

## ***Daniel 2***

1 God speaks to heathen kings like Pharaoh in the days of Joseph. Dreams from God are clear and memorable.

2 This king is no dummy. He doesn't want the wisdom of man; he wants divine wisdom. He wants them to tell him what he dreamed and when someone can do that he will know they can correctly interpret it.

3-5 Is it possible that he could not remember it? Or is it really a test?

Regardless he had determined if they could not do this they were all frauds and should be destroyed.

6-9 This king has wisely determined he will not fall for their vague interpretations - just like astrologers and fortune tellers use today. He caught on to their art of expressions that can be interpreted to fit anything. The jig is up.

10,11 Only gods can do this and the gods don't work with man - well that is not quite what the Jewish men would say. I hear this from rabbi today. They should learn from their own writings.

12,13 The king realizes they are all fakes and determines to have them all executed. Was Daniel not called to the meeting?

14,15 This man holds the position Potiphar held in Egypt. Daniel uses wisdom in his speech. First a question to ascertain the situation.

16,17 Unlike Joseph who heard the dream and had immediate knowledge of the interpretation, Daniel had to have time to pray and consult his friends.

18,19 He gathers his prayer support, and God answered their prayers. In a vision Daniel sees it, and as a result He praises God for answered prayer. He didn't wonder if he got it right, he knew!

20-22 Prayer of praise for all God is! His name represents his attributes. The specific ones mentioned are power and wisdom. Kings and nations and political climate come and go at his decree. The wise and discerning get their gift from God - NOT MAN. The revelation showed the nations to come by the decree of God. The false prophets couldn't find it out, only God could reveal it to those in relationship with Him.

23 God shares His own wisdom and power to those in relationship with Him. Notice again the certainty of Daniel. When you truly hear from God you will know.

24 He was concerned for the lives of the false prophets. Some of these guys will probably later be involved in tossing him in the Lion's Den. God's people are merciful because God in them is merciful.

25-27 Can you? No man can! Daniel resists the pull of power to see that all the glory goes to God.

28 But – THERE IS A GOD! There is One that reveals mysteries. Neb sought the answer from man when it was God who gave the revelation.

29,30 Daniel says it is revealed to him not because he's special but because God wants the king to understand. How humble this man is and how careful to give

the glory to God. No wonder God used him to record so much of end time prophecy.

31-35 The king must have been shaking as he knows this is a revelation from Almighty God. Daniel tells the details of this strange and vivid dream.

36-38 Neb is Babylon the head – gold was most common in this time. His Kingdom created the hanging gardens, one of the seven wonders of the world. They had conquered Egypt and all civilizations of the area. This could be considered the first great world power. We are taking a look at the governments of man on the earth from that time forward. That is why the image is a man. These governments are the way and workings of man.

39 Two arms Media and Persia - silver being their chief metal. Belly and thighs, Greece that later became divided and whose chief metal was bronze.

40 Rome - whose chief metal is iron and was divided into many kingdoms. There is the iron of the dictator and the clay of democracy.

41,42 Though a democracy, the Caesar really controlled things like a king. Sometimes the Senate would have more power, sometimes the lead man. We see the same mixture today in many places as strong leadership pits itself against elected officials. Democratic societies are quickly changed as the people become decadent and complacent and vote in liberal laws that weaken the country.

43 Every since Rome we have had dictators, kings, and democratic societies, weak and strong around the globe. Some of the dictators tried to grab large parts of the globe but soon failed and were defeated by the united opposition of the many.

44 Some have taught that man will bring in the Kingdom through reform of the governments of man. This verse could be a good argument that the kingdom is not just amongst those of men for the Rock obliterates the statue. It is a work of God. Paul declared the rock that followed them in the wilderness was Christ. He is the source of the Kingdom. Man did not form Him. The Spirit hurled Him into this earth. One day He will return in power and the governments of man will all fall and Jesus will sit on the throne of the world so that all mankind may know what it is to be in the Kingdom of God. This Kingdom is not passed on to the heir because Christ will reign forever as God promised to David. He has just heard a summary of the future of the world and the coming Kingdom of God.

45 It is a dream from God and this is the true interpretation. Neb's head must have been whirling!

46,47 Your God is God. He got the message. He has the testimony. What will he do with it? What will you do with it?

48,49 Much like Joseph, Daniel rises to the top because he is faithful to God. These Gentiles now have a godly ruler in the capital. He appoints his godly friends to carry out the administration while he deals with policy.