

The Dream Of The Statute

Two years after Nebuchadnezzar was the sole ruler of Babylon, he had a troubling dream



that kept him awake. He wanted to know the interpretation of the dream very badly. So, he called in the wise men of Babylon to tell him the meaning of the dream. These so-called wise men were “magicians,” “enchanters,” “sorcerers,” and many were “Chaldeans,” a prominent tribe in the kingdom of Babylon (*Daniel 2:2*). One of their works was to tell the future by looking at apparent signs. In these days people believed you could look at the flight of birds, or examine entrails of animals and tell a person what should occur to them in the future. They would soon learn that King Nebuchadnezzar was

demanding something which they had never been forced to face.

Nebuchadnezzar had been troubled by the dream, but could not remember what the dream was. So, he demanded the wise men of his kingdom to first, tell him what he had dreamed, and then interpret what the dream meant. If they could not fulfill both demands, they were to be “*cut in pieces*,” and their pleasant houses would be made merely “*a dunghill*” (*Daniel 2:5*). These men were involved in giving the interpretation of things pertaining to the future, not telling a person the secret of what that person, and he or she only, had seen in their own mind when asleep. Who could know that? What king has demanded such? They say to the king, “*There is not a man upon the earth that can show the king’s matter, forasmuch as no king, lord, or ruler hath asked such a thing of any magician, or enchanter, or Chaldean*” (*Daniel 2:10*).

Assuming Nebuchadnezzar was telling the truth when he said he had forgotten the dream, these wise men dared not try to guess. You may not remember all the details of a dream, but when a few of the details are given, your memory can be refreshed as you can acknowledge that the details did comprise the dream. Conversely, when offering details that were so foreign to anything that had entered into your mind, you would know that such was just “dreamed up.” The wise men were not going to take such a chance, even though they were facing certain death. They asked twice for the king to tell them the dream so they could interpret it. He saw that their request for him to spend the time telling them the dream was just “buying time” for themselves, because in reality, they may not be able to do what they said they could do: interpret the dream (*Daniel 2:7-8*). The wise men finally point to the King’s demand as being unreasonable for men who dwell in the flesh to fulfill. In desperation they say, “*...and there is no other that can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh*” (*Daniel 2:11*). Despite these attempts to change his demand, Nebuchadnezzar sends forth the decree to slay the wise men of Babylon (*Daniel 2:13*).

Daniel and his three friends, though superior to all the magicians and enchanters in the land, were still under the death sentence of Nebuchadnezzar (*Daniel 1:20, 2:18*). Daniel asks for a time to come before the King, to interpret his dream (*Daniel 2:16*). Daniel was confident that God would be able to reveal deep secrets. He goes to his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, whose names would become Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego respectively, exhorting them to desire and therefore seek God’s mercies so they would not perish (*Daniel 2:18*). Daniel

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received the interpretation of the dream one night in a vision, and quickly gave God thanks. He said, *“Blessed be the name of God forever and ever; for wisdom and might are His...He revealeth the deep and secret things.”* (Daniel 2:20, 22).

What a great God we and Daniel serve! The magicians, enchanters and soothsayers of Babylon knew they could meet the King’s demands. There is nothing too difficult for God. The stage was set, with the inability of man and magic, for God to manifest His incomparable glory. What a great servant of the Lord is Daniel! He had confidence in God’s ability to know the secrets of man, even before God reveals the secret. Then, through prayer he received the interpretation and quickly gives God the glory with thanksgiving. Like Daniel, we should know God is able, even before we are blessed, and even if we are not blessed at the moment of our request.

Daniel, desiring Arioch not to carry out the decree to kill the wise men of Babylon, asks to be taken to the King to give the interpretation of the King’s dream (Daniel 2:24). When Nebuchadnezzar demands that Daniel reveal the dream first, and then interpret it, Daniel does not hesitate. He makes sure the King knows that God, not himself, has revealed the secret. No man could meet the King’s demand regarding the revealing of his secret, but God has revealed it so the King may know, as Daniel tells him, *“the thoughts of thy heart”* (Daniel 2:30). Daniel initiates the process of unfolding the secrets by saying the dream pertained to events that would come in the *“latter days”* (Daniel 2:26-28).

