



PROPHECY SEMINAR



CONFLICT THROUGH THE CENTURIES

While the second chapter of Daniel is part of the historical section of the book, nevertheless it contains one of the most amazing prophecies. The prophecy found in this chapter is the foundation upon which all the other prophecies in Daniel are built.

In order to comprehend the prophecies of Daniel, the principle of REPETITION in OUTLINE prophecy must be understood. An outline prophecy is one that covers the whole span of time from the prophet's day until the second coming of Christ. Daniel 2 begins with the Babylonian Empire and culminates in the return of Jesus Christ. All of the prophecies in Daniel cover the same basic outline; however, each subsequent prophecy adds significant details that were not included in the initial one. In other words, the rest of the prophecies expand what is initially covered in broad sweeps in Daniel 2. The focal point of each expansion is always on the end time. Thus, when we finish our study of the book of Daniel we will have an accurate and somewhat detailed history of the world from Daniel's day to the end of time. Another factor that we should keep in mind in trying to understand the prophecies of Daniel is that the only nations that are mentioned in Daniel's prophecies are those nations that affect the covenant people of God. Some wonder why China and other great nations of antiquity were never mentioned in Scripture. The reason is simple—the Bible is only concerned with those nations that impact on God's chosen people. Therefore, the various empires that appear in Scripture are those that come in contact with the covenant people of God. Let's begin this fascinating study of Daniel 2 and discover how accurately God has foretold world history.

1. What happened to Nebuchadnezzar one evening? Daniel 2:1
"Nebuchadnezzar had _____."

2. What request did Nebuchadnezzar make of his wise men the next morning? Daniel 2:2-4
"To tell the king his _____."
NOTE: These Babylonian wise men professed to be interpreters of dreams; thus the king was not making an unusual request. It was something that they were accustomed to doing.

3. What was different about the king's request to interpret the dream this time? Daniel 2:5 "
_____ the dream to me."
NOTE: Nebuchadnezzar could not remember the dream.

4. Were the Babylonian wise men able to interpret the dream? Daniel 2:6-11
NOTE: The wise men of Babylon were totally discredited. They were unable to reveal the king's dream. If the king could have recalled the dream, they could have devised some interpretation. They professed to have supernatural power, but when they could not reveal the dream to the king, they showed

clearly that they had no supernatural power at all.

5. In his wrath, what was Nebuchadnezzar's command concerning all of the wise men of Babylon? Daniel 2:12, 13

"To _____ all the wise men of Babylon".

NOTE: In his rage, Nebuchadnezzar commanded all to be slain, even the wise men who were not present. Daniel, as a recently graduated wise man, evidently was not in this first audience before the king. But the death decree included him.

DANIEL'S RESPONSE

6. When Daniel learned about the death decree, what request did he make of the king? Daniel 2:14-16

To give him _____, that he might tell the king the _____.

7. Having been granted his request, what did Daniel do? Daniel 2:17, 18

"Made the decision _____ to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah... that they might seek mercies from the God of _____ concerning this secret.

" NOTE: Daniel and his friends went to the one Source they knew that had the answer to the king's dream—they went in prayer to the God of heaven.

8. When did God reveal the dream to Daniel? Daniel 2:19

"In a _____ vision."

9. As Daniel blessed and praised God for revealing the dream to him, he enumerated seven things which the dream tells about the God of heaven. List those seven things. Daniel 2:21, 22

- a. "He changes the _____ and the _____
- b. "He _____ kings and raises _____ kings."
- c. "He gives _____ to the wise."
- d. " _____ to those who have understanding."
- e. "He reveals _____ and _____ things."
- f. "He _____ what is in the _____."
- g. "The light _____ with Him."

NOTE: This is the essence of what the prophecy of Daniel 2 reveals. God is in control of the events of human history. The rise and fall of empires appear as if happening by the will of men, but Daniel 2 reveals to us very clearly that God is behind all human events. Nothing happens that God is not already aware of and has not allowed. How comforting it is to know that God still is in control of the events of the earth. Sometimes we may not understand what is happening in our world today, but Daniel tells us clearly that God is in control.

10. What request did Daniel make of Arloch? Daniel 2:24, 25

"Do not _____ the wise men of Babylon."

11. To whom does Daniel give the credit for being able to interpret the dream to Nebuchadnezzar? Daniel 2:26-30

"The God of _____."

NOTE: None of the other wise men could reveal the dream. Only Daniel could. Yet Daniel does not claim superior intellect or wisdom. He clearly gives the credit to the One who revealed the dream to him — the God of heaven

THE DREAM AND THE INTERPRETATION

12. What did Daniel say the king saw in his dream? Daniel 2:31

"A great _____."

13. List the various elements that make up the image. Daniel 2:32, 33

- a. The head of _____
- b. The chest and arms of _____
- c. The belly and thighs of _____
- d. The legs of _____
- e. The feet partly of _____ and partly of _____

14. What did the stone cut out without hands do to the image? Daniel 2:34

"It _____ the image.. .and broke them in pieces."

15. What did the stone become? Daniel 2:35 (857) [857].

"A great _____ and filled the whole earth."

NOTE: Nebuchadnezzar was obviously sitting on the edge of his seat. Daniel had clearly revealed to him the dream that the God of heaven had given him. Now he anxiously wondered what the dream meant.

16. Who now gives the interpretation of the dream to Nebuchadnezzar?

Daniel 2:36, 45

Daniel and _____

NOTE: Daniel could only give the interpretation that the God of heaven had revealed to him in vision, and we will do well to take it just as He gave it. The best way to interpret the Bible, and the best way to interpret the prophecies, is to let the Bible, itself, explain the symbols.



