

A Study of the Book of Daniel

Chapter 2

Introduction: People want to know what their future holds; however, no matter how carefully we plan and prepare, no one knows for sure what will happen to us between now and bedtime! Accidents ax their way into our lives. We live in a world where good news becomes bad news all too often, but central to the message of Daniel 2 is the truth about our Creator God who cares about our lives with intense interest. He knows our pain today and unfolds a future of hope and meaning for those who seek Him.

Read Daniel 2:1-12 Notice how the wise men of the kingdom make the god’s out to be distant and unworried about what happens on earth.

Read Vs. 13-19 **There are two key points**

1. Daniel asks for time. Daniel enlists his friends to pray for God’s help to understand the dream. They held a little small group prayer meeting, and during the night the secret is revealed to Daniel.
2. As in Daniel 1, Daniel is given a time of testing. After the time, God provides an understanding of visions and dreams. Daniel tells us the same thing will happen at the end of time. After a “*time, times, and dividing of time*” the visions and dreams of Daniel’s prophecies will be revealed to those who truly love and obey God.

Read Vs. 20-23

Daniel says it is the God of Heaven, the True God, that “*changeth the times and the seasons.*” Compare this with Daniel 7:25, speaking about the Little Horn Power who “*thinks to change times and laws.*” The Little Horn Power (antichrist) will try to do what only God has the right to do.

Read Vs. 24-30

Daniel is taken to Nebuchadnezzar to interpret the dream. Contrast Arioch’s statement “*I have found*” with Daniel’s statement “*God has revealed.*” Notice Arioch takes the credit while Daniel gives the credit to God.

Two key points:

1. God revealed the dream to “*Show what shall be in the latter days.*” This vision is for the end of time.
2. God is represented by Daniel as a personal God, who cares about what happens on this earth. He knows the mysteries and troubles of our lives. He is interested in giving us peace of mind. Contrast this to the attitude expressed in verse 11 of the distant and uncaring gods of the wise men.

Read Vs. 31 – 35 **Describe this image.**

Head of _____
Arms & Chest of _____
Belly & Thighs of _____
Legs of _____
Feet & Toes of _____ and _____

Did you notice two significant things about the progression of the medals? First, the metals get stronger as they come down the image. Second, they are less valuable as they descend. As we will see in our next verses, these metals represent kingdoms starting with the Babylonian kingdom down through history to the division of the

pagan Roman empire. As we look, history tells of each kingdom getting stronger and ruling a greater area, and at the same time morality slides, shown by the less valuable metals. After the metal man we see that a stone is cut out “Without hands,” and hits the image on the feet and toes, crumbling the whole image to powder and the wind blows it away. This stone then fills the whole earth.

Let’s continue our journey as the Bible unfolds this wonderful prophecy.

Read Vs. 36 – 43 What was the interpretation?

<u>Feature & Material</u>	<u>Kingdom</u>	<u>Period</u>
Head of <u>Gold</u>	Babylon	606 - 539 BC.
Arms & Chest of <u>Silver</u>	Medo-Persia	539 - 331 BC.
The Belly & Thighs of <u>Brass</u>	Greece	331 - 168 BC.
The Legs of <u>Iron</u>	Imperial Rome	168 BC to 476 AD.
The Feet & Toes of <u>Iron and Clay</u>	10 Kingdoms	476 AD – The End.
The Rock cut without hands	Christ’s Kingdom	

The Divided Kingdom = 10 Divisions of the Roman Empire

Rome became a divided kingdom around 476 AD. This is symbolized by the two feet and toes of iron and clay. The iron represents strength. The clay represents weakness. The ten main divisions, corresponding to the ten toes, were the Alamanni (*Germans*), the Franks (*French*), the Burgundians (*Swiss*), the Suevi (*Portuguese*), the Saxons (*English*), the Visigoth’s (*Spanish*), the Lombard’s (*Italians*), the Heruli, the Vandals, and the Ostrogoth’s. These tribes made victorious invasions as early as 351 A.D. History points to 476 A.D. as the date for the fall of the Roman Empire, when Emperor Augustulus was removed as king. These kingdoms had the idea that they could rule with the same power as the Roman Empire, yet, without a dictator, or one ruler. These ten kingdoms are known today as Europe. The Bible says, in Daniel 2:43 “*they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another.*” They tried to intermarry between nations to bring back the one world government, but, were never able to achieve the power and authority of the Roman Empire, men like Wilhelm Kaiser, Napoleon, Hitler, just to name a few.