While God speaks to us today His Son, Jesus Christ, and His Word, instead of dreams, we should understand that any thought of man is exposed by the powerful Word of God. *“For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:11). We have no secrets hidden from God. *“And there is no creature that is not manifest in His sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of Him with whom we have to do”* (Hebrews 11:13). Instead of thinking we can have our own thoughts, and God will not know, we should wise up and work on bringing our thoughts into subjection to obedience of Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5).







Daniel tells Nebuchadnezzar that he saw a *“great image.”* It not only was large, but the *“brightness”* of the image was rather remarkable. We can just imagine how the metals making up








the image, such as gold, silver, and brass must have glistened in the King’s mind creating an *“excellent”* countenance. The *“terrible”* image no doubt created awe, if not fear in the mind of Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2:31). Daniel told the King he saw an image with a head of gold, breast and arms of silver, belly and thighs of brass and legs of iron with feet of iron and clay. He says the King saw a stone cut out without hands smite the image at its feet breaking them in pieces including the entire image making the pieces as chaff to be carried away by the wind. The stone that smites the image becomes a great mountain which fills the whole earth (Daniel 2:32-35).

The King knows the dream, but now what does it mean? Daniel proceeds to show that the great image represented four kingdoms. Nebuchadnezzar, reigning over Babylon was the head of gold. After him, a second, third, and fourth kingdom would arise. Then in the days of this fourth kingdom, *“shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which should never be destroyed, nor shall he sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever”* (Daniel 2:44). Therefore, God’s kingdom is the stone that breaks the image and becomes a great mountain.

History of the world helps confirm the accuracy of Daniel’s interpretation. Notice that after the Babylonian empire was at its zenith with King Nebuchadnezzar, the kingdoms of Persia, Greece, and Rome would follow. In the days of the Roman Empire (Lk. 3:1-6), God set up His kingdom (Acts 2:30-31), which is the church Jesus promised to build (Matthew 16:18), Acts 2:41, 47). It is the stone not made with hands which emphasizes that it was of God, not man (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:1). Unlike the temporal kingdoms that have come into the world, the church is a spiritual kingdom which shall never be shaken (Hebrews 12:22-29).

Daniel Interprets	
	<p>GOLD</p>
	<p>SILVER</p>
	<p>BRONZE</p>
	<p>IRON</p>
	<p>IRON AND MIRY CLAY</p>
	<p>STONE CUT WITHOUT HANDS</p>

	<p>HEAD OF GOLD BABYLON B.C. 605-539</p>
	<p>ARMS AND CHEST OF SILVER PERSIA B.C. 539-332</p>
	<p>BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRASS GREECE B.C. 332-168</p>
	<p>LEGS OF IRON ROME B.C. 168 - A.D. 476</p>
	<p>FEET OF IRON AND MIRY CLAY ROME CHRIST COMES</p>

STONE CUT WITHOUT HANDS
FILLS WHOLE EARTH

STONE CUT WITHOUT HANDS
The church, Christ’s everlasting kingdom, began after His ascension back to heaven when the gospel was preached on the day of Pentecost, and men and women obeyed the Word of God.

God's spiritual kingdom, the church, was prophesied through a dream to a foreign king over 600 years before the church was established in the history of man. The church was established in the days of the fourth empire, which was Rome. While it is interesting how accurate Daniel and the Bible are predicting the coming kingdoms hundreds of years before they existed, the church should have a greater importance in our lives seeing that it is according to God's eternal purpose (*Ephesians 3:10-11*); and because it is spiritual and eternal, it rises as a strong, eternal mountain far above all temporary earthly kingdoms.

Discussion Questions:

1. What two demands did King Nebuchadnezzar make on his wise men regarding his troubling dream?
2. What was the penalty for not meeting these two demands?
3. What did the wise men of Babylon think of these demands?
4. If the king forgot what he dreamed, why didn't the wise men just guess and make up his dream for him?
5. What did the king mean when he said his wise men were just "buying time"?
6. Who could only know what the king was dreaming?
7. What example does Daniel give us when he asks for an opportunity to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream before he has received the interpretation from God?
8. How does Daniel exalt God and not himself before King Nebuchadnezzar?
9. While God does not speak to us today through dreams, but through Jesus and His word, is He still able to know our secrets and judge our thoughts through His revealed word?
10. The different parts of the image represented 4 _____.
11. What is meant by the stone "*cut out without hands*"?
12. The stone which becomes a mountain and is eternal is the _____.
13. How can you show the church was established at the time promised by God in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar?