

Daniel Chapter 2:1-49 – “Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream”

Sunday, November 4, 2018

- ❖ Chapter Two represents the entire history of man...from the rise of Babylon...to the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom.
 - **SLIDE** – Prof. Alexander Tyler – writing...nearly 200 years ago...about the fall of the Athenian Republic of over 2,000 years ago...**OBSERVES:**
 - “The average age, of the world’s greatest civilizations has been 200 years. These nations have progressed through the following sequence - from bondage to spiritual faith, from spiritual faith to great courage, from 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 into bondage.”
 - If we view the world’s history as a **DRAMA**...we look at the stage and see that the curtain is drawn...waiting for the **FINAL** act of the play to begin...**Daniel Chapter two** takes us “**BEHIND** the scenes” ...to view the **UNFOLDING** of the last act in human **HISTORY!**
 - This **DRAMA** could be called...“The Times of the Gentiles” – **Luke 21:24**...which... as we pointed out last week...began in 605 BC...when Nebuchadnezzar conquered Jerusalem → **CHARACTERIZED** by: Gentiles inhabit the **COVENANT** land & no **DESCENDANT** of David...is seated on the throne as king!
- ❖ **Dan. 2:1-49** – Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream
 - **Ver. 1** – “**dreams**” - During a time of revelation...God often speaks through dreams and their interpretation.
 - “**troubled**” – anxious...disturbed
 - **SLIDE - Ver. 2** – “**magicians**” – astrology and divination
 - “**astrologers**” – this Aramaic word is only found in Daniel – enchanters... conjurers of spirits...necromancers
 - “**sorcerers**” – those who practice magic or sorcery
 - “**Chaldeans**” – inhabitants of Chaldea or **BABYLON**...it was used of those persons who were considered...**WISEST** in the land → **Dan. 1:20** – “**ten times better.**”
 - **Ver. 3** – “**to know the dream**” – Nebuchadnezzar had **FORGOTTEN** the dream.
 - **Ver. 4-13** – **Make Comments.**
 - **Ver. 14** – “**with counsel and wisdom**” → **Dan. 1:20.**
 - **Ver. 15-18** – **Make Comments.**
 - **Ver. 19-23** – Daniel and his friends...take time to **WORSHIP** God Almighty...for His revealing of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.
 - **Ver. 24** – Daniel intercedes for not only...himself and his friends... but also for the **PAGAN**...Babylonian **WISEMEN!**
 - “**I will tell the king the interpretation**” – what about the king’s requirement to tell the dream and the interpretation?...If Daniel knows the **INTERPRETATION** ...then he had to know the **DREAM** as well.
 - **Ver. 27** – “**cannot declare to the king**” → **Dan. 2:10.**
 - **Ver. 28-30** – **THREE** times...in these two verses...Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that his dream...is about the **FUTURE**...a therefore **PROPHETIC!**
 - **SLIDE** - “**what will be in the latter days**” – an **ESCATOLOGICAL** statement...it always speaks about the **END** Times...and in particular...it **ALWAYS** refers to

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- the consummation of **HISTORY**...all the way to coming or return of Messiah - **Genesis 49, Deuteronomy 4, Deuteronomy 31, Numbers 24, Jeremiah 23, Jeremiah 30, Jeremiah 48, Jeremiah 49, Ezekiel 38, Daniel 10, Josiah 3, Micah 4** and other places...in the New Testament – **Acts...chapter 2 and 2 Peter...chapter 3.**
- “**what would come to pass after this**” ...“**what will be**”
 - So...Nebuchadnezzar’s dream is a **PROPHECY** about...the latter days... covering all of the history of the nations...till Christ returns.
 - **SLIDE** - **Ver. 31-33** – Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream
 - Made out of metals of descending value...and decreasing specific **GRAVITY** or weight → Gold is heavier than silver...silver is heavier than bronze/brass... bronze/brass is heavier than iron...iron is heavier than iron and clay mixed.
 - The approximate specific gravity of gold is 19...silver 11...bronze/brass 8.5...iron 7.8.
 - ♦ In other words...gold at the top is more than twice as heavy...as the bottom of iron → whole thing is top heavy...in essence...waiting to **FALL**.
 - **SLIDE** – **Ver. 34-36** – Image Destroyed
 - “**cut out without hands**” – means it had no human **SOURCE**.
 - **READ** **Ver. 37-38** – Notice that Nebuchadnezzar is addressed in as a “king of kings”...a title that was given to him by God → **READ Rom. 13:1 → Acts 17:26.**
 - In other words...he is the supreme monarch in the earth...he **RULED** over everything and everyone...a total **AUTOCRACY**.
 - **SLIDE** – MacArthur: “He was given the right to rule the Earth, though he never extended his rule to encompass the Earth. The indication of the text is that he could have. For God gave him that right.” – **Ez. 26:7** says the same thing.
 - ♦ God raised up his kingdom as a **CHASTENING** agent... his kingdom lasted 70 years...the exact number of years that God wanted to chasten Israel...in the Babylonian captivity...before He sent them back to Israel.
 - **SLIDE** – Maps - **Ver. 39-41** - The image represents - mark it - four world empires in succeeding stages, from Nebuchadnezzar to Jesus Christ...
 - **HISTORICALLY...GOLD** → Babylon – Herodotus – Nebuchadnezzar was preoccupied by gold – 70 years...**SILVER** – Medo-Persian – preoccupied with silver - taxes paid only in silver coin – Xerxes used it to finance the Trojan War – 200 years...**BRONZE/BRASS** – Greece – Alexander’s troops had helmets... breastplates...shields and swords of bronze...it symbolized the power of his forces – 200 years...**IRON** - Leupold the Bible scholar says, “The Roman legions were noted for their ability...to crush all resistance with an iron heel.” - The Roman Empire lasted 500 years in the West...and all the way to 1453 in the East...until Constantinople was conquered...that’s a long time...no other empire even comes close...they were formidable.
 - **Ver. 42-43** – The text clearly implies that this final phase...will be marked by some sort of federation rather...than by a powerful single kingdom.
 - It will be related to the Roman empire – “**partly of iron and partly of clay**” - A revived Roman empire...will have an iron-like strength for conquest... but the

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mixed-in clay shows that...it will be vulnerable and flawed by human weakness and will be characterized by deterioration of its power base...European Economic Community...keep your eyes on Europe.

- **Ver. 44-45** – These verses present the closing **SCENE** of this **DRAMA**...
 - **SLIDE** - In contrast to the limited number of centuries...the four man-made empires lasted...this final God-established kingdom...is destined to endure forever...a realm never to be destroyed.
 - Not only **Daniel 7**...but parallel passages leave us in no doubt that...this last realm is the kingdom of God...ruled over by Christ and enduring eternally.
 - What I have presented to you is the **PREMILLENNIAL** view...which means that...this **EVERLASTING** kingdom has yet to be established.
 - ◆ Amillennialists hold that...this kingdom was established...by Christ at His *First* coming...and that now the church is that kingdom.
- Daniel closed his interpretation of the dream...by **ASSURING** Nebuchadnezzar ...that it was divinely **INSPIRED**...and absolutely **TRUSTWORTHY**.
- **Ver. 46-49** – Promotions all around!