Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream (Part 2)
Message 2 in “Back To The Future” Series from Daniel
Daniel 2:24- (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

As we continue with our series of messages from the Book of Daniel, please turn with me once again to Daniel the second chapter.

If you were with us last Lord’s Day for the first part of our message on Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream we learned that King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that was so disturbing he couldn’t sleep.

He called in all of his wise men to see if they could tell him the dream and what the dream meant. When they couldn’t, Nebuchadnezzar issued a decree to have all the wise men in Babylon executed. Included in this decree was Daniel, Hananiah, Meshael and Azariah.

After requesting some time to pray about this matter, God revealed Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream as well as the dream’s interpretation to Daniel in the form of a “night vision.”

Today in PART TWO of this message on “Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream” we are going to be studying VERSES 24-49 of Daniel chapter 2.

In these verses we will focus on these four key points:

(vs. 24-25) Daniel’s Intervention
(vs. 26-35) Daniel’s Revelation
(vs.36-45) Daniel’s Interpretation
(vs. 46-49) Daniel’s Promotion

Before we get into our study, let’s go to God in prayer.

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First, let’s consider………..

I. Daniel’s Intervention (vs. 24-25)

Daniel 2:24-25 (NKJV)

24 Therefore Daniel went to Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon. He went and said thus to him: “Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; take me before the king, and I will tell the king the interpretation.”

25 Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, “I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.”

1. Once God had revealed Nebuchadnezzar’s dream and its interpretation to Daniel, Daniel's first order of business was to track down Arioch the captain of King Nebuchadnezzar’s guard and intervene on behalf of the wise men and put a stop to the killing.

2. Instead of selfishly thinking about “saving his own hide” as well as those of his friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, Daniel also sought to spare the lives of those magicians…..astrologers ……..sorcerers……and Chaldeans, as well.

3. This reveals two important things: For one, it reveals what kind of man Daniel was. He was a man of godly character and integrity. This was an act of complete selflessness on Daniel’s part. But it also reveals the wonderful grace of God. God provided a “go between” an “advocate” to intervene on behalf of those wise men. They were as good as dead until Daniel intervened and spared their lives.

4. Don’t miss this valuable truth! Just like those “wise men” you and I were “as good as dead” until Jesus Christ intervened on our behalf.

5. You know up to this point Arioch has seemed like a pretty nice guy. After all, he did grant Daniel, Shadrach, Meshech and Abednego time to pray to their God about Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.
6. But in verse 25 we see Arioch’s “true colors.”

25 Then Arioch quickly brought Daniel before the king, and said thus to him, “I have found a man of the captives of Judah, who will make known to the king the interpretation.”

Like a little boy that has just caught a big fish, Arioch can’t wait to show Nebuchadnezzar his catch. Notice how he takes credit for finding Daniel. Remember in verse 24 we learned it was Daniel who went to find Arioch, not the other way around.

You see, though he had treated Daniel and his friends kindly, Arioch was a “cut throat” at heart. He was hoping to “cash in” on the gifts and rewards Nebuchadnezzar was offering and possibly receive a promotion.

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Well let’s move on to……..

II. Daniel’s Revelation (vs. 26-35)

Daniel 2:26-35 (NKJV)

26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, “Are you able to make known to me the dream which I have seen, and its interpretation?”

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, “The secret which the king has demanded, the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, and the soothsayers cannot declare to the king.

28 But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream, and the visions of your head upon your bed, were these:

29 As for you, O king, thoughts came to your mind while on your bed, about what would come to pass after this; and He who reveals secrets has made known to you what will be.

30 But as for me, this secret has not been revealed to me because I have more wisdom than anyone living, but for our sakes who make known the
interpretation to the king, and that you may know the thoughts of your heart.

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.

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.

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.

1. The first thing Nebuchadnezzar asked Daniel was, “Can you tell me what I dreamed and what the dream means?

2. Daniel immediately re-directs the King’s attention away from himself and pointed Him toward God.

   In essence what Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar was “No human being can tell you your dream and what it means; I can’t........your wise men can’t....your Babylonian gods can’t.....BUT THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN WHO CAN!

3. Brothers and sisters, man cannot provide all the answers to life’s questions. BUT THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN WHO CAN!

   Man cannot solve all of his own problems. BUT THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN WHO CAN!

   Man cannot provide the solutions to all the world’s troubles, BUT THERE IS A GOD IN HEAVEN WHO CAN!

4. Having directed Nebuchadnezzar’s attention toward the God of heaven, Daniel now reveals the content of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.
Notice first of all in verse 28, Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar his dream has to do with “the future.”

28a But there is a God in heaven who reveals secrets, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days.

That term “latter days” literally means “the last days” or “the end of time.”

5. Now as Daniel reveals the content of the dream, the focal point is on two objects: One was “the giant image.” The other object was “the stone.”