17. What does the head of gold represent? Daniel 2:37, 38

Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, _____

NOTE: The king was regarded as the titular head of the state. That is why Nebuchadnezzar represented Babylon, the empire that began the prophecy. Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom ruled the world from 606-538 B.C., as one of the mightiest empires of antiquity, one that could aptly be described as the head

of gold. Notice that the prophecy begins with Daniel's time.

18. Was Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom to last forever? Daniel

2:39 _____.

NOTE: Succeeding kingdoms would be inferior to Babylon, but they would rule in their turn. Babylon would not last forever. Just as silver is inferior to gold, so the kingdom that followed Babylon was inferior to her. In 538 B.C. the kingdom of Medo-Persia came on the scene of action. Led by Cyrus, Medo-Persia conquered Babylon and reduced it to ruins. Medo-Persia ruled the world from 538 B.C. to 331 B.C.

19. What metal would represent the kingdom that would follow Medo

Persia? Daniel 2:39

The third kingdom of _____

NOTE: Even the Medo-Persian kingdom would not last forever. Alexander the Great led the Greeks to conquer the Medes and the Persians in the battle of Arbela in 331 B.C., and the kingdom of Greece, the brass kingdom, came upon the scene of action.

20. What metal represents the fourth kingdom that should come?

Daniel 2:40 _____

NOTE: The kingdom that followed Greece was the iron monarchy of Rome, which ruled the world from 168 B.C. to A.D. 476. This is the kingdom that dominated the world when Jesus was born. With unerring accuracy Daniel has foretold world history for 1000 years. The rise and fall of these various empires — Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece and Rome — are clearly foretold in the Bible. God knows in advance what is going to happen. He is clearly in control of human events. Amazingly, God had foretold that there would be these four world empires and no more.

21. What would be the condition of Europe after the breakup of the Roman

Empire? Daniel 2:41, 42

"The kingdom shall be _____ ... partly strong and partly fragile."

NOTE: As prophesied, when the Roman Empire ended in A.D. 476, it was not taken over by another world kingdom. Instead, as the Bible so clearly foretold, barbarian tribes conquered the Roman Empire and divided it. Ten of these tribes eventually became modern Europe. They were: the Ostrogoths,

the Visigoths, Franks, Vandals, Suevi, Alemanni, Anglo-Saxons, Heruli, Lombards, and Burgundians. Seven of them still exist today in Europe. For example, the Anglo-Saxons became the English, the Franks became the French, and the Lombards became the Italians. Daniel 7 will tell the fascinating story of the power that destroyed three of these ten divisions.

22. Would these ten kingdoms ever seek to unite? Daniel 2:43

"They will _____ with the seed of men.

" NOTE: Through marriage, alliances and other means, men would attempt to unite the European continent once again.

23. Will the European continent ever be united again? Daniel 2:43

"They will not _____ to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay.

" NOTE: Men have tried to unite Europe throughout history. Charlemagne, Napoleon, Mussolini, Hitler and others have done their best to unite Europe, but these words of Scripture have stopped every would-be world ruler. Bible prophecy clearly states that the world will remain divided for the rest of history. Remember, God is in control of earthly events!

THE STONE KINGDOM

24. Who will set up the final kingdom? Daniel 2:44

"The God of _____

NOTE: The next great universal kingdom will be the kingdom of God.

25. What will God do to the kingdoms of earth when He sets up His kingdom? Daniel 2:44

"It shall break in _____ and _____ all these kingdoms." NOTE: God's kingdom will not be a takeover of earthly kingdoms. He will completely consume, destroy and blow away all the kingdoms of earth. The New Testament says that God will create a new heaven and earth (Revelation 21:1). God's kingdom will be everlasting (Daniel 2:44)

26. What is represented by the stone kingdom? Matthew 25:31-34

The kingdom of _____

NOTE: The Scripture declares that when Jesus Christ returns to earth the second time, He will crush the kingdoms of earth and establish an everlasting kingdom that shall have no end. What

exciting news! Jesus Christ is coming again! God is in control of human history! All history is moving toward this climactic conclusion when the Son of God shall return in majesty to bring in the kingdom of everlasting righteousness. Nebuchadnezzar may have thought (in Chapter 1) that he had defeated the true God, but very quickly he was shown that God is ruler over all, that human events are under His control, and that ultimately God will win the conflict. Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome, and the ten divisions of the Roman Empire may have sought to usurp divine authority and destroy the people of God, but all earthly kingdoms will ultimately be crushed by the coming of Christ. Thank God, He will win the great controversy!

27. After hearing the interpretation of the dream, what did Nebuchadnezzar say about Daniel's God? Daniel 2:47

"Truly your _____ is the God of gods, the Lord of kings." NOTE: Having seen that God is in control of world events, even the heathen Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged that Daniel's God is above all the heathen gods of Babylon.

28. As a result of their faithfulness, how were Daniel and his Mends promoted by Nebuchadnezzar? Daniel 2:48, 49

Daniel was made " _____ administrator over all the wise men of Babylon". The king "set Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the _____ of the province of Babylon" NOTE: How quickly the picture has changed! From apparent defeat, captivity in Babylon, and re-education into Babylonian society, Daniel and his friends, because of their faithfulness to the God of heaven, are elevated to be some of the chief rulers in Babylon. God always honours our commitment to Him.

29. Recognizing that God is in full control of earthly events, are you willing to let Him have full control of your life?

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