As you can see we are living in the “Toes” era, just before the final climax of the stone coming down to crush the image and fill the earth.

Read Vs. 44-45 Identifying the Stone:

1 Peter 2:6-8 “*The Chief Corner Stone;*” Isaiah 28:16 “*A Foundation (Corner) Stone;*” 1 Cor. 10:4 – *The Rock is Christ.*” As we can see from these scriptures, the stone in this prophecy is none other than Jesus Christ. When does He come to claim the world as His own? At His 2nd coming!

Read Vs. 46 – 49

Because of his faithfulness to the True God of Heaven, He was blessed with honor, gifts and a promotion “*to ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief of the governors over all the wise men of Babylon.*”

Some Key Points

1. The Image makes you think of an Idol.
2. The world kingdoms are linked to Idolatry (paganism and false worship).
3. World kingdoms are completely destroyed (the false worship destroyed).
4. Christ’s kingdom takes the place of the great world empires.

Since this chapter takes us to the greatest event in history, the second coming of Christ, let’s see how the Bible describes His coming.

Read Acts 1:8-11

How did the Bible say that Jesus was going to come? _____

The Bible says that Jesus was taken up in a cloud. The angel said that Jesus would return in like manner. Let's look at another text that helps us understand how Jesus will come the second time.

Read Matt 24:30

Did you notice this passage tells us, once again, that Jesus is coming in the clouds but continues to let us know it will be with power and great glory! Jesus is coming as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He has purchased us with His own blood, on Calvary's tree, and longs to receive us into His kingdom. Notice how verses 25 - 27 describe His second coming.

Read Matt 24:25-27

Did you see what Jesus was saying? If you hear it on CNN, or see it in Time Magazine, don't believe it! And don't go! The second coming of Jesus will be **VISIBLE** to everyone! Just like lightning! In our next passage of Scripture we continue to see just how visible His coming will be.

Read Rev 1:7

It will be very visible. How many eyes will see it? _____. This includes you and me! Jesus' coming will be very visible! Today some believe that Jesus is going to come quietly and secretly take away His people, but notice how the Bible describes this event.

Read Ps 50:3

Are we catching a picture yet? **As Lightning, Every Eye shall See Him, God will not keep Silent!** What does this tell us about the return of our Lord? _____.

When Jesus came the first time, Satan had everyone looking for a king, with all its pomp and circumstance. But Jesus came humbly at His first Advent and was born in a humble manger, living a self sacrificing life, and died as our Saviour.

Now, when Jesus is going to return again the second time, Satan wants everyone to think it's going to be quiet and secret. Yet the Bible says that it will be an event that no one can miss! Jesus will not secretly steal away some of His people, but instead He will receive all of His people as their KING! Notice, our next passage of Scripture tells us who Jesus will take home to Heaven.

Read 1Thes 4:16-18

Jesus is coming to get all of His people, at the same time: Both the righteous dead whom He will resurrect, and the righteous living! He will come and take all of His people at the same time! When Jesus comes, there will be two groups of people, the saved and the lost. Let's look at them, starting with the wicked.

Read Rev 6:14-17

The wicked are trying to hide from, "*the Face of Him that sitteth on the throne,*" and from His glory. The Apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews 12:29, "*Our God is a consuming fire.*" Sin cannot stand in the presence of a Holy God. Now, let's look at the righteous.

Isa 25:9

Jesus' second coming as King of kings and Lord of lords is very near. The Bible plainly tells us His coming will not be secret or silent! Every eye shall see and every ear shall hear Him. Do you want to make a decision today, to make sure that you are ready for this great event?