(A) The Giant Image (vs. 31-33)

- The giant image was that of a MAN. This image was so huge and awesome in its appearance it was terrifying. (v.31)

- The head of the image was of fine gold. (v. 32a)

- The chest and arms were of silver. (v. 32b)

- The belly and thighs were of bronze. (v.32c)

- The legs were of iron. (v.33a)

- The feet and toes were partly of iron and partly of clay. (v.33b)

(B) The Stone (vs. 34,35)

- Verse 34 tells us “the stone was cut out without hands.” This tells us the stone is not human in its origin.

- Verse 34 also tells us “the stone struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and broke them into pieces.” The result of this was the whole image crumbled and became like “chaff in the wind.”

- Then in verse 35 Daniel revealed that “the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the earth.”

A GIANT IMAGE of gold, silver, bronze, iron and clay.

A STONE that is not of human origin crushing the giant image to bits then becoming a great mountain so large it fills the earth.
That’s the dream……..BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Let’s consider………..

III. Daniel’s INTERPRETATION (vs. 36-45)

1. Before we get into the specifics of this interpretation, I would like for you to look at THE IMAGE on that handout you were given earlier. Let me give you a general overview of what you are looking at.

Starting with the top of the head all the way down to the toes this image represents approximately 2,500 years of GENTILE domination over the JEWISH people.

As you are about to see in Daniel’s interpretation, this image depicts the RISE and FALL of FIVE EMPIRES, four of which have already happened. The rise and eventual fall of the fifth empire may be much closer than any of us realizes.

If you look at this IMAGE as a prophetic “time clock” with the “head” representing the beginning of the 2,500 years of Gentile domination and the toes representing the end of history, you can see we are now living in “the latter days” that Daniel spoke of back in VERSE 28.

2. Now let’s go through Daniel’s interpretation of this dream piece by piece.

(A) The HEAD of GOLD represents the BABYLONIAN empire.

Daniel 2:36-38 (NKJV)

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

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 Babylonian Empire rose in 606 B.C. and fell in 536 B.C.
Babylon had existed for centuries before this time, but only under Nebuchadnezzar (605-562 BC) had she reached her height. Nebuchadnezzar conquered all the land from Persia to Egypt, picking up the reins of power left un-held by the decline of Assyria. During this time he conquered Judah, taking its citizens into captivity to Babylon. Remember this is how Daniel wound up in Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar also played a major role in beautifying and strengthening the city of Babylon. Covering 200 square miles, the city boasted 250 watchtowers and walls 87 feet thick. One of the seven wonders of the ancient world was Babylon’s “Hanging Gardens.”

But Babylon was also a city of rank paganism. Within its walls stood 53 temples and 1,327 shrines to various deities.

The city streets were named after the gods of Babylon. Cults to dozens of different deities flourished. In all, the Babylonian priests worshiped 4,000 separate gods. Babylon also became a center of astrology and the occult. This is why the false one-world religion that will exist during the days of the Antichrist is referred to in the scriptures as Babylon the Great in Revelation 17.

By the time we get to the end of Daniel chapter 5, we will see the fall of the Babylonian empire and the rise of the next empire on Nebuchadnezzar’s image.

(B) THE CHEST and ARMS of SILVER represents the MEDE-PERSIAN empire.

Look at what Daniel says to Nebuchadnezzar in verse 39a…..

Daniel 2:39a (NKJV) But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours;

The Mede-Persian Empire rose in 536 B.C. and fell in 330 B.C.

The only thing Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar about this second kingdom is that it would be “inferior” to his kingdom. Now what did Daniel mean by that?

Would it be inferior in SIZE? No! In fact, the Mede-Persian Empire was much larger than the Babylonian empire.

The “inferiority” of the Mede-Persian empire had to do with
its power struggle. You see, the Babylonian empire had been ruled by one man, Nebuchadnezzar.

But in the Mede-Persian empire there were lots of internal political struggles as the Medes and Persians both fought for political dominance. Think of it as the power struggle between liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans. Each saw the other more as a “necessary evil” rather than as a friendly ally.

(C) Moving down the image we come to the BELLY and THIGHS of BRONZE, which represents the GREEK empire.

Look once again at verse 39......
Daniel 2:39 (NKJV)  But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours; (there’s the Mede-Persian empire) then another, a third kingdom of bronze, which shall rule over all the earth. (Daniel is referring to the Greek empire)

The Greek Empire rose in 330 B.C. and fell in 146 B.C.

The Greek empire ruled during the period between the Old and New Testaments. While the Greek empire didn’t have as much of an impact upon the Jewish people as did the Babylonian empire and the Mede-Persian empire, perhaps the most significant contribution of the Greek empire is that it established the Greek language as the predominant language in the world at that time. And of course most of the New Testament was written in the Greek language.

The most familiar name associated with the Greek empire is that of Alexander the Great. Legend has it that when Alexander had conquered all the known world at that time, he lamented over not having any more worlds to conquer.

