not there yet.

It is one thing to have an intellectual assent, as Nebuchadnezzar at this point did, but it is a whole other thing to have a personal heart commitment that personally appropriates the truth of God. Romans 10:9-10 makes it clear that it is with the heart that one believes unto righteousness.

Even the demons believe (intellectually) and tremble (emotionally) (Ja. 2:19). But their hearts are not with Jesus. They do not have a saving faith.

48 Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise men of Babylon.

Give the king credit – he kept his word. Back in verse 6, he had promised the “wise men” that if they could tell him the dream and its interpretation, then he would give them “gifts, rewards, and great honor.” Daniel came through and so he honored Daniel exactly as he had promised.

The empire of Babylon had many provinces, but Babylon was the home base province. The king put Daniel in charge of this home base province.

In addition, he made Daniel the chief administrator over all the classifications of wise men in Babylon. They were now under his jurisdiction.

What a major promotion! This is amazing in light of 1) Daniel was a foreign slave; 2) Daniel was a Jew, and 3) Daniel was about 17 years old. This truly was a God-thing. If anyone in the entire empire had pull for the Jewish people – at this point, it was Daniel.

49 Also Daniel petitioned the king, and he set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego over the affairs of the province of Babylon; but Daniel sat in the gate of the king.

Daniel, ever thinking of others, did have one further request for his friends. He asked that they, in effect, be made his aides in administering the affairs of Babylon – which obviously was approved.

However, Daniel was in the most honored place as he sat in the gate of the king, having immediate and direct access to him.

Earlier, Nebuchadnezzar lay on his bed thinking about the future and what it had in store for him. No doubt his thoughts were about his reputation, his role in the course of history, and his legacy. As he dreamt, he saw this glorious metallic figure, but then suddenly, a stone hit it at the base, and the whole thing came crashing down to nothing. That was abrupt and startling. What could it mean?

Enter Daniel, who informed the king that all of his grandiose aspirations were ultimately going to come to NOTHING!

No human kingdom will stand. They are all just temporary – and in the end, they are blown away like chaff. Nothing lasts – except for what God builds. Our little “kingdoms” come and go” – God’s kingdom lasts!

In 1715, King Louis the 14th of France died after a reign of 72 years. He had called himself “the Great” and was the monarch who made the famous statement: “I am the state!” His court was the most magnificent in Europe.

But one day, he died!!!

However, he had planned out every detail of his funeral to be as self-serving and self-exalting as his life had been. His body lay in state in a golden coffin. Orders were given that the cathedral should be very dimly lit with a lone special candle set above his coffin to dramatize his greatness.

At the memorial service, thousands waited in hushed silence for the service to begin. Then, out of the shadows stepped the pastor, (Bishop Massilon) – he bent down, snuffed out the candle, and said, “Only God is great.”

Indeed, ONLY God is great!

For His is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever! Amen! (cf. 1 Chron. 29:11; Mt. 6:13).