(D) This brings us to the LEGS of IRON on Nebuchadnezzar’s image, which represents the ROMAN empire.

Notice Daniel gives us much more detail about this empire than the previous two.

Daniel 2:40 (NKJV) 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 Roman empire rose in 146 B.C. and ruled until 476 A.D.

The Roman empire ruled the world throughout the entire life of CHRIST. Roman King Herod was the one who issued the decree to kill all Jewish males under the age of two in an attempt to kill Jesus. Roman procurator Pontius Pilate and the Roman soldiers all played key roles in the crucifixion
of Jesus. And the Romans were still in power when the Church was established and was responsible for the martyrs of many of the early Christians.

Whereas the Babylonian, Mede-Persian and Greek empires allowed the people they conquered to continue with their cultural traditions and pretty much left them to themselves, the Romans literally “stomped” the countries they conquered into submission to Roman rule. Thus the symbol of the “IRON LEGS” on Nebuchadnezzar's image.

The Roman Empire was never over-thrown, it just sort of slid off into oblivion, which points us to the next empire on Nebuchadnezzar’s image.

(E) This brings us to the FEET and TOES of CLAY and IRON.

Daniel 2:41-43 (NKJV) 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. 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. 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.

Because of the connection between the legs of iron and the feet of iron and clay, most Bible scholars believe the fifth and final empire to rise will be a re-emergence of the the Roman empire in the form of a joint relationship between the Roman Catholic Church (the clay) and the League of Ten Nations (the iron). This fragile union between RELIGION and GOVERNMENT will give birth to the Antichrist’s evil empire which will inflict the most horrible slaughter against the Jewish people ever seen in history, during the last 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation.

3. But let’s not forget about the other important piece in Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, “THE STONE.”
Daniel 2:44-45 (NKJV)

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.

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.”

Who is “the stone?” None other than JESUS CHRIST.

In Psalm 118:22, Mark 12:10, and Acts 4:11,12 Jesus is called “the stone the builder rejected.”

Jesus is “the stone cut out of the mountain, but not by human hands. He is the “stone” that will ultimately crush the Antichrist’s evil empire and avenge the blood of every martyr executed by this Satanic world dictator.

Then Christ’s will establish His eternal kingdom, the kingdom without end.

Having told Nebuchadnezzar his dream and what his dream meant, let’s briefly look at……

IV. Daniel’s PROMOTION (vs. 46-49)

Daniel 2:46-49 (NKJV)

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

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.”

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.

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.

1. Imagine this scene: Here you have the world’s most powerful ruler bowing down before a captive Jewish slave.

2. The way verse 46 is worded it appears Nebuchadnezzar was worshiping Daniel and wished to offer sacrifices to him. But that’s not what happened at all. Nebuchadnezzar is humbling himself in the presence of Daniel’s God, and offers to supply anything Daniel needs to make a sacrifice to his God, something Daniel had not been able to do since being carried out of Judah.

3. Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged the superiority of Daniel’s God over his false gods. And just as he promised, Nebuchadnezzar showered Daniel with many gifts and promoted him to a position of high honor.

4. Daniel probably could have asked for the moon at this point and Nebuchadnezzar would have tried to get it for him. But instead Daniel requested positions of honor for his Hebrew friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. And Nebuchadnezzar gave them what Daniel asked.

5. Luck? Good fortune? Coincidence? NO! It was all by the divine providence of God! God was in control.

**CONCLUSION**

In closing I want to share with you something Dr. David Jeremiah wrote in his book, *The Handwriting on The Wall.* Listen closely.......

When the thirteen colonies were still part of England, Professor Alexander Tyler wrote about the fall of the Athenian Republic over a thousand years earlier. He said.....

“A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves money from the public treasury. From that moment on the majority always vote for the candidates promising the most money from the public treasury, with the result that a democracy always collapses over loose fiscal policy followed by a dictatorship. The average age of the world’s great civilizations has been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through the following sequence: from BONDAGE to SPIRITUAL FAITH, from SPIRITUAL FAITH to GREAT COURAGE, from GREAT COURAGE to LIBERTY, from LIBERTY to ABUNDANCE, from ABUNDANCE to SELFISHNESS, from SELFISHNESS to COMPLACENCY,
from COMPLACENCY to APATHY, from APATHY to DEPENDENCY, and from DEPENDENCY back to BONDAGE.


Where are we now? The answer is obvious isn’t it?

But while we may feel a sense of despair and hopelessness with regards to America’s future, we must put all our FAITH, HOPE and TRUST in Almighty God, who is in control!

As the time has now come for ISRAEL to emerge back into the spotlight and AMERICA to fade into the shadows of history, we must take great comfort in knowing EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO GOD’S DIVINE PLAN! **ALMIGHTY GOD IS STILL IN CONTROL